

# NEWSLETTER



VETERANS  
Path to Hope™

## SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

**THANK YOU** to everyone who came out to Spirit Water to celebrate our 3rd Annual Spirit Pull with us!

Thank you to each of you who came out, bought raffle tickets, and made it a party! A special thank you to each of our distilleries for donating their superior spirits and time, and our host, Spirit Water, for being so gracious.

**WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE RAISED OVER \$5,400!!**



The money we raise from events like these go back into our 8 integral programs that help to support local veterans!

[WWW.VETERANSPATHTOHOPE.ORG](http://WWW.VETERANSPATHTOHOPE.ORG)



# SEAN MERCHANT

## Intern Counseling Services



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Sean completes his MA in Counseling at Judson University in May 2023. He served 4 years in the Navy and 19 years in the Navy Reserves, being called up for active duty for a year. For a decade he has been assisting veterans facing homelessness and other challenges.

Sean brings a unique perspective to counseling, having experienced military life and transition back to the civilian world while continuing to serve in the Reserves. He has heard hundreds of veterans' and their families' unique stories and viewpoints.

Any issue can be discussed with Sean, including:

- Transition concerns
- Anxiety and depression
- Out-of-control behaviors
- Effects of bullying
- Marital challenges
- Grief support
- School problems
- Work concerns



Sean enjoys long walks and runs, experiencing the outdoors. He collects baseball cards, reads Mad magazines, studies Roman British archeology and history, and listens to music. He serves in the Navy Reserves and enjoys being able to serve our Nation!

If you would like to try meeting with Sean for a one-time discussion or schedule for more, he can be reached at 815.321.4673.

**THESE SERVICES ARE FREE! FAMILIES OF VETERANS CAN ALSO UTILIZE COUNSELING SERVICES INCLUDING INDIVIDUAL, COUPLE, AND FAMILY COUNSELING.**



# STAFF HIGHLIGHT



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## MEET KAT!

Meet Kat, our newest Employment Specialist helping local homeless veterans find employment. Kat is a Marine Corps veteran who proudly served 4 years as an Aviation Maintenance Administrative Specialist and earned the rank of Sergeant.

While serving, Kat said her favorite aspect about the military was the mental and physical challenges and how it helped her to push past any limits she had set for herself and develop discipline and resilience. The hardest thing about serving was being away from family for extended periods of time.

Her favorite thing about working at VPH is getting to work with a group of people who are so passionate about serving the veteran community. In her spare time, she likes horseback riding, weightlifting, and thrift shopping.



# EXCITING NEWS FOR VPH!



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Recently, a small team from VPH went to Rockford to demo a house that is being rehabbed for a veteran needing a home.

The team worked hard tearing out walls and hauling all the materials away from the house. This is what VPH is all about!

***Well done, Angela, Ryan, Dee, Caroline, and Josh!!!***



# UPCOMING EVENTS



**Saturday, April 8th, 2023**

## VPH Outdoors Topgolf Event

[CLICK HERE to register!](#)



**Saturday, April 22nd, 2023**

## VPH Outdoors Wild Game Dinner & Veterans of Comedy Show

[CLICK HERE to register!](#)



**Sunday, May 21st, 2023**

## Remember the 22 A Day in May Jeep Run with Jeep4Vets

[CLICK HERE to register!](#)



**Friday, June 2nd, 2023**

## VPH Outdoors The Crappie Professor Fishing Trip

[CLICK HERE to register!](#)



# WAYS TO DONATE



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## THE GIFT YOU CAN RE-GIFT OVER AND OVER!

How can you deepen your connections to a cause dear to your heart? By being a beacon of hope to those who served our country and now find themselves in need. A \$25 monthly donation helps the veteran families we serve, stay safe. Your support helps to provide shelter, put food on the table, and find employment to pay the bills for those veterans and their families facing hardship.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

**DONATE**

On average we serve over 2800 veterans and their families per year, with housing assistance, employment assistance, food and respite care, just to name a few of our life-saving programs. We humbly invite you to keep critical services going by making a sustaining monthly gift of \$25.

For questions on donations, recurring donations, planned giving or other areas of support, contact Jennifer Kipp, Director of Resource Development at [jkipp@vphope.org](mailto:jkipp@vphope.org)