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Message from the Executive Director



Dear Supporters and Friends,

The past few months have been an exciting time for our organization; in July, our services to veterans were combined under a new program, aptly named **VETHelp**; followed in August by creating a new program name to encompass the housing services we provide to low income families-**Saratoga Regional Housing Services**.

Also in August, we received two grants from the Department of Labor/Veterans Employment and Training Services, allowing us to expand our services to unemployed veterans in five counties and to add two additional employment specialists to our staff to cover the expansion. In September, we received a \$980,000.00 grant from New York State to replace dilapidated mobile homes with manufactured homes for income qualified homeowners in Saratoga County.

Last, but certainly not least, in October we were awarded \$212,423.00 from the Veterans Administration to assist in the purchase and rehab of a facility to house up to 11 homeless women veterans; this award, coupled with the over \$140,000.00 raised over the past two years, gives us sufficient capital to make the **Guardian House** project a reality! In addition, we will be hiring two more case managers to work exclusively with the women veterans.

Based on these accomplishments, it only seemed appropriate for this issue of the RPC Quarterly to focus on our dedicated, professional staff – the folks who make this organization work!

A.C. (Budd) Mazurek

Executive Director

SCRPC Staff

Administration

A.C. (Budd) Mazurek
Executive Director
rpcdirector@nycap.rr.com

Dawn Perry
Finance Director
Dawn36@nycap.rr.com

Marge Brahm
Bookkeeper
Brahm@nycap.rr.com

Susan Hillman
Administrative Assistant

James Colville
Maintenance

Saratoga Regional Housing Services

Robin Deierlein,
Director, Section 8
Rpcsect8@nycap.rr.com

Colleen O. Smith, Assistant
Don Erlenbusch, Inspector

Community Development

Marvin & Company
Marvinandcompany@gmail.com

VET HELP

Don Little, Director
rpcvetdirector@nycap.rr.com

Terry Claire, Case Manager
cmanager@nycap.rr.com

Leslie Carroll,
Employment Team Coordinator
lesvet@nycap.rr.com

Fran Nichols, Empl. Specialist
Fran1@nycap.rr.com

Michael Brown, Empl. Specialist
hvrp1@nycap.rr.com

Bill Alston, Empl. Specialist
hvrp2@nycap.rr.com

Jonathan Parsons, Empl. Specialist
hvrp3@nycap.rr.com

Administrative Offices

36 Church Avenue
Ballston Spa, New York 12020
(518) 885-0091
www.vethome.org

SCRPC PROGRAMS

VET HELP

VETerans Housing, Employment and Life skills Programs

The following are the services we provide to homeless veterans:

Housing – We have a 10 bed transitory house for homeless veterans in Ballston Spa; Veterans can stay for as long as two years. We also have a 12 unit apartment complex in the Town of Wilton for formerly homeless veterans and their families; several of the current residents came from our transitory facility. We also have a two family residence in Ballston Spa which we rent to formerly homeless, disabled veterans and their families. In addition, our housing division runs the County wide Section 8 voucher program and the Rental Assistance Program for Saratoga Springs; both are avenues to help the homeless vet secure permanent housing.

Employment – We have a staff of five employment specialists who work with homeless veterans in Saratoga, Warren, Washington, Schenectady and Montgomery Counties in an effort to help them secure meaningful, long term employment.

Life Skills Programs – We provide case management, legal and benefits advocacy, treatment programs through the VA, to treat PTSD, TBI, drug/alcohol addiction as well as medical/dental care. We counsel the veterans on budget issues, relationship building/repairing and living an independent life after they successfully graduate from our program.

Saratoga Regional Housing Services (SRHS)

Section 8 – SRHS administers the Section 8 voucher rental assistance programs for the County of Saratoga and the Town of Wilton, with over 250 families receiving subsidies each month. Our office also oversees the **Rental Assistance Program** for Homeless Person with Disabilities for the City of Saratoga Springs, as well as the incoming **VASH** vouchers for homeless veterans. We currently have 18 families enrolled in our **Family Self-Sufficiency** program which helps families in achieving economic independence. In addition we further administer the **NHTD** (Nursing Home Transition & Diversion) program for the Counties of Saratoga and Washington.

Community Development Marvin & Company

Our Mobile Home Replacement program for Saratoga County and the **Schuylerville Main Street** grant are administered by Marvin & Company.

NEWS FOR VETERANS

VA Simplifies Access to health Care and Benefits for Veterans with PTSD

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki announced a critical step forward in providing an easier process for veterans seeking health care and disability compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) with the publication of a final regulation in the Federal Registry.

“This final regulation goes a long way to ensure that veterans receive the benefits and services they need,” Secretary Shinseki said.

By publishing a final regulation in the Federal Register to simplify the process for a veteran to claim service connection for PTSD, VA reduces the evidence needed if the trauma is claimed by a veteran is related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity and is consistent with the places, types and circumstances of the veteran’s service.

This science-based regulation relies on evidence that concluded that a veteran’s deployment to a war zone is linked to an increased risk of PTSD.

Under the new rule, VA would not require corroboration of a stressor related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity if a VA doctor confirms that the stressful experience recalled by a veteran adequately supports a diagnosis of PTSD and the veteran’s symptoms are related to the claimed stressor.

Previously, claims adjudicators were required to corroborate that a non-combat veteran actually experienced a stressor related to hostile military activity. This final rule simplifies the development that is required for these cases.

VA expects this rule to decrease the time it takes VA to decide access to care and claims falling under the revised criteria. More than 400,000 veterans currently receiving compensation benefits are service-connected for PTSD. Combined with VA’s shorter claim form, VA new streamlined, science-based regulation allows for faster and more accurate decisions that also expedite access to medical care and other benefits for veterans.

PTSD is a medically recognized anxiety disorder that can develop from seeing or experiencing an event that involves actual or threatened death or serious injury to which a person responds with intense fear, helplessness or horror –this condition is not uncommon among war veterans.

Disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to a veteran for disabilities that are a result of – or made worse by – injuries or diseases associated with active service.

For additional information, go to www.va.gov or call VA’s toll-free benefits number at 1-800-827-1000.

Staff/Volunteer Appreciation Day

September 25, 2010

Special thanks to the Board of Directors, the American Veterans Care Organization and the American Legion Post 234, Ballston Spa, for making this event a success.



SCRPC Board Chair, Julia Towne



Budd Mazurek and Doug Schreiber, V.P. of the American Veterans Care Organization



Hmmm! Those clams smell delicious!



Clams, lobster, corn on the cob - what a feast!



Our thanks to the American Legion Post 234 Ballston Spa, for the use of their facilities



Chef Joe and his assistant John enjoying the fruits of their labor

SCRPC STAFF

VETHELP, Saratoga Regional Housing Services and Administration

Don Little, Director

VETHELP

Don is a graduate of Elmira College and had a career with NYS Department of Corrections that spanned nearly 30 years. He is a Vietnam combat veteran and served two tours as a combat medic from 1969-1971. Don joined SCRPC in October 2007 as a Case Manager and was promoted to his current position in 2008.

Terry Clare, Case Manager

VETHELP

Terry attended Niagara University and served in the U.S. Army from 1980 to 1984. He has completed the Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse (CASAC) portion of the CASAC Training. Terry joined SCRPC in May 2006

Leslie Carroll, Employment Coordinator

VETHELP

Leslie has a graduate degree from Chadwick University and an undergraduate degree from Brigham Young. She has worked all over the world and throughout the United States, both as a civilian and as a member of the United States Navy, where she served as a Journalist. Leslie joined SCRPC in April 2004 and was recently promoted to Coordinator of Employment Services.

Fran Nichols, Employment Specialist

VETHELP

Fran attended Adirondack Community College and Castleton State College. He was employed by the International Paper Company for 30 years prior to joining SCRPC. Fran is a Vietnam Era Army veteran and joined our organization in May 2003.

Mike Brown, Employment Specialist

VETHELP

Mike holds an Associate's degree in Electronic Technology and spent four years in the Navy as an Electronics Technician, serving in Beirut and Grenada. Prior to joining SCRPC, he worked for over 20 years in the private sector in the electronics field. Mike was first hired as a part time IT specialist and was promoted to his current, full time position in January 2010.

Bill Alston, Employment Specialist

VET HELP

Bill's work experience includes 15 years in the industrial coatings field as well as 5 years with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. He is a Gulf War veteran and has an A.A. degree in Legal Studies. Bill joined SCRPC in July, 2010.

Jonathan Parsons, Employment Specialist

VETHELP

Jonathan had worked in the private sector for 27 years, including a lengthy tenure in the airline industry, before joining SCRPC. He is a Marine Corp veteran and became part of our team in October 2010.

Robin Deierlein, Director

Saratoga Regional Housing Services

Robin has an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice and has several years experience in the field of community service, including housing and case management programs. She joined SCRPC in March 2007 as a Section 8 Assistant and was promoted to her current position November 2008

Colleen O. Smith, Section 8

Saratoga Regional Housing Services

Colleen is a graduate from Fulton-Montgomery Community College with an A.A. degree in Human Services. She has worked and volunteered for a number of non-profit and community based entities over the past 12 years. Colleen joined SCRPC in January 2010.

Don Erlenbusch, Housing Inspector

Saratoga Regional Housing Services

Don has a Bachelor Degree in Management and retired from the U.S. Air Force after 30 years service, attaining the rank of Chief Master Sergeant (E-9). He worked in the property management field for several years after his retirement and joined SCRPC in June 2006.

Dawn Perry, Finance Director

Administration

Dawn earned her accounting degree from Siena College and has worked as a financial professional in the non-profit arena for the past 15 years. She joined SCRPC as the Finance Director in January 2007.

Marge Brahm, Bookkeeper

Administration

Marge has an A.A. degree from Hudson Valley Community College and is a Vietnam Era Veteran. After her military services, she worked for the Research Foundation of SUNY for 27 years. Marge joined the staff of SCRPC in May 2004.

Jim Colville, Facilities Manager

Administration

Jim served in the U.S. Army as a member of the Special Forces. He worked 15 years in the private sector after his service in the military and joined SCRPC in October 2006.

Suzanne Hillman, Administrative Assistant

Administration

Suzanne graduated from Mount St. Mary College with a degree in History and English. She has many years of work experience in various fields, including a stint in the NYS Executive Chamber. Prior to her current position, Suzanne worked for the Saratoga County Office of the Aging. She joined SCRPC in September 2005.

A.C. Budd Mazurek, Executive Director

Administration

Budd is a University of Maryland graduate and served as an officer in Military Intelligence during the Vietnam conflict. He has had 30 years experience in the private sector, including owning and operating two businesses; for the past ten years Budd has served as the Executive Director for two nonprofit agencies (including SCRPC). Budd joined the organization in April 2008.

Saratoga County

Rural Preservation Company

36 Church Avenue

Ballston Spa, New York 12020



The Quilt North Group made this quilt as a raffle item to benefit the Guardian house Project.

\$2700.00 was raised through the efforts of the group, including Col. Mary Brandt.

(L to R - Pat Stata, Heidi Merrill, Col. Mary Brandt, Pat Richer and Oprah Platt)