

# *Vet to Vet Tennessee*

## Programs



*"Leave No Veteran Behind"*



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## MISSION

Since 2011, our organization has aimed 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 for and collaborate in collaboration with federal, state, and local agencies, we aim to achieve our objectives.

## PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS

- Ethos Student Art
- Expungement Clinics
- Korean War Ambassador for Peace Medal
- Repairs for Heroes
- Veterans Courts/Tracks
- Veteran/Military Friendly Congregations
- “You’re Worth It” is a faith-based comedy, drama, musical play

## 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 aim to address the issue of social isolation faced by East Tennessee middle school students, which has been exacerbated by COVID-19’s disruption of school and Community functions.

ESA is a service-learning experience that allows students to collaborate and create artistic emblems for each branch of the military service to display within their school. Service learning builds each student’s sense of responsibility for and connection within their community.

ESA can strengthen the foundations of our future communities’ civic knowledge and commitment.

## **EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC**

The Tennessee Expungement statute allows individuals with criminal records to file a petition to expunge all dismissed charges for free after the charge is dismissed and court costs are paid.

Additionally, they can file a motion to expunge up to two (2) eligible low-level convictions after a five-year waiting period.

Reading criminal records and determining if charges and convictions are eligible is not easy; therefore, this program exists to assist in understanding and taking the necessary actions for this process.

We have partnered with the University of Tennessee College of Law and Professor Joy Radice and conducted five (5) clinics in Cocke, Jefferson, Knox, and Monroe counties in partnership with the University of Tennessee College of Law.

For free legal assistance, call the UT Clinic hotline at 865-974-2331.

## **KOREAN WAR AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE**

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 the country during the Korean War from June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953. It is also available to veterans who have participated in UN peacekeeping operations up to the end of 1955.

If a veteran was a Navy service member and served aboard a naval vessel, then they are eligible if the naval vessel was assigned to

assigned to Korean waters between 1950 and 1953.

This medal honors women in service, including nurses and clerical staff.

To establish eligibility, you need a copy of your DD 214. The DD 214 does not need to be certified or notarized, but it should be legible.

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 774 Korean War Veterans from 265 different towns, 50 states, and five countries. Two (2) POWs, 36 posthumously. Numerous Chosin Reservoir Campaign heroes.

## **REPAIRS FOR HEROES©**

This program assists veterans with services that help repair the mind, body, spirit, and home.

The program provides resources via the Department of Veterans Affairs, including suicide prevention, Chaplain services, Veteran Service Offices, and other community-based organizations.

The program informs veterans of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Home Improvement Structural Alteration (HISA) program. This benefit provides medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to Veterans/Servicemembers' primary residence for the following purposes:

- Allowing entrance to or exit from the primary residence.
  - Use of the essential lavatory and sanitary facilities (e.g., roll-in showers)
  - Allowing accessibility to kitchen or bathroom roll-in or counters (e.g., lowering counters/sinks)
- Improving the plumbing or electrical systems is necessary due to

the installation of the home medical equipment.

A HISA application is a VA prescription written by a VA physician, not a claim

Please contact your local accredited Veteran Service Officer or contact Vet to Vet Tennessee to learn more at [info@tnvhc.org](mailto:info@tnvhc.org)

## VETERANS COURTS

The mission is to sponsor programs that help keep our veterans out of the criminal system and back to leading healthy and productive lives.

The Veterans 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 the loss may exacerbate these issues 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. 81% of justice-involved veterans (JIV) had a substance use disorder before incarceration, and 25% were identified as mentally ill.

Monroe County Veterans Court Judge Dwaine B. Thomas has been conducting Veterans Court for over ten (10) years. Five (5) Veterans Court Tracks have been established in Bradley, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, and Rhea Counties.

The recidivism rate is one of the best in the United States. The Monroe County Veterans Court/tracks have a recidivism rate of 4% over ten (10) years.

The average age in the program is 45, the average percentage of

combat veterans is 46.8%, and the average time in the program is 6.72 months.

## VETERAN/MILITARY-FRIENDLY CONGREGATIONS

The Veteran/Military Friendly Congregation program (VMFC) was conceived to promote a sense of community, acceptance, and support for Veterans and their families.

Vet to Vet Tennessee launched this idea in February 2012 and has become an integral part of the Faith-Based Initiative. There are currently 233 VMFCs enrolled in 147 cities and 23 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 network and positively assist our veterans.

Veterans are 10 times more likely to seek help from clergy than from all other Mental Health Providers, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Enrollment is online at <https://vmfc-usa.org/enroll-now>.

### ***You're Worth It®***

“Worth It” is a 2-hour, faith-based play that portrays talent show auditions at a high school where an altercation escalates to the point of individuals identifying as suicidal and/or struggling with a mental health crisis.

The actors display different signs of suicidal tendencies in the play, showcasing corresponding action steps. This comedy, musical, and drama play is appropriate for teens and young adults. Youth groups have attended previous shows, with the youth group leader guiding

pre-post performance discussions. Many of the youth selected for roles in this play also have the opportunity to express their mental health through their performance. Previous shows have proven to provide support for the actors struggling with depression and suicidal thoughts.

## Main office:

The Robert “Bob” Hatley Monroe County Veterans Service Center  
403 Tellico Street N., Madisonville, Tennessee 37354

Office Phone: 865-336-2624

Email: [info@tnvhc.org](mailto:info@tnvhc.org)

## Websites:

Vet To Vet Tennessee: <https://tnvhc.org/>

Veteran/Military Friendly Congregation: <http://vmfc-usa.org/>

You're Worth It: <https://youareworthit.net/>

## Operation Military Masterpiece Youth Winning Art

*Zoey Brown - Baylee Bohrer - Jeremiah Wilson - Cassandra  
Cabrales Otero – Katie Bowman – Azzie McSpadden*



## Operation Military Masterpiece Adult Winning Art

*Dr. Amber Patty and Alan Sibley*

