

VSACT Meeting Minutes 11/16/22

Guest Presenters:

Raymond Cockrell – Killeen Food Care Center

Food Care Center, Inc. - Killeen, TX. The Food Care Center in Killeen, Texas, provides food items to clients, who are in need, at no cost to them. There is a constant and growing need in our community for these services. www.foodcare.org

Please see the following list of Thanksgiving related events/distributions that the Food Care Center be doing in the next week. We're struggling to find resources for buying groceries and could really use the support from the community.

Tuesday, November 15th starting at 6PM: Scout Troop 287 will be in uniform at the Food Care Center helping us build bags of groceries for the 2,500 Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets that we'll be distributing this holiday season.

Friday, November 18th from 6AM-6PM Food For Families Food Drive. The Food Care Center will be the home donation site. Donations can be made online at www.foodcare.org

Monday, November 21st starting at 10AM we will be distributing 1,000 turkeys and grocery baskets to active duty military families. Each unit will come pick up the turkeys and groceries in bulk, and take them back to Fort Hood to give to the families in need.

Tuesday, November 22nd starting at 8:30AM we will be distributing 200 turkeys and bags of Thanksgiving groceries to first 200 families that come through our doors.

Saturday, December 10th - drive through distribution for military families. We will partner with the Military Family Advisory Network. The signup URL is live for the event: www.milfanet.org/forthood

Hannah O'Brien, Program Manager, Veteran Spouse Network Institute for Military & Veteran Family Wellness The University of Texas at Austin

At the Veteran Spouse Network, [our programs](#) offer peer-based support and guidance for military and veteran spouses and families as they navigate active-duty life, transition to civilian life, and put down roots post-service. All VSN programs prioritize a strong community of support, offering peer-based guidance and understanding. Our programs are designed based on the stated needs of our network. The majority of programs are facilitated by peer leaders who are ingrained in the military and/or veteran community. We believe that spouses/partners not only benefit from the opportunity to connect with and receive support from their peers, but also when they are able to give back, providing support as [peer leaders](#).

Learn about the Veterans Spouse Network the link for programs and calendar of events are listed.

- <https://veteranspousenetwork.org/programs/>
- <https://veteranspousenetwork.org/events/>

Amber Phelps - Habitat for Humanity – Lee Crossley Homes

We've been building, rehabbing, and repairing homes, and revitalizing neighborhoods in Bell, Coryell and Lampasas Counties since 1994. We build homes because they are essential building blocks for families and communities. We repair homes because our goal is to provide sustainable living conditions that offer peace of mind where people can age in place. We are working tirelessly to build 50 homes, repair 50 homes, and clean up 10 neighborhoods through revitalization programs over the next 5 years. This sounds like a lofty goal, no doubt, but it's one that will greatly impact our entire community.

To learn more the Lee Crossley Homes Community the website link and contact information is listed below.

<https://www.fhahfh.org/leecrossley-veteranscommunity>

Barbara B. Bozon, CPA, Executive Director, The Mission of the Central Texas Housing Consortium (CTHC)

The mission of the Central Texas Housing Consortium (CTHC) is to provide quality, affordable housing and access to supportive resources that promote resident self-reliance and quality of life. The members of the CTHC include the Temple and Belton Housing Authorities.

<https://www.centexhousing.org/index.php>

Bring Everyone In The Zone, Inc. – Thanksgiving and Christmas meal program



Bell County H.E.L.P. Center
204 Priest Drive
Killeen, TX 76541



Attention Veterans! 2022 Santa Pal Program Opening

**From: Bring Everyone In The Zone, Inc. - Bell County Human Services & Hill Country
Community Action Association-Killeen – Exchange Club of Killeen**

Subject: Thanksgiving food, Christmas food and Santa Pal Toys for Veteran Families only

An updated HUD Self-Certification Statement on Annual Family Income for the 2022 is all that is needed to get your family on the list for Thanksgiving food, Christmas food and our Santa Pal Program and is enclosed in this envelope.

The Thanksgiving food, and Christmas food programs use the same information. Food for Thanksgiving must be picked up Tuesday, November 22 between 8:30 and noon. Food for Christmas must be picked up by Monday December 19 between 8:30 and noon. The Santa Pal program is available to any of the Veterans we have served with children 1-11 years of age on a first come/first serve basis. You will be notified when your Toys are ready for pick up. There are a limited number of resources available on a first come, first serve and basis. Applicants must bring picture ID to pick up food/toys. No double dipping, please.

All we require is completing and signing the enclosed:

- Updated HUD Self-Certification Statement of Annual Family Income.
- We are not responsible for any injuries resulting in receipts of free toys.



Revised: 9/30/2022

Bring Everyone In The Zone is a non-profit organization made up of trained professional facilitators who volunteer so they can help people. We are not counselors but look at ourselves as travel companions, helping you to get back in the zone.

Our Purpose: We provide Peer Support in a myriad of ways to Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF), especially those suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury, Military Sexual Trauma and other traumatic events in their lives. We help make improve the quality of life for the SMVP.

Who Benefits from our programs and services: Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF)

Our administrative office is located in the 204 Priest Drive, Killeen, TX 76541. Due to COVID-19 the office is temporarily closed to the public.

Our mailing address is PO Box 763, Killeen, TX 76540-0763

Organizations

Central Texas VA: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention/Whole Health

contact: joan.vanicek@va.gov and Veteran Health Education Coordinator contact: brandi.fagner@va.gov

Lori A. Spencer, USA, Ret

Veterans Outreach Program Specialist

Killeen Heights Vet Center, 0726

302 Miller's Crossing, Suite 4

Harker Heights, TX 76548

(254)953-7100 (Office)

(254)987-2672 (VA Cell)

(254)953-7120 (Fax)

lori.spencer@va.gov

Website: <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>

Vet Center 24/7 Call Center: 1-877-927-8387

VA.gov | Veterans Affairs

Apply for and manage the VA benefits and services you've earned as a Veteran, Service member, or family member—like health care, disability, education, and more.

[Killeen Heights Vet Center | Veterans Affairs \(va.gov\)](#)

Killeen Heights Vet Center | Veterans Affairs

We offer confidential help for Veterans, service members, and their families at no cost in a non-medical setting. Our services include counseling for needs such as depression, post-traumatic stress...

Allen Martin amartin@tlsc.org.

Referrals from the Cedar Park VA Clinic and Heroes Night Out, but we also can do our best to connect veterans to other legal resources that are out there. Texas Legal Services Center's Veterans Legal Assistance Project provides free legal services to qualifying low-income veterans: 800-622-2520, option 2.

Angela Bodnar, LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator, Relationship Health and Safety
(Angela.Bodnar@va.gov, 254-987-1828)

Dino Wilson, Post 911 Military to VA. Case Management Program Pl. let me know of any Veterans that need assistance navigating the VHA, 254-624-1370

https://www.va.gov/POST911VETERANS/Post_9_11_Military_2VA_M2VA_Case_Management_Program.asp

VA.gov | Veterans Affairs

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[11/16 10:45 AM] Sharon Oz Combined Arms (Guest)

Sharon Ozdarski

Combined Arms, Central Texas Regional Manager

sharon@combinedarms.us

512-379-5213

Combined Arms brings together veteran-focused nonprofits and agencies and communities across the nation committed to serving those who served. These **200+** best-in-class organizations provide **1000+** resources that empower veterans to lead the successful civilian lives they want, making our community stronger than ever.

<https://www.combinedarms.us/>

Patrick Hannigan Veteran Career advisor in the Waco area Patrick.hannigan@tvc.texas.gov

Paul Julio

Texas Veterans Commission

District Outreach Coordinator

paul.julio@tvc.texas.gov

Cell (512) 783-5590

Visit our state website to learn more about our veterans' programs at <https://www.tvc.texas.gov/>

Connect with me on LinkedIn to view career and job-related content for both veterans and non-veterans

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/paul-julio-a20babab/>

Rhoda Hacker, Relationship Health and Safety rhoda.hacker@va.gov 254-400-6239

Dee Stewart

Texas Veterans Commission

Family Career Advisor

deirdra.stewart@tvc.texas.gov

www.tvc.texas.gov

Carmen White Families In Crisis and we assist veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The veteran can contact Families in Crisis at 254-634-1184- Ask to speak to Veteran housing.

Luis Vallejo

Three benefits of having both VA and Medicare Coverage: 1. Beneficiaries more care choices. 2. Avoid lifetime late enrollment penalties. 3. Maintain health coverage if their VA benefits decrease.

Independent Medicare advisor, 512-379-8277.

Shelia Brown and Paul Bilunas- Heart of Texas Goodwill Inc. Operation Good Jobs Program

successcoach@hotgoodwill.org

Operation Good Jobs program assists veterans and their immediate family members connect to sustainable employment opportunities while exploring ways to increase their skills, continue their education or connect to other services in the community.

ELIGIBILITY

- Veterans and/or transitioning military members must be able to provide documentation of veteran/military status (i.e. DD-214, VA Card, Copy of Orders, etc.)
- Immediate family member must be able to provide documentation or military member's stats and one document showing family link (i.e. marriage certificate, birth certificate, bill with all names listed, etc.)
- Must be 16-years or older

* Thank you for attending*

