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The Center For Philanthropy is an innovative resource developed by The Pittsburgh Foundation to engage donors on a deeper level and bring them closer to their philanthropy. It is a place to learn, collaborate and grow as an effective philanthropist. It is also a way for donors to educate and engage family members in their charitable giving efforts. Through seminars, site visits, giving circles and grantmaking, we bring donors and experts together to address critical issues, develop special initiatives and make a bigger difference in the community.



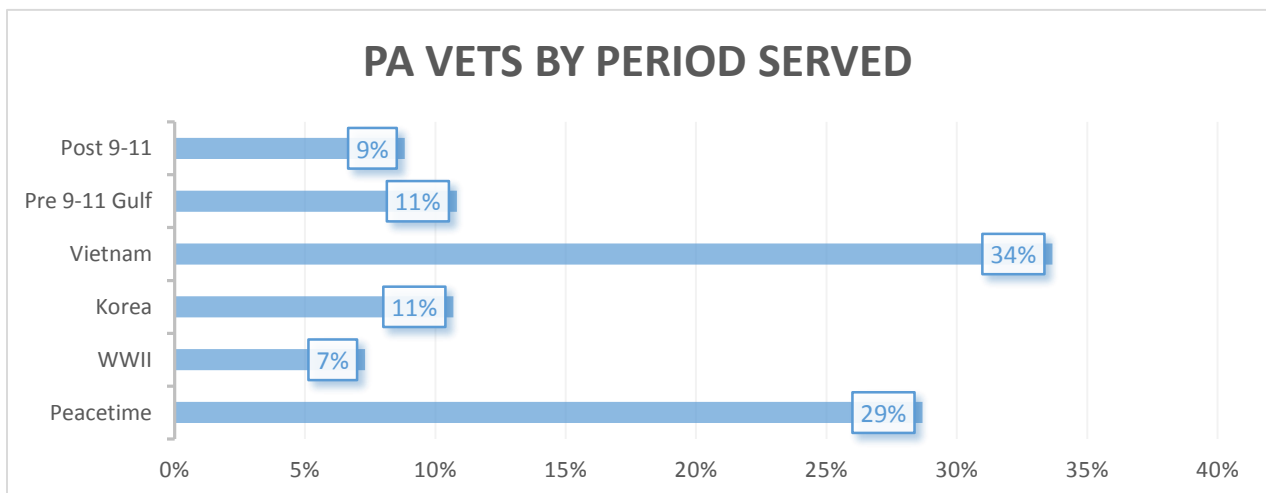
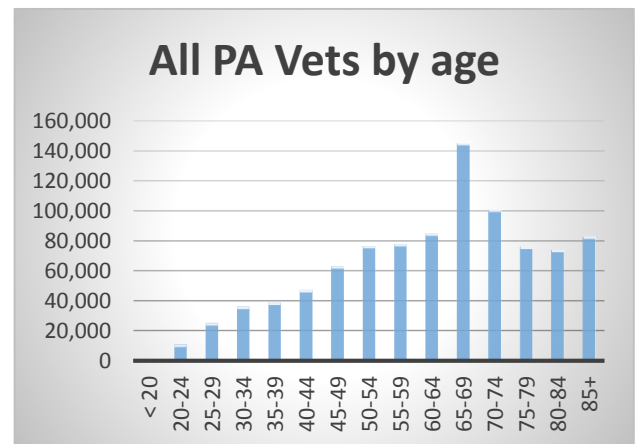
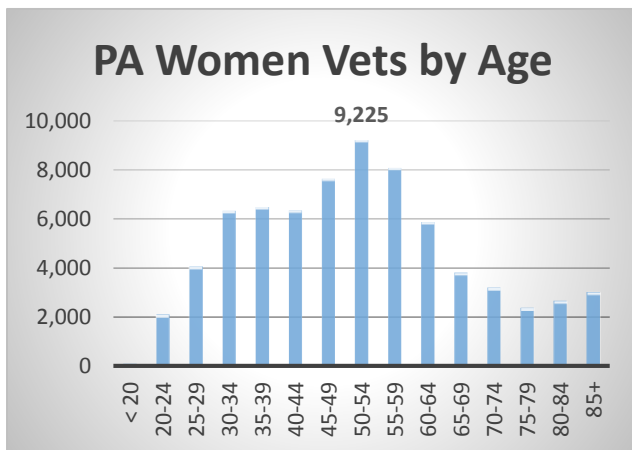
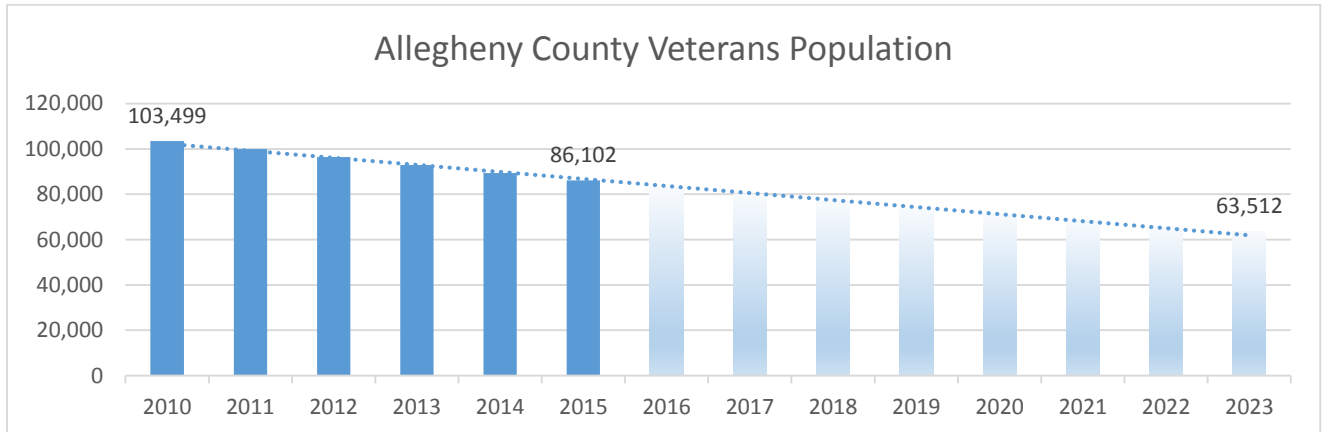
Organizations and Agencies Serving Veterans

in Southwestern Pennsylvania

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STATISTICS: Veterans in Allegheny County and Pennsylvania

- Pennsylvania has the nation's 4th largest veteran's population and Allegheny County has the state's largest; nearly 100,000 in 2012. The majority of these distinguished men and women are middle aged but a growing number are 30 or younger.



STATISTICS: Veterans and Poverty

- 11.8% of veterans between the ages of 18 and 34 live below the poverty line.
- 9.3% of post-9/11 veterans are unemployed.
- Almost 1 in 10 homeless individuals are veterans.
- The number of homeless veterans jumped 46% in Pennsylvania from 2009 to 2013.
- Veterans may experience unique health issues, including physical disabilities, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Traumatic Brain Injury.
- 39% of veterans living in poverty have a disability
- 69.7% of veterans are married.
- 31% of veterans have children.

STATISTICS: Veterans and Food Insecurity

- 59,300 veterans living in Pennsylvania received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in 2011.
- In FY 2013, nationally, over \$103 million in SNAP benefits was spent at military bases.
- Benefits are used to buy staples such as milk, cheese, meat, and bread.
- In addition to SNAP benefits, over \$30 million will be redeemed at military bases under the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC).
- Not only do SNAP beneficiaries receive food assistance, they are also eligible for employment and training services through SNAP, which can aid veterans in securing employment or learning the skills necessary to start a new vocation.

Organizations and Agencies Serving Veterans

Community Services

Operation Safety Net at Pittsburgh Mercy www.pmhs.org/operation-safety-net

- Operation Safety Net, part of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System and Catholic Health East, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, touches the lives of hundreds of men and women, including veterans of our armed services, living on the streets in Pittsburgh annually by providing them with access to health care, hope, and dignity.

accessAbilities Foundation - www.accessabilities.org

- The Veterans Services Program, in a collaboration with the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center in Altoona, PA, provides assistance to eligible veterans in Indiana County. Service options include homemaker services, home health aide services, and respite care.

Steel City Vets - www.steelcityvets.org

- Steel City Vets strive to provide a group that Veterans can turn to for peer support and social gatherings as well as provide a hub to share information on news and events affecting the Veterans of the area.

The Mission Continues (National) – Pittsburgh 1st Service Platoon (Hazelwood)

- The Mission Continues empowers veterans facing the challenge of adjusting to life at home to find new missions. We redeploy veterans in their communities, so that their shared legacy will be one of action and service. Through the Mission Continues, veterans serve their country in new ways by engaging in our innovative and action-oriented programs. www.missioncontinues.org/service-platoon/Pittsburgh-1st-platoon

Counseling Services

Canyon Heroes - www.canyonheroes.org

- Based in Ligonier, Canyon Heroes is open to veterans from all states in the US. Canyon Heroes provides an all expense paid rafting trip supervised by outdoor guides and professional clinical therapists who help provide a therapeutic setting to assist those impaired by emotional wounds such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Mechling-Shakley Veterans Center - www.268center.com

- The Mechling-Shakley Veterans Center is located in rural Armstrong County, approximately 40 miles north of Pittsburgh. The primary mission of the Mechling-Shakley Veterans Center is to provide a community-based residential treatment facility for homeless veterans needing rehabilitation and support.

Mental Health Association of Butler County - CompeerCORPS - www.mhabutler.org/

- The purpose of CompeerCORPS Vet2Vet is to create a network of military veterans to provide peer mentoring friendships to our guardian service members. The goals of the programs are to enhance a veteran's self-esteem and self-worth; improve connectedness to civilian society; reduce dependency on emergency services; reduce stigma through friendship; and to create a strong and supportive environment to successfully lead our veterans to that road to recovery.

Family Services of Western Pennsylvania - www.fswp.org

- Support veterans and their families with a wide range of services including behavioral health, financial services, and outpatient mental health services. All veterans' services are a partnership with the Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania.

Food Security

Just Harvest - www.justharvest.org

- Just Harvest educates, empowers and mobilizes people to eliminate hunger, poverty, and economic injustice in our communities by influencing public policy, engaging in advocacy, and connecting people to public benefits.

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank - www.pittsburghfoodbank.org

- Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank distributes nearly 2 million pounds of food every month through a network of member agencies and direct distribution programs. An estimated 21 percent of their client households have a member that has ever served in the military; 4 percent of client households have a member currently serving.

Housing Services

ACTION Housing - www.actionhousing.org

- ACTION-Housing has a long standing history of real estate development designed to address emerging community needs, and serve the community's most vulnerable populations. Veterans Leadership Program's (VLP) Project Journey gained two additional emergency housing units for female Veterans and their children, thanks to an ongoing partnership with ACTION Housing.

Shepherd's Heart Veterans Home - www.shepheart.org

- Shepherd's Heart Fellowship is an Anglican church that operates Shepherd's Heart Veteran's Home (SHVH), a transitional housing program for homeless veterans and is part of a collaboration between agencies working to achieve a continuum of care for homeless veterans. Shepherd's Heart Fellowship also operates a drop-in center for homeless individuals that provides free meals, laundry facilities, and showers.

Pennsylvania American Legion – www.pa-legion.com

- In 1988, Pennsylvania American Legion Housing for Homeless Veterans Corporation purchased four town houses on Cypress Street, Moon Township in Allegheny County. The concept is simple — provide a safe, clean, stable environment for the participant while he/she completes schooling, job training and becomes adequately self-sufficient to seek permanent housing in the surrounding community.

Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard - www.veteransplace.org

- Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard, or "Veterans Place," is dedicated to ending homelessness among Veterans in the Pittsburgh region. Veterans Place operates several programs to serve this objective. By leveraging Veterans Place services with a variety of community partners to serve our clients, this program operates as the front line of services and a gateway to other programs and resources all over the Pittsburgh region

Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania - www.vlpwpa.org

- The Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, provides job training, placement and support to one of the largest concentration of veterans and their families (including 8,000 children) in the United States. The mission is to provide essential housing, employment, and vital support services to eligible local Veterans, service members, and their families with the goal of improving their self-sufficiency, sustainability, and quality of life.

Northside Common Ministries www.ncmin.org

- Northside Common Ministries is a non-sectarian, non-profit, community-based organization established in 1982 by a collaboration of 30 local churches to meet the increasing needs of the homeless population including veterans of the armed services

Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh www.rtpittsburgh.org

- Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh repairs and renovates the homes of low-income, elderly homeowners, military veterans, and individuals with permanent physical disabilities. The **Veterans Housing Initiative** was created to meet the growing needs of veterans from past and present wars. Rebuilding Together fills the gaps in modifications and repair services that retired and active service men and women struggle to meet.

Job Training

Riverside Center for Innovation - www.riversidecenterforinnovation.com

- RCI is an economic development company that helps entrepreneurs start their businesses by providing office space, consulting services, educational seminars, and various programs that help startups become established businesses. The Veteran's Entrepreneur Boot Camp is a specific program designed to aid veterans of the armed services launch their business enterprise.

Goodwill of Southwestern PA - www.goodwillswpa.org/veteran-service

- Goodwill's Veteran Services offer career transition support designed to provide holistic, wrap around services to Veterans, current and former military, and their families. Goodwill provides individualized case management services including the development of an Individualized Employment Plan, with a focus on obtaining self-sustaining employment.

Southwestern PA Veterans Chamber of Commerce - www.spvcc.org/bootcamp

- Soldiers to Entrepreneurs Boot camp - The Riverside Center for Innovation offers free classes on starting businesses for veterans and their spouses. The program is a 13 to 15 week training session designed to teach you all the basic, intermediate and advanced skills needed to create a successful new business.

National Organization on Disability, Wounded Warrior Careers Program – Pittsburgh Office

- NOD's Wounded Warrior Careers program is helping veterans with serious disabilities achieve meaningful, rewarding and sustainable careers in the civilian sector. Based upon six core principles, NOD's model allows veterans and their families to develop Career Action Plans and achieve their goals in a four-step process, with support from NOD Career Specialists.
www.nod.org/what_we_do/innovation/wounded_warrior_careers/

Service To Opportunity – www.ServiceToOpportunity.org

- Service To Opportunity helps break down some of the barriers Veterans encounter by connecting veterans with the skilled, family-supporting jobs at energy and advanced manufacturing companies throughout the 10-county region. Service to Opportunity (STO) is a program of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, an organization that works in collaboration with public and private sector partners to improve the economy and quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania - www.vlpwpa.org

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Legal Services

Neighborhood Legal Services – Pittsburgh Office - www.nlsa.us

- Provides free legal representation and legal counseling services to help eliminate barriers associated with a veteran's move from dependence to independence.

Service Dogs

Susquehanna Service Dogs - www.keystonehumanservices.org/susquehanna-service-dogs/

- Susquehanna Service Dogs raises and trains services dogs to assist children and adults including veterans with disabilities to become more independent. SSD trains service dogs or hearing dogs especially for the unique needs of military veterans. We have experience with a wide range of disabilities, including post-traumatic stress disorder.

Women Veterans

Balanced Heart Healing Center - www.balancedheart.org

- Bridging traditional, complementary and alternative approaches, Balanced Heart specializes in providing integrative, holistic healthcare affordably to balance mind, body, and spirit, to reduce stress, and to facilitate optimal health, well-being, and personal growth. Veteran's services are focused exclusively on women veterans.