



VIETNAM WAR
VETERAN

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



CONNECT, RESTORE, GROW

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The concept that drives Clear Path's purpose is not new, but one that has been lost in the modern age. Throughout history, warriors forged a protective circle around the nations they protected, and this noble legacy continues today. We are dedicated to supporting those who selflessly choose to serve and who stand ready to make the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. To honor the military community, we're committed to welcoming them home and creating a protective circle around them to help them connect, restore, and grow.

For over a decade, Clear Path has established itself as "the place" for veterans seeking direction and a community that reflects the meaningful relationships formed during service. Our commitment is to connect with those we serve through a personalized approach, providing a roadmap of opportunities to achieve their goals. Often this is accomplished through our core programs and services: Peer and Family Support, Workforce Development, Events, Culinary Services, and our accredited Canine Program. But our work does not stop there; in many cases, Clear Path has become the conduit for deeper connections, providing a space for gatherings, volunteering, networking opportunities, workshops, and more.

My journey with Clear Path began in 2016 as a dedicated member of the staff and a recipient of the impactful programs offered. As a Peer Mentor, I began to uncover the real challenges veterans face in our community. It opened my eyes to the difficulties veterans in rural communities (with limited access to support) face. At the same time, my life was utterly transformed by the Canine Program. A dog named Harley and Clear Path's founder, Melissa Spicer forever changed my life. While I was here to help others, I realized that I, too, was receiving incredible support from the staff and programs.

Today, I have the great honor of leading this organization. My commitment is to remain mission-focused while prioritizing efficiency and growth, enabling us to support even more members of the military community. It truly "takes a village," and our staff, volunteers, community partners, donors, and, of course, dogs, are essential to our success. Together, we will inspire and empower the lives of those we serve and the communities who support them. Our organizational strategy, developed through valuable feedback from key community stakeholders, an evaluation of our operations, and an understanding of the broader landscape of veteran support, will guide us on our journey forward.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and commitment to our mission as we embark on this next chapter.

Faithfully yours,



Ryan Woodruff



Our Mission

CONNECT. RESTORE. GROW.

At Clear Path for Veterans, we forge deep, lasting connections with military members, veterans, and their families. By building a network of trust and collective support, we empower each individual to navigate their personal journey, strengthen relationships, and discover a clear, hopeful path to a more fulfilling future.

Our Vision

Our vision is to honor the spirit of traditional warrior culture—service, camaraderie, and resilience—by fostering a steadfast community where all are inspired to bridge the military-civilian divide. Together, we build understanding, respect, and enduring strength for those we serve.

Enrichment & Wellness Services

Our comprehensive approach to wellness.



SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program

Support. Stability. Hope.

Clear Path for Veterans is proud to offer the SSG Fox SPGP, a Veteran-centered initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to reduce suicide risk, promote resilience, and build connection for Veterans and their families. The SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP) is named in honor of SSG Parker G. Fox to carry forward his legacy of compassion by reducing Veteran suicide nationwide. SSG Fox was an Army sniper instructor at Fort Benning, GA. Tragically, he died by suicide at age 25. This program utilizes community organizations to provide outreach, peer support, screening, crisis intervention, case management, and holistic services.

SERVICES OFFERED

- Peer Support & Outreach
- Mental Health Screenings and Referrals
- Crisis Prevention
- Basic Needs Assistance
- Case Management & Coaching
- VA & Community Resource Navigation

MODALITIES

- Yoga
- Sound Therapy
- Qigong
- Nutrition Workshops
- Holistic Wellness Workshops

Enrichment

- Couple's Picnic
- Sweetheart's Dinner
- Pottery Classes
- Local Historical Site Visits
- Food Tour
- Gardening Classes
- Beekeeping
- Knitting
- Cooking Classes
- CPR
- Defensive Driving
- Candle Painting

At Clear Path for Veterans, we emphasize an enduring wellness journey. Our Enrichment & Wellness Services leverage the National Wellness Institute's "Six Dimensions of Wellness," a methodology widely accepted as the industry standard. Regardless of whether a veteran or family member comes to Clear Path in crisis or looking to excel, our holistic warrior care model meets them where they are and helps them achieve the highest levels of emotional, intellectual, occupational, physical, social, and spiritual well-being.

If an individual comes to us with a particular need that we do not have the capabilities to address, we engage our community partners to help meet the need. We work tirelessly to build an interconnected wellness network to ensure that we deliver complementary, not duplicative, services to our veteran community.



Canine Program

Breeding and training canines for a lifetime of service.

It was in 2010 that US Air Force Veteran Dr. Steve Kinne and Melissa Spicer first met to discuss what would become a one-of-a-kind focus on veteran wellness centered around the service-dog program. In the decade since, our flagship Canine Program is the first program in the organization to have national reach. In 2022, Clear Path for Veterans was awarded accreditation from Assistance Dogs International in recognition of our adherence to industry standards and best practices.

At Clear Path, we understand the importance of using purpose-bred dogs, which is why we partner with breeders such as Cold Springs Healing Paws Foundation in New Hampshire and Hero Labradors out of Texas. At as early as eight weeks, puppies begin training for a lifetime of service, including an intensive 18-month program with certified trainers and technicians. Concurrently, veterans and their families work with our staff to identify and address struggles before being paired with a service dog. This integrated approach distinguishes Clear Path because the array of services that veterans have access to beforehand supplement the benefits of the Canine Program, thereby enabling them to resolve challenges comprehensively.

LOOKING BACK

13

Canine graduates

40

Canine guardians

46

Puppy Ambassadors since program inception.

MOVING FORWARD

A new canine training facility is being built to support our national program.



Chris & Ski

2024 Canine Program Graduates

Chris, a Marine veteran, recently completed our training program with his devoted service dog, Ski, and already feels the impact of their bond, sharing, “Wish I would have gotten a service dog sooner—I am already seeing an increase in my activity and accountability.” Their partnership is a true reflection of the unwavering support and community found at Clear Path. Beyond their own journey, Chris leads PGA HOPE, a golf clinic dedicated to supporting veterans with free golf lessons, showing how he and Ski not only support each other but also give back to the veteran community. Together, they embody the power of service, connection, and resilience—an unstoppable team making a difference.



Veteran Support Services

A source for hope, strength, and support.



Operation Socrates

Support. Stability. Hope.

Operation Socrates is Clear Path for Veterans' education-focused initiative designed to help veterans and military-connected individuals explore and access academic and professional development opportunities. Whether it's navigating the college application process, identifying programs that align with career goals, or finding scholarships and support resources, Operation Socrates provides one-on-one guidance to empower long-term success beyond military service.

PATH TO TEACHING

Explore education programs that value the unique skills and experiences that veterans bring to teaching.

Make a lasting impact in K-12 classrooms.

Guide the next generation as an educator.

LOOKING BACK

4,300+

Unique veterans served through

15,000+

service deliveries.

MOVING FORWARD

33

Counties currently served across New York State.

In the coming year, we aspire to serve all 57 counties outside of New York City.

As our "front line" program, peer mentors reach veterans and their families wherever they are—in their homes, on the streets, or at our facilities—to deliver individualized support and address their most-pressing needs. Veteran Support Services Program teams up with local and national organizations to form an all-encompassing support network so that we can adequately serve veterans and their families.

Clear Path for Veterans takes great pride in being the leading provider of the Dwyer Peer Support Program, with Dwyer partnerships in seven counties and a support presence in 33 counties across New York State. That reach isn't an accident. We have earned recognition for our transparency and fiduciary responsibility from GuideStar and Charity Navigator. You can trust Clear Path to do right by the veterans in your community—because we're already doing it across the state.



Culinary Services

Cooking and camaraderie.

Whether a veteran wants to share a meal or try their hand at preparing one, Clear Path for Veterans offers ample space and skill-building specifically centered around food and friendship. Since its inception, our Culinary Services have been essential for veterans and the greater community to find their place.

LOOKING BACK

30,000+

meals through our culinary services throughout 33 counties.

CANTEEN

Inspired by the famous North Platte, Nebraska, "Canteen," which began during WWII, our signature weekly culinary event is based on the adage that breaking bread together makes fast friends. Clear Path for Veterans invites veterans, their families, and the community at large into our Chittenango facility every Wednesday for a home-cooked meal. We also host numerous holiday meal events, such as Brunch with Santa and Thanksgiving dinner. We firmly maintain that our culinary-focused events provide an approachable and engaging entry point, allowing new members to comfortably explore our organization's full range of offerings.

MOBILE MEALS

With the generous support of Chobani and SEFCU, Clear Path launched a food trailer in 2022 to reach more communities across New York State. The trailer brings the culinary talents of our staff to new populations and provides us with greater ability to participate and contribute to local events.

MINI MOBILES

In partnership with the CPV Peer Mentors, our culinary team prepares hot ready-to-eat meals for veterans and military families throughout our community.

SELFLESS SERVICE

Our success starts with our volunteers.

Volunteers enable our staff to deliver world-class experiences and life-altering programming every day, but their influence goes well beyond that.

At Clear Path, volunteers, veterans, and civilians alike embody the essence of the community-based warrior culture that is foundational to our mission. Their selfless service transforms the organization.

Whether they give their time once or show up every week, our volunteers are the soul of Clear Path.

LOOKING BACK

57,000+

hours of volunteer service in 2024.

MOVING FORWARD

We'll continue to grow our army of dedicated volunteers.



Community Engagement

A core tenet of our organization.

At Clear Path, the journey home for veterans and their families begins with community. We pride ourselves on our transformative hospitality, which visitors might first experience during a weekly Canteen, a special event, or our quarterly Summit meeting.

A welcoming atmosphere is pivotal to the success of Clear Path for Veterans and the success of all those who come through our doors.

LOOKING BACK

120+

events attended in the community with a Clear Path for Veterans presence.

Service-Era

Appreciation Celebrations

Clear Path hosts appreciation events throughout the year to honor veterans of every generation so that they can all receive the “welcome home” they deserve.

Red, White, and Blue BBQ

Our largest annual fundraiser, we invite the local community to our campus every summer for a neighborhood barbeque crafted by our very own culinary staff as well as local veteran farmers and food vendors.

Ride for Clear Path

Widely considered the premier motorcycle event in Central New York, we partner with local motorcycle clubs every fall to host a scenic, hour-long ride through Onondaga and Madison counties that culminates with a community barbeque at our Chittenango campus.

Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Golf Tournament

This fundraiser honors and remembers the service and sacrifice made by Vietnam Veterans. Held at the Pompey Club in Jamesville, NY each year.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS IN 2024

FOUNDATIONS

ACTC Foundation Inc
The Angell Foundation
Bob Woodruff Foundation
The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley
The Howard A Drescher Foundation
Jewish Community Foundation Of CNY
The M&T Charitable Foundation
The MSJ Foundation

GRANTS

Bank of America
Broome County
Chenango County Department of Mental Hygiene
CNY Community Foundation Inc
Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation
Cortland County Mental Health
Delaware County Veteran Service Agency
Delaware County Veteran Service Agency
Excellus BCBS CNY Leadership Development Association
Jim and Juli Boeheim Foundation
John Ben Snow Foundation, Inc.
Laura J. Niles Foundation
Lockheed Martin
Madison Co. Youth Bureau
Mother Cabrini Health Foundation
New York Health Foundation
Onondaga County Health Department
Oswego County Opportunities
Richard Mather Fund
State Farm Foundation
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Wayne County Veteran Service Agency

INDIVIDUALS & COMPANIES

Allow More Coaching LLC
American Legion Post 1153
American Legion Riders Post 161
Americu Credit Union
Thomas Anderson
BNY Mellon
BNY Mellon Community Impact
Bill Boltz
Jeffrey and Dorothy Booher
BPO Elks Lodge #42
Broadview Federal Credit Union

Cazenovia Jewelry
Chittenango United Methodist Church
Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association NY Chapter 19-10
Joe Cunningham
Robert and Pamela Daino
Corey Dedrick
Dolores and Anthony Dolores
Bonnie and Alan Drescher
Empower Federal Credit Union
Ronald Fairbank
Craig Froelich
Mary Giroux
God's Way Church of Jesus
LeAnne Goerss
Vicki Grimes
Hero Labradors
Nick Jacobs
Paul and Edwarda Kelly
Rodney and Kathleen Kent
John Koenig
KW Fitness 315 LLC
La Festa Italiana
Janet and Sam Lanzafame
Gerry and Mary Mathews
Katelyn McCarthy
Anne Menter
Miles & Macros LLC
National Grid
Onegroup Inc
Bernard Owens
Mark and Pamela Pfisterer
Pillinger Miller Tarallo LLP
Play For Your Freedom
Pompey Rod & Gun Club
Preferred Mutual Insurance Company
Professional Teleconcepts Pro-Tel
Punishers LEMC Rescue Chapter Inc
Nicholas Renzi
RHS Holdings LLC
Joyce and John Rienzo
Eric Robinson
Rockbridge Investment
Michael and Judy Rothman
RTK Living Trust
Southern Hills Posse
Melissa and David Spicer
SRCTec
Claudette Tanner
Thompson & Johnson Equipment Co, Inc.
VFW Post 1975 Auxiliary
VIP Structures Inc
Visions Federal Credit Union
Donald Westcott
David Williams

ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGIES

Infrastructure

To achieve our vision, we are committed to building a strong and supportive infrastructure that makes the most of our resources and empowers our team. Our structure will not only support but also encourage the growth and expansion of our organization. By implementing a centralized navigation process and a membership model, we will create a welcoming atmosphere that makes it easier for veterans, families, and community partners to connect with us. We are also committed to enhancing our facilities to maximize their use, create a more inviting atmosphere, and showcase the warmth and dedication of our mission.

Outreach and Collaboration

We are committed to strengthening relationships with veterans, service members, families, and community partners through meaningful outreach and authentic collaboration. By fostering trust, sharing stories, and highlighting impact, we will expand awareness of our mission and grow our network of support. Collaboration will remain central to our approach—working with organizations, partners, and allies to build stronger connections, share resources, and create opportunities that enhance the lives of the military community. Through these efforts, we will broaden our reach, cultivate new opportunities for growth, and ensure that Clear Path remains a trusted partner and resource for those we serve.

Programs/Services

At Clear Path for Veterans, we are dedicated to creating opportunities that inspire connection, restoration, and growth. By sharing our programs and services clearly and opening our doors through events and community engagement, we foster stronger relationships and bring people together in meaningful ways. Our efforts will be guided by shared goals, thoughtful processes, and measurable outcomes that keep us aligned with our mission. Staff are empowered to bring creativity, flexibility, and heart to their work, always striving for excellence and continuous improvement. Through these commitments, we will expand our reach, strengthen our community, and ensure that veterans, service members, and their families feel welcomed, valued, and supported. Together, we create an environment where people can connect, restore, and grow.

Board Members

Advocates and champions of the Clear Path for Veterans vision.

Ann Harris
PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Anthony Basile
VICECHAIR OF THE BOARD
US AIR FORCE VETERAN

Cindy M. Boyd
BOARD EMERITUS
US ARMY VETERAN

Erik Smith
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Gay Pomeroy
AUDIT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

Kraig Rando
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
US AIR FORCE VETERAN

Melissa Spicer
CO-FOUNDER; CHAIR - DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Orrin B. "Mac" MacMurray
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CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER
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Alexander Behm
CHIEF COMMUNITY OFFICER
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Benjamin Lamb
SSG FOX SPGP
PEER MENTOR
US ARMY VETERAN

Alyssa Thompson
WELCOME COORDINATOR
US AIR FORCE VETERAN

Ashley Aust
ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Ashley Pierce
SERVICE DOG TRAINING INSTRUCTOR

Carmen Sorrentino
CHIEF IMPACT OFFICER

Bethany Frank
GUEST EXPERIENCE & ENRICHMENT MANAGER

Carrie Bonus
VOLUNTEER MANAGER

Carl Bush
PEER MENTOR
US ARMY VETERAN

Jordyn McCandles
CANINE TRAINER

Catherine Murray
DIRECTOR OF INTEGRATED WELLNESS

Jason Hartsell
CULINARY ASSISTANT

Jonathan Wanglund
REGIONAL MANAGER, SOUTHERN TIER
US AIR FORCE VETERAN

Kelsey Goddard
CULINARY ASSISTANT
US ARMY VETERAN

Justin Muir
CANINE CARE TECHNICIAN
US MARINE CORPS VETERAN

Justin Ricketts
CANINE TRAINER
US AIR FORCE VETERAN

Kellie Hatton
CANINE TRAINING MANAGER

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Lance Stenfeldt
REGIONAL MANAGER, NORTH COUNTRY
US ARMY VETERAN

Liz Taylor
CANINE HEALTH MANAGER

Lizzette Donigan
CORPORATE HR BUSINESS PARTNER

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CENTRAL REGIONAL MANAGER
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Marissa Blumer
CANINE PROGRAM VOLUNTEER MANAGER

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PEER MENTOR
US MARINE CORPS VETERAN

Melissa Worshek
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US MARINE CORPS VETERAN

Michael Sheets
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Pete Maraday
REGIONAL MANAGER, HUDSON VALLEY
US AIR FORCE VETERAN

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Ryan Woodruff
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
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Ta Per
CULINARY ASSISTANT

Taffey Popka
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Will Petrie
SOUS CHEF

Yvonne Schermerhorn
CULINARY ASSISTANT

Zachary Morlang
DIRECTOR OF VETERAN SUPPORT SERVICES
US MARINE CORPS VETERAN

Our Staff

The passionate team serving the ClearPath community.

VOLUNTEER

We're always in need of volunteers who want to join our family-like work environment. We also have special opportunities for large groups fulfilling community service requirements.

DONATE

The transition from military to civilian life can be daunting. Because of your support, Clear Path is able to offer programs and services to support veterans throughout this transition and beyond.

CONTACT

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