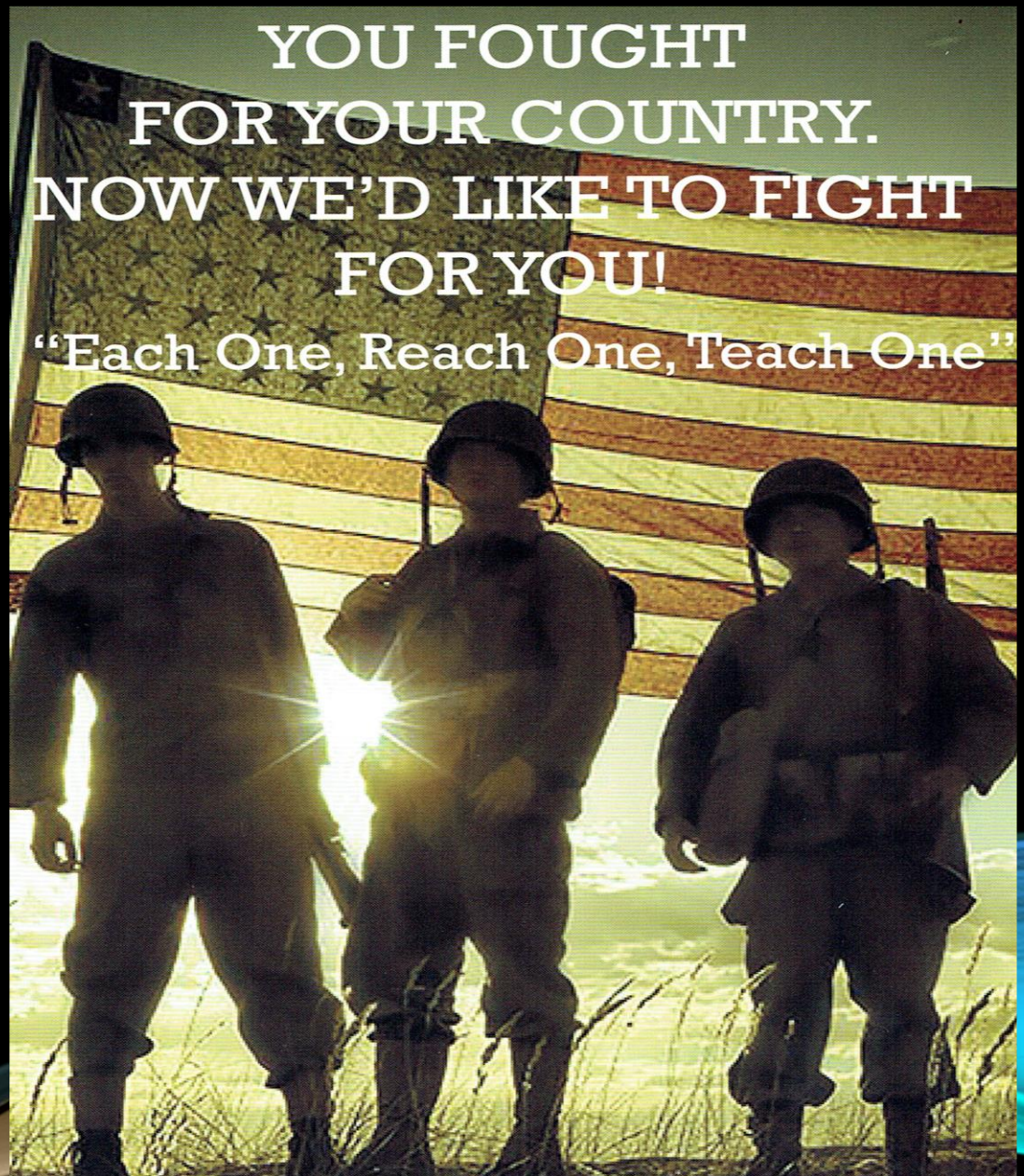


Vet to Vet Tennessee

2022 Programs





MISSION

Our organization aims to reduce Veteran suicide, homelessness, and incarceration through PTSD awareness, intervention, prevention, and resolution training, mental health first aid, peer support, and mentoring. We advocate and work with federal, state, and local agencies to accomplish our goals.

OUR PROGRAMS AND ADVOCACIES

- Celebrate Recovery
- Ethos Student Art
- Expungement Clinics
- God's Word for Warriors
- Korean Ambassador For Peace Medal
- PTSD Awareness, Intervention, Resolution
- QPR Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention
- Reboot Recovery
- Repairs for Heroes
- VA Veterans Mental Health Council
- Veterans Courts
- Veterans Mentoring Training
- Veteran/Military Friendly Congregations
- Vietnam War Commemoration
- We Honor Veterans
- “You’re Worth It” play



CELEBRATE RECOVERY

- An internationally recognized Christ-centered program that supports and educates individuals to help them overcome their hurts, habits, and hang-ups.
- This program emphasizes personal responsibility and teaches participants that wise choices must be made in immediacy while offering comfort in the power of Christ, which helps make difficult changes.
- This program incorporates the 12 Steps with accompanying Scriptures along with the 8 Principles based on the Beatitudes which offers participants a clear path of salvation and discipleship.
- Overarching goals are to introduce hope, freedom, sobriety, healing, and the opportunity to give back one day at a time.

ETHOS STUDENT ART

- The mission of our project is to promote the values of respect, teamwork, commitment, and gratitude among students.
- Through our Ethos Student Art (ESA) program, we will combat the issue of social isolation faced by East Tennessee middle school students due to Covid-19's disruption of school and community functions.
- ESA is a service-learning experience for students to collaborate and produce artistic emblems for each Military branch of service to display within their school. Service-learning builds each student's sense of responsibility for and connection within their community.
- ESA can strengthen our future communities' foundations for civic knowledge and commitment.

EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC

- The Tennessee Expungement statute allows people with criminal records to file a petition to expunge all dismissed charges for free after the charge is dismissed and court costs are paid, and to file a motion to expunge up to two eligible low-level convictions after a five-year waiting period. Reading a criminal record and determining if charges and convictions are eligible is not easy; therefore, this program exists to assist in the understanding and actions necessary for this process.
- This exists through partnership with UT College of Law Professor Joy Radice.
- We have conducted five clinics:
 - Monroe County October 2022
 - Cocke/Jefferson County October 2020
 - Polk County November 23, 2019
 - 10th Judicial District April 21, 2018
 - Knox County September 28, 2017
 - None currently scheduled for 2022
- For free legal assistance, call the UT Clinic hotline at 865-974-6775.

GOD'S WORD FOR WARRIORS

- *God's Word for Warriors*, based on a book written by Dr. Tom Seals, is also the title of his class taught at Lipscomb University Nashville, TN. We support and promote the curricula written by this theology professor and Chaplain to Veterans.
- This course is a “faith-based course focusing on spiritual development while addressing physical, mental and moral experiences that many veterans have faced,” says Seals.
- Since this course is designed specifically for veterans, the main component is to assist them in addressing situations that our veteran men and women face in their attempt to achieve this so-called ‘normalcy’ post-deployment.
- Many sub-components relevant to most veterans are also included such as PTSD, anger management, survivor's guilt, depression, and suicide.

KOREAN AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE MEDAL

- The medal is an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to US servicemen and women who served in the Korean conflict.
- To be eligible for this honor, the veteran must have served in country during the Korean War from June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953. It is also available for the veterans who have participated in UN peacekeeping operations until the end of 1955.
- If a veteran was a Navy service member and served aboard a naval vessel, then he or she is eligible if the naval vessel was assigned to Korean waters sometime between 1950-1953.
- This medal recognizes women in service, such as a nurse, clerical and administrative, and other positions that were predominantly held by women service members.
- The commemorative medals may be awarded posthumously. The next of kin, such as the spouse or descendants may apply for the medal on behalf of a deceased veteran.
- To date VTVT has assisted 546 Korean War Veterans from 249 different towns, 50 states, and 5 countries. One (1) POW, 250 posthumously. Numerous Chosin Reservoir Campaign heroes.

PTSD AWARENESS, INTERVENTION, RESOLUTION

- This initiative resulted from a request from Blount County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Captain Burchfield who contacted our East Tennessee Veterans Treatment Court Committee and asked our organization to train the road officer of BCSO.
- The program emphasizes lecture and class participation; following, the attendees will be able to recognize presenting symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Military Sexual Trauma (MST) and respond appropriately.
- The Council provides the training for free! We coordinated with the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs, The Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, the Knox County Veterans Service Office, Knox County VTC, the TN Director of Recovery & Resiliency, and the Phoenix Arizona VTC in order to expand our training program throughout TN.
- The last class was taught at Johnson University to Juniors during a psychology class

QPR GATEKEEPER SUICIDE PREVENTION

- This training is provided free to veterans, first responders, faith-based, hospice/home care, SUD & Mental health, and educational organizations.
- The program is supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs, QPR Institute, and Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN).
- Classes are provided at 60 or 90 minutes pending the needs and availability of the organization or individual.
- We also offer a QPR Gatekeeper Instructor class and certification to individuals who are in influential positions. This certification is \$500 or less.
 - 8-hour instructor course –
 - Applications accepted online
- Please call us at 865-336-2624 if you plan to attend.

REPAIRS FOR HEROES

- This program assists veterans with services that help repair the mind, body, spirit, and home.
- In some instances, funding is available for repairs; however, funding is not always available to repair the home. In these cases, the program provides resources via the Department of Veterans Affairs, including suicide prevention and Chaplain services and other community-based organizations.
- Informs veterans of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) HISA program or the Home Improvement Structural Alteration.
- In the case a veteran needs a wheelchair, the VA may help pay for home improvements before the surgery takes place. This program helps to foster such.
- HISA application is a VA prescription **NOT** a claim.

REBOOT RECOVERY

- This is a course that provides practical guidance for service members and families who are dealing with the aftereffects and trauma of combat.
- Much of this course focuses on the spiritual aspects of recovery which helps individuals sort through issues of morality, especially in the uniqueness of military culture.
- REBOOT is a 12-week, 2-hour course.
- These courses are provided free to families, including childcare and dinner in 42 states including seven (7) locations throughout Tennessee.
- Three recovery programs: Trauma Recovery, Reboot Combat Recovery, 1st Responder Recovery.

VA MENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL

The mission of the Veterans Mental Health Council shall be to help foster, encourage and promote the honor, recognition, and support of all persons who are now serving, will serve in the future, or have served in the past in any branch of the United States military.

To promote and support programs that will foster physical, emotional, religious, and cultural improvements, personal growth and development, self-respect, self-confidence, and a sense of worth for veterans adjusting to a non-military community and environment.

To establish a network of federal, state, and community agencies and organizations that can assist veterans and their families in times of need or emergency.

To create, train and expand a base of veteran and other non-veteran advocate volunteers who can serve as peer-support facilitators and/or mentors to veterans, their families, and their communities in identifying and resolving veteran-oriented issues and needs.

To promote awareness of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), its effects on veterans and their families, law enforcement, and other first responders, and to help remove the stigma of associating it solely as a mental illness or disorder.

To conduct outreach, education, and services on pertinent veteran issues in both urban and, especially, rural areas throughout the state.

VETERANS COURTS

- The court centers around the premise that a growing number of veterans suffer from substance use disorders, mental health conditions (such as PTSD), and trauma (such as traumatic brain injury) and that these issues may be exacerbated by the loss of structure and camaraderie found in the military. Research continues to link substance use disorders with service-related mental illness.
- Such conditions increase the likelihood of involvement with the justice system. In fact, **81% of justice-involved veterans** (JIV) had a substance use disorder prior to incarceration, and **25% were identified as mentally ill**.
- This courtroom system helps struggling vets turn their lives around with an understanding that the vulnerabilities caused by the complexities of their military experience are of great consideration in the choices that they have made.
- Veterans' courts transform the traditional way veterans interact with the criminal justice system. The results have led to an enhanced quality of life for thousands of veterans.
- Monroe County Veterans Court Judge Dwaine Thomas has issued court orders for temporary transfer of jurisdiction and supervision which has allowed JIVs from 10 different counties to enter the Veterans Court program. **96%** of VTVT JIV Graduates HAVE NOT returned to the justice system.
- VTVT was the co-founder of the 1st East Tennessee Veterans Treatment Court in 2013 in Knox County

VETERAN/MILITARY FRIENDLY CONGREGATIONS

- Veteran/Military Friendly Congregation program (VMFC) was conceived to promote a sense of community, acceptance, and support for Veterans and their families in East TN.
- This idea was launched by the Knoxville Regional Mental Health Council's Faith-Based Committee in February 2012 and has become an integral part of the Faith-Based Initiative. 185 VMFCs are currently enrolled in 117 cities and 21 states.
- This idea expanded in January 2018 when it was launched nationally by the Military Chaplains Association of the United States.
- There are only three simple enrollment requirements, making this an effortless way to positively network to assist our veterans. Enrollment is online at <https://vmfc-usa.org/enroll-now-2/>
- First church to enroll was the Maryville Vineyard Church followed by Redemption Church in Knoxville TN in 2012.



VETERANS MENTORING TRAINING

- VTVT provides 6 types of mentoring training:
 - Peer support for Veteran/family mental health and substance use disorder
 - Peer support for Veterans Court including criminal and family justice-involved vets
 - Peer support for the Repairs for Heroes program
 - Peer support for homeless Veterans
 - Veteran specific suicide prevention training
 - PTSD Awareness, Intervention, Resolution (PAIR) training

VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION

- The Department of Defense's Vietnam War Commemoration purpose is to recognize, thank and honor the United States military veterans who served during the Vietnam War.
- On July 1, 2016, the Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration (VWC) program approved Vet to Vet Tennessee as a VWC partner.
- VTVT is proud to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families where they live and work. It is the primary vehicle by which our nation thanks and honors our Vietnam veterans and their families.
- We aim for this program to be as hometown-centric as possible as we want to thank and honor the Vietnam Veterans and their families where they are in a personal manner.
- We have presented over 20,000 Vietnam War Commemoration lapel pins.



WE HONOR VETERANS

- America's hospice professionals are on a mission to learn how to serve Veterans through the challenges they may be facing from illness, isolation, or traumatic life experience.
- The program "*We Honor Vets*" (WHV) mimics its title in mission.
- VTVT has assisted 12 WHVs achieve 4 Star WHV certification.
- VTVT is assisting 9 WHVs to achieve the new 5 Star WHV certification.
- VTVT provides WWII, Korean, Vietnam, and other war Certificates of Honor and free "Thank a Veteran" hats to Tennessee WHVs.

“YOU’RE WORTH IT” SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAY

- VTVT has produced a suicide prevention theatrical play targeting both an adult and youth audience as suicide has become the **number one cause of death in children aged 10 - 17 in the state of Tennessee**.
- The play is set up to be performed at a variety of locations including but not limited to churches and schools. The concept is that each church or school will recruit performers for this closet play, and VTVT will provide the instructor training, the playwright, and any other necessary pieces.
- The play is endorsed by Professor Paul Quinnett, founder of the QPR Institute, and there must be a QPR instructor involved in the production at each location. VTVT has recruited six of the lead Veteran and Military Friendly Congregations (VMFC) to host the performance. These VMFCs have a broader audience and can recruit performers from within the community.
- The playwright and director was Tonya Stoutt-Brown. Samson Ferrell, a combat veteran, is the theme singer/songwriter. On November 10th, approximately 700 attendees will attend the play in Knox County where they will witness the Knox County Mayor, VA Chief Medical Officer, Helen Ross McNabb Military Services Center Clinical Therapist, Knox County Mayor, and students rally the community to spread the word on suicide as cast members.
- In addition to breaking the silence about suicide, this play will get people into their churches where they can get help. In the future, VTVT looks to continue sponsoring the “Worth It” play as well as partnering with Military Chaplains Association to take the play nationwide.

GRATITUDE

- We collaborate efforts with various community partners to serve those who served in the Military. From suicide prevention to housing to judicial issues, we certainly cover many areas of need.
- Ask about free suicide prevention training for your church or community group or how your organization can be added to the Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)'s list of "Veteran/Military Friendly Congregations/Ministries".
- Donations are always welcome to benefit veterans and their families. 100% of the donations received by Vet to Vet Tennessee go directly to the Vets.
- We are grateful and blessed for the prayers, support, and honor we have received from thousands of veteran advocates. Peace.

Welcome Home!

VET TO VET TENNESSEE

- Main office: 403 Tellico Street N., Madisonville, Tennessee 37354
- Mailing office: 831 Spring Creek Street, Maryville, Tennessee 37801
- Office Phone: 865-336-2624
- Email: info@tnvhc.org
- Vet To Vet Tennessee website: <https://tnvhc.org/>
- VTVT Suicide Prevention website: <https://suicideprevention.tnvhc.org/>
- Veteran/Military Friendly Congregation website: <http://vmfc-usa.org/>



Welcome Home!