

Naperville Responds for Our Veterans

Pat Bowler www.nrfov.com 630.276.7567

The organization assists veterans in need by raising donations of money, building materials and professional labor and coordinates the process of repairing, building and donating homes.

Naperville Township (Veterans Advocate)

Mike Barbour mbarbour@wowway.com 630.240.1645

There are 60,000+ Veterans in DuPage County and 12,000 to 14,000 Veterans in the Naperville area. As a result of those numbers the Naperville Township Supervisor and Trustees felt it was imperative to create a means to assist that Veteran population. The Veterans and Senior Advocate Office is here to assist veterans and their families in applying for federal, state, and local veterans benefits. There is no fee or charge of any kind for this service. Many veterans are not aware that the government provides medical care, education assistance, employment services, pension and disability compensation, burial and memorial assistance and an array of other services. If a veteran’s discharge papers have been lost or destroyed, duplicate papers can be applied for. This office is a concierge service for Veteran. There are some area the Veterans Advocate may not be able to help but will contact the Veterans Administration, the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, the DuPage County Veterans Assistance Commission or the VFW and American Legion State Service Officers

Naperville Township (General Assistance)

Millie Rodriguez millie@napervilletownship.com 630.355.2786

General Assistance and Emergency Assistance; financial assistance services for basic maintenance needs, such as food, utilities and/or shelter. Must meet financial and non-financial requirements.

Information and Referral Services

Salvation Army emergency financial assistance

Lisle Township

Jim Vondran jimv@lisletownship.com 630.968.2087 X 11

Lisle Township offers general assistance, transportation programs, counseling (employment, youth and family, bereavement and/or referrals to provide Veteran-specific counseling, Job Club, food pantry, passport acceptance processing and referrals to best help the needs of Veterans and their families.

York Township

John Morrissey jfmcontact@aol.com 630.220.1560

York Township offers referral assistance to federal, state and local agencies

Veterans Assistance Commission of DuPage County

Steve Fixler

steven.fixler@dupageco.org

630.407.5655

Temporary emergency financial assistance for veterans and their families: VA medical transportation, vehicle repairs, food/family essentials, burial expenses, referrals/advocacy assistance, mortgage or rent payments, utility payments, work/home related expenses, and emergency prescriptions.

DuPage County Vet Center

Patricia Wasisco,

patricia.waisisco@va.gov

630.585.1853

Dale Anderson

dale.anderson@va.gov

Vet Centers are community based and part of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The goal of the Vet Center program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible Veterans in order to help make a satisfying post-combat adjustment.

Vet Centers offer free services to eligible Veterans and their families. These services include: Individual Counseling, Community Education, Couple and Family Counseling, Employment Counseling, Job Referral, Liaison with VA Facilities, Referral to Community Agencies, Sexual Trauma Counseling, and Spouse/Significant Other Support...

College of DuPage: Veterans Services Department

Veterans Services

veterans@cod.edu

630-942-3814

Assist Veterans in utilizing their military educational benefits to pay for school

Military Resource Club

Scott Stratton

sstratton@devry.edu

630.652.8504

Established in 2008, the DeVry Military Resource club assists with the transition from combat to college through administrative, academic and peer veteran support. This student-led club meets monthly at the Addison campus of DeVry University, hosts relevant external service providers, provides updates to veterans programs and promotes social and memorial events on-campus and in the community. The DMRC is an award winning chapter of the Student Veterans of America.

National Louis University

Contact Person: Paul M. Knudtson

Phone:

312-261-3262

Email: pknudtson@nl.edu

Services available for Veterans and their families:

NLU's Veterans Program provides support services for active and veteran military students, helping them smoothly transfer from the military to academia and eventually to a career in the civilian workplace.

NLU Offers Military Students:

- A [financial aid contact](#) to help navigate benefit options
- Tuition discounts and book vouchers
- Credit hours for military experience
- A [Student Veterans of America Chapter](#)
- Military members overseeing the program
- Online classes
- A Veterans Lounge at our main campus
- Frequent events for military students
- An [Advisory Committee](#) of 21 volunteers with varying military backgrounds
- An [Employer Outreach Specialist](#) and career tools to help students find work opportunities

If you are currently a military connected student, and have any questions related to one of these services, please contact Paul at (312) 261-3262 or pknudtson@nl.edu

Naperville CARES

Maria McTarnaghan

mmctarnaghan@napervillecares.org

630.369.0200

For residents of Naperville or members of a Naperville congregation, the CARES Emergency Assistance program provides direct financial assistance and also collaborates and coordinates funding with local congregations, social service and government agencies to pay for basic needs such as rent, utilities, child care, car payments or care car insurance. For Naperville residents, members of a Naperville congregation or those working with a DuPage County social service agency, CARES also has a Car Program which provides reliable transportation by repairing vehicles donated by community members and providing them to eligible household that lack critical transportation to get to work or repairing client-owned vehicles of those individuals who are working or actively seeking employment.

City of Naperville Fair Housing Advisory Commission

Anna Straczek

fairhousing@naperville.il.us

630.305.53.13

Naperville's Fair Housing Advisory Commission plays an important role in discouraging illegal and unethical housing practices by promoting and encouraging fair housing for all. The commission works to ensure that all people have a fair and equal opportunity to purchase, own, lease or occupy housing within the City of Naperville without discrimination on basis of race, familial status, physical or mental handicap or disability, **military status**, sexual orientation or legal source of income. The commission also hears complaints from those who feel they have been discriminated against. For more information on the commission to file a complaint, visit the City's website at www.naperville.il.us/fhac.aspx.

Naperville Homeowners' Confederation

Bob Fischer, President nahc-naperhomeowners@wowway.com 630.369.4831
Rafischer1@aol.com

The Naperville Area Homeowners' Confederation serves our community by providing the means to foster communication between member associations, homeowners, and government officials. Through this communication, networking, and neighbors-helping-neighbors, the Confederation is the vehicle through which we as homeowners and residents, can stay abreast of community affairs and generate a positive influence on our area's future. Specifically for veterans, we can provide a communications resource to area homeowners associations through our website, newsletter, monthly meetings, and more. For more information, visit the Confederation website at www.napervillehomeowners.com.

Naperville Senior Home Sharing

Wendell Gustafson wgustafson@seniorhomesharing.org 630.407.0440 X11

For those 62+ we offer shared living in residential homes with 5-6 other seniors. Included is a private bedroom and shared use of all common area of the home and outside amenities. A staff member lives in the home, cooks three meals every day for all residents, can provide medication reminders upon request, and keeps a watchful eye and ear on residents when in the home, which is usually about 20 hours per day. Our Resident Life Director visits regularly (usually weekly) to meet with residents and help solve any issues that may arise in the home or with any changing needs of the residents. Additionally, volunteers work with residents and the needs of the home to enhance the quality of life for residents and keep the place looking great.

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans

Kim Pawl kim@mshv.org 630.871.8387

The Shelter offers transitional housing, affordable housing, supportive services for veteran families and the Freedom Commissary.

VFW National Home for Children

Mike McGrath mackcav1@sbcglobal.net 630.420.9820

The VFW National Home for Children serves as a living memorial to America's veterans by helping our nation's veterans and military families during difficult times. The National Home was founded in 1925 as a place where families left behind by war could remain together. Families who need a fresh start can live in the safe and peaceful environment of the campus community for 1-4 years and benefit from numerous community supports, including professional case management services, on-site licensed child care, life skills training, tutoring and other educational services, as well as recreational and community service opportunities.

Loaves and Fishes

Jane Macdonald programs@loaves-fishes.org 630.355.3663

Loaves and Fishes provides food, public benefit assistance, job search support. Computer classes, financial literacy classes, income tax preparation, emotional support, and other services as need to veterans and their families.

Community Career Center

Kimberly White kwhite@communitycareercenter.org 630.961.5665

Becky Brillon bbrillon@communitycareercenter.org 630-961-5665

Services available for Veterans and their families: Job Search assistance in the form of one-on-one career counseling topics including resume critique, LinkedIn, profile critique, mock interviewing assistance, networking skills building, etc. Job seekers can also attend workshops, networking and accountability groups and use the on-site workstations equipped with the latest versions of software (Windows 8 and Office 2013) and tutorials.

WorkNet DuPage

Jim Fergle jfergle@worknetdupage.org 630.955.2040

WorkNet DuPage is a grant funded program that offers job search services; Job Search workshops, Job Club, and grant (scholarship) funding of occupational training and connected services.

Illinois Department of Employment Security

Cornel Thomas cornel.thomas@illinois.gov 630.495.5781

Doug Potts douglas.potts@illinois.gov 630-844-6656

Services available for Veterans and their families:

- Veterans can search for jobs online at IllinoisJobLink.com
- Setup a free account and learn how to use this system
- [Subscribe](#) to our events including job fairs and workshops
- Read about finding [Jobs for Illinois Veterans](#)
- Eligible veterans can visit to your local IDES office to obtain employment services.

For more information visit:

www.ides.illinois.gov: individuals; veterans services

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

Alfonso Rios, VSO	alfonso.rios@illinois.gov	630.495.9460
Marcus Woodard, VSO	marcus.woodard@illinois.gov	630.690.9449
Wesley Yi (DuPage Vet Center)	wesley.yi@illinois.gov	630-585-5372

Services available for Veterans include federal and state Veterans benefits (VA compensation, pension, health benefits, veterans care, education benefits, state Veterans I.D. cards, referral to VA readjustment counseling, and others)

American Legion-Department of Illinois

Wayne Macejak	wayne.macejak@va.gov	312.980.4266
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The American Legion Service Officer offers assistance filing claims with the VA. The American Legion also supports other organizations' Job Fairs, supports youth through Jr. High Essay and Speech events as well as the High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest. With a strong membership we have a larger voice in Washington to support and protect our Veterans benefits. We support our Wounded Warriors through "Operation Comfort Warrior", and push Congress to protect Tricare to make it more viable and affordable for our Veterans. Through our National Emergency Fund, we provide financial assistance to members impacted by natural disasters. We support American Legion baseball, Boys State and Girls State for our youth. As one of the founding authors of the GI Bill we want to ensure protection of our Veterans Rights for higher education insuring all student-veterans should be allowed in-state tuition. We provide tuition assistance via our Legacy Scholarship Program for children of military personnel who lost their lives on duty after 9-11. Our Legion Riders drive the fundraising for this program. We fight to protect our flag from any desecration.

VFW Department of Illinois Service Officer

Barry Walter	barry.walter@va.gov	312.980.4284
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The VFW Service Office staff works with field offices of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs and County Veterans Assistance Commissions throughout the State of Illinois to provide professional quality assistance and advice at no charge to Veterans and their families.

AllenForce: All Veterans All Eras

Donna Sebok, CTRS	donna@allenforce.org	847.372.1092
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All services focus on giving back to veterans and their families through community health, fitness and recreation. The nationally administered Healthy Minds Healthy Bodies program is available for those who have been injured. The SheForce program is available for all women directly impacted by the military and the VETANK program loans an all-terrain chair out to injured veterans which allows for hunting, fishing, paintball, outdoor adventures either at an event or on their own. We also have community training programs for those working with veterans and many annual recreation programs for all veterans injured or not or all eras.

Plainfield Park District

Contact Person: Cheryl Crisman

Phone: 815-436-8812 x19 Email: crisman@plainfieldparkdistrict.com

Services available for Veterans and their families:

Healthy Minds/Healthy Bodies (a program of AllenForce.org)-Offering veterans with a minimum of a 10% disability rating the opportunity to earn up to 15 personal training sessions for themselves and a 1 year fitness membership for themselves and a PT partner at one of the participating fitness facilities in the Plainfield community. The disability does not need to be service connected. Regular social networking events are also planned for all HMHB participants and their families.

Items needed to qualify:

- DD214
- Disability rating letter (either from the VA or from a private physician if the disability is non-service related)

Connected Warriors

Dana Fish coyoteomyoga@gmail.com 630.418.0244

Free yoga classes for active military, veterans, their families, friends and support systems. Classes are great for beginners and most poses can be adapted to a chair, if needed. For those looking for a physical challenge, this class can provide that as well; focusing on breathing, balance, strengthen and stretching.

Team Red White and Blue

Beth Young beth.young@teamrwb.org 630.276.6756

Team Red, White and Blue’s mission is to help veterans reintegrate with their community through social and physical activity. Team RWB volunteer leaders coordinate weekly group athletic activities, monthly social events and frequent volunteer opportunities to give area veterans a wealth of opportunities to get involved.

Operation Support Our Troops America

Deborah Rickert drickert@osotamerica.org 630.971.1150

The initial mission of OSOT America has expanded well beyond its inception. In addition to continued shipment of Comfort Packages to deployed troops, the organization now conducts seminars for families of fallen service members, and provides support for families of deployed troops, resources for veterans in transition, support for deployed military members and financial assistance for veterans in crisis through the Allen J. Lynch Medal of Honor Veterans Foundation.

Allen J Lynch Medal of Honor Veterans Foundation

Bruce Peterson

brucepeterson@AJLynchFloundation.org

630-369-5194

The organization, founded and presided over by Medal of Honor recipient Allen Lynch of Gurnee, IL, was created to provide stopgap funding for veterans in emergency need or to help them to become better capable of continuing their recovery or education process. Through raising funds from donors wishing to help our veterans, the foundation can effectively target candidates and share the donors' generosity with those we encounter or are referred to us by a veterans' servicing organization. Via an involved and available board of directors, emergency needs are capable of being met as soon as the day of the request if the emergency is dire and the situation is properly vetted.

Dryhootch of America

Leah Lockett

leah@dryhootch.org

312.292.8661

Dryhootch of America offers peer mentor group meetings, peer mentor one-on-one meetings and an alcohol and substance free gathering place.

360 Youth Services

Angie Mickalak

amichalak@360youthservices.org

630.717.9408 X115

360 Youth Services provides individual and family counseling including services for high-risk youth, community mentoring program for girls and boys are 12-18, educational groups and workshops including positive choices, positive voices and social confidence groups, parenting education and support including positive parenting seminar series, and transitional housing for homeless young adults ages 18-24.

Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital

Kerry Thomas, Social Worker

708.202.4487

Hines VA Hospital offers primary extended and specialty care on-site at our 147 acre campus in Hines, IL. Specialized clinical programs include Blind Rehabilitation, Spinal Cord Injury, Neurosurgery, Radiation Therapy and Cardiovascular Surgery. The hospital also serves as the VISN 12 southern tier hub for pathology, radiology, radiation therapy, human resource management and fiscal services.

Hines VA Hospital also provides primary care and mental health services at six community based outpatient clinics (CBOC) in Elgin, Kankakee, Oak Lawn, Aurora, LaSalle and Joliet. There is also a vast array of mental health services that are offered at the hospital, including the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center, Health Care for Homeless Veteran Program, Trauma Services, Addiction Treatment, OIF/OEF/OND Case Management Program, and Tele-psychiatry.

Veterans and their families also have access to supportive services through Caregiver Support, Community Nursing Home, Home and Community Based Services and Home Health Aide.

Women Veterans Program (Hines VA)

Diane Shearod

diane.shearod@va.gov

708.202.2075

The Hines Women's Health Center, completed in 2010 is a state-of-the-art center that has been nationally and locally recognized as being a premium facility. It boasts an aesthetically designed welcoming environment that is also highly functional in caring for the specific needs of women Veterans, which involves ensuring privacy, security and dignity. Spacious exam rooms contain exam tables that are oriented for optimal privacy including a restroom, privacy curtains, along with gowns specially designed for the female patient. The waiting area serves as multi-purpose, with an area which allows for quiet conversation. A child friendly section, health educational materials, and a Health VET kiosk. We have an enrollment of approximately 4,000 women Veterans who range in age from 20 to 93

Caregiver Support Program (Hines VA)

Jillian Inserra

jillian.inserra@va.gov

708.202.2643

The Caregiver Support Coordinator provides education and coordination of VA services and programs that help Veterans and in turn relief to the family caregiver such as adult day health care, respite, homemaker and home health aides, skilled nursing, home-based primary care, aid and attendance, home telehealth, adaptive equipment, and home modifications. The VA also provides family caregiver specific services such as the National VA Caregiver Web site, National Caregiver Support Line, supportive counseling, standardized caregiving education and training, telephone and in-person support groups, and online workshops.

Geriatrics and Extended Care

Rose Zarnowski

rose.zarnowski@va.gov

708-202-2467

Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) is committed to optimizing the health and well-being of Veterans with multiple chronic conditions, life limiting illness, frailty, or disability associated with chronic disease, aging or injury.

Alzheimer's and Dementia Care are provided throughout the full range of VA healthcare services. Depending on the Veteran's needs, services may include home based primary care, homemaker and home health aide, respite, adult day health care, outpatient clinic, inpatient hospital, nursing home or hospice care.

Ecumenical Adult Care of Naperville

Laura Milligan

ecumenicalads2@aol.com

630-357-8166

Ecumenical Adult Care has been providing daytime care at their location in downtown Naperville with dignity for the frail elderly since 1983. Registered nurses monitor medical needs while professional activity staff offers life enriching programs. Door-to-door ride service is available for an additional fee. Volunteers are always welcome!