

VCNCT Annual Report

The Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas (VCNCT) was formed in August of 2011. The sponsoring agency was Mental Health America of Greater Dallas. The coalition was formed in conjunction with several partnering agencies: Dallas County Veterans Office, Veterans for Christ, and the Child and Family Assessment Center. Together these organizations were able to organize monthly meetings to assemble community partners for a monthly meeting to collaborate, strategize on best practices, network, and provide services to Veterans and their family members.

The Vision of the Coalition is to “Mobilize all sectors of society to give our service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned”. Our Mission is “To build bridges between local community resources, national resources, veterans, and their families to rebuild, educate, and equip returning veterans to reintegrate back into society”.

The VCNCT has four Central Initiatives and two Work Groups:

- 1) **Employment: Assist Veterans and their families reintegrate back into the work force**
- 2) **Mental Health: Provide assistance to Veterans dealing with PTSD, TBI, & MST**
- 3) **Marketing & Outreach: Promote coalition programs and events, establishing relationships**
- 4) **Veteran Resources: Develop the Coalition Resource Guide and other printed documents**
- 5) **Education: Assist Veterans with education resources, training & development**
- 6) **Housing: Assist Veterans with stable housing resources**

The Coalition is committed to providing services that have been identified by Military men and women as well as Coalition Members that work directly with Veterans and their family members. The Coalition has had the extraordinary opportunity to bring together various entities throughout North Central Texas to better serve the Veterans, their families, the community, and the State of Texas. We have garnered support from community partners, community leaders, and prominent leaders from as far as Washington DC.

The 2011-2012 Coalition year has brought much success in supporting Military families in the Texas community. The magnitude of success has been made possible through the hard work and dedication of volunteers, community partners, community sponsors, and dedicated Board Members. Our Coalition met every last Thursday of the month initially from 11:00am to 2:00pm then to 11:00am to 1:00pm with an optional additional hour for networking, excluding Holiday or Event months.

To date the Coalition has provided over \$40,779 in services, resources, & programs directly to Veterans and their family members.

SAVE THE DATE

Operation Healthy Reunions
MHA Dallas

Invites you to Attend
the Veterans Coalition
of North Central Texas Meeting

Thursday, August 25, 2011
11:00 am-2:00 pm
At the American Red Cross of Dallas
4800 Harry Hines Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75235-7717

Please RSVP via completion of the Registration form
by August 19, 2011 to smmacca@mhadallas.org

We would like to thank our supporting business and organizations for donating a meeting location for the Coalition for every meeting this year. We would also like to thank our supporting organization that provided lunch for each meeting. The organizations are listed in order followed by lunch sponsors:

- ❖ August 2011-**American Red Cross** –MHA Dallas/Operation Healthy Reunions
- ❖ September 2011-**The Historic Union Station**-MHA Dallas/Operation Healthy Reunions
- ❖ October 2011- **Dallas Elks Lodge #71**-MHA Dallas/Operation Healthy Reunions
- ❖ November 2011- **The Center for Brain Health**-Center for Brain Health
- ❖ January 2012-**City Place**-MHA Dallas/Operation Healthy Reunions
- ❖ February 2012-**Center for Community Cooperation**-MHA Dallas/Operation Healthy Reunions
- ❖ March 2012-**Life in the Trinity Ministries**-Starlite Recovery Center
- ❖ May 2012- **House of Blues**-Wells Fargo Bank Mortgage and Loan Department
- ❖ June 2012-**Big Brothers Big Sisters**-MHA Dallas/Operation Healthy Reunions
- ❖ July 2012-**Big Brothers Big Sisters**-MHA Dallas/Operation Healthy Reunions

The Veterans Coalition has held 10 Coalition Meetings this year. Of those ten meetings there was a total of 528 attendees. The ability to mobilize all sectors of society has allowed the Coalition Members to take networking to a new level. The Coalition members report the following:

# of Vets Served	#of Vet. Dependents	#of Referrals Received	# of Referrals Sent	# of Events	# of Contacts	# of Guest
978	233	327	168	220	744	76

In addition to our events, we have participated in the Veterans Parade, 4th of July events, Conferences, seminars, Yellow Ribbons, and other community events as vendors and supports.

We would also like to say thank you to the Dallas Foundation for supporting funds through MHA Dallas in the support of the Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas.

Our First Event

“Thanksgiving for Veterans”

The Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas (VCNCT) had its first Community Initiative Event of 2011, “Thanksgiving for Veterans “. The event took place at the Dallas VFW Post 6796 at 9179 Garland Rd. The purpose of the event was to provide Thanksgiving dinner for Veteran and their family members, a one year free membership into the VFW, and to educate the Veterans on a list of available resources. Sponsoring organizations provided the following items:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Operation Healthy Reunions: | Overall Event Coordination |
| VSweeps: | 500 12lb-16lb turkeys |
| Dallas Elks Lodge #71: | Food order and Money Collections |

VA of North Texas:	400 2012 VA Benefits Books
Dallas Count Veterans Office:	100 2012 VA Benefits Books
GM Auto Transport:	Transportation of completed bags
Texas Land Board:	500 bags
Kroger Grocery:	Food (at a discounted price)
Child & Fam. Assess. Cntr:	In-Kind Food Donations

The coordination and preparation of the event took approximately two months. There were 500 turkeys totaling approximately \$7,500, two orders with approximately 16 different items, totaling over 8000 ordered items for \$7,115, 45 additional in-kind bags donated, three inventory and bagging sessions with 51 volunteers bagging, 32 Coalition volunteers, 2 VFW Post, Garland and Dallas, and 14 volunteer hours. Participating Coalition members included the following organizations:

1. Operation Healthy Reunions
2. Equest Ranch
3. Child and Family Assessment Center
4. VA of North Texas
5. Dallas County Veterans Office
6. Dallas Elks Lodge #71
7. The Center for Brain Health
8. Dallas Habitat for Humanity
9. Texas Veterans Commission



10. Love Your Veterans
11. Volunteers of America
12. 300th SBE
13. TX Army National Guard Family Program
14. Doris Webb + five family members
15. Dallas VFW Post 6796
16. VSweeps
17. Dallas County Veterans Court
18. Tuskegee Airman
19. Ken Watterson

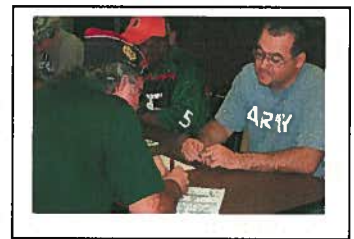
Primary recruitment and registration for participating Veterans took place at the Seagoville Medical Battalion and the Army National Guard Headquarters in Grand Prairie. Additional Veterans were recruited by Dallas County Veterans Services Office, Dallas County Veterans Court, San Antonio Unit 228 CSH, and The VA of North Texas. On the day of the event 178 Veterans were present and of the Veterans present 627 family members were served, an additional 175 bags were delivered with an unknown amount of family members identified. Of the Veterans present, a total of 1734 combined years of

military service. Ken Watterson, a Coalition partner, fed an additional 625 homeless Veterans at the Union Gospel Mission and bags also delivered to the Bridge with the remaining 147 bags.

The following is a breakdown of served Military Personal:

Army:	100	Family Members:	627
Marine Corps:	14	Combined Years of Service:	1734
Navy:	2	Food Total Cost:	\$14,615
Army National Guard:	0	Homeless Vets & the Bridge	147
Air Force:	2		
Delivered	<u>175</u>		
Total:	353		

The Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas and our partners are proud to have come together and serve Veterans with such a spirit of services and genuine care. It was definitely a learning experience and we look forward to next year's event.



Our Second Event

“Financial Education Seminar and Hiring Fair”

The event began on Wednesday, April 18th with the arrival of our Guest Speaker Mrs. Holly Petraeus of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) from Washington D.C. The Coalition partnered with the NAS/JRB of Fort Worth Commanding Officer Captain Robert Bennett to host a welcome lunch at the Moreland Dinning Hall for Mrs. Petraeus and approximately 30 service men and women from each branch of services. Attendees included the Navy Sailors of the Year, Marines of the Year, Air Force and Air National Guard Outstanding Airman of the Year, the Army Best Warrior, and Million Dollar Sailor graduates.

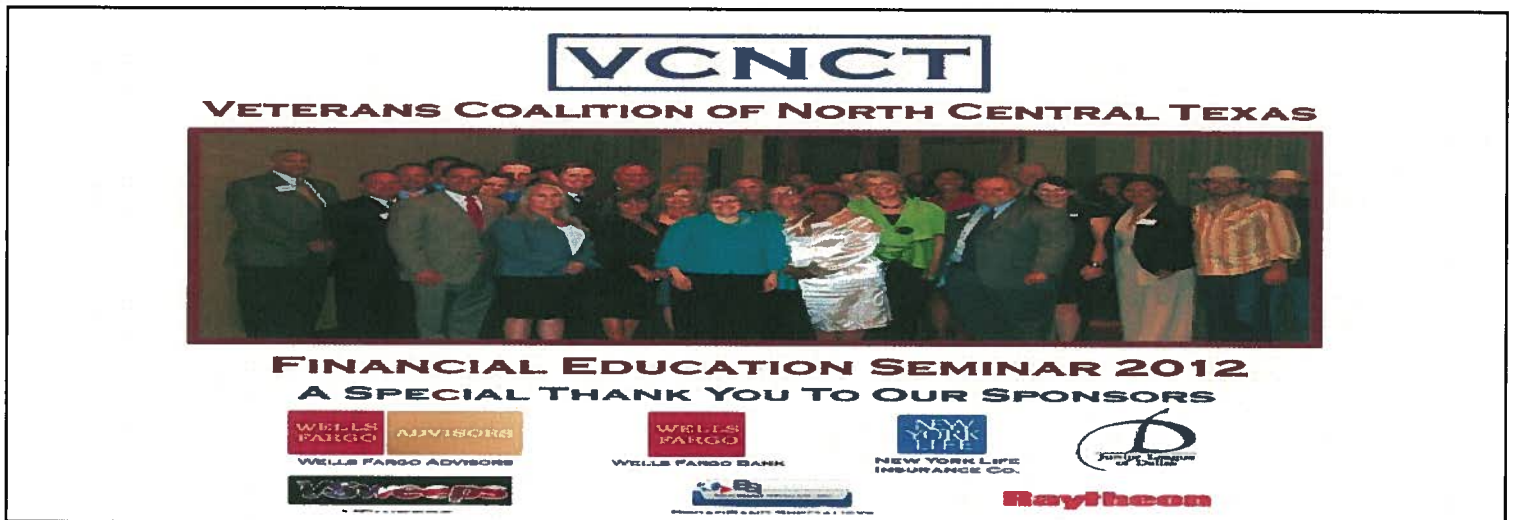
The first Town Hall meeting was with the Jr. Enlisted, their families, and ombudsman/Family Readiness Officers. There were approximately 220



Military E-6 and below from each branch of service. Joined on stage with Mrs. Petraeus was Sarah R. Saldana, the United States Attorney and T.P. O'Mahoney, Chair of the Texas Veterans Commission. Each panelist spoke about their programs and how each service member could contact them to utilize their office. The service men and women were then given the time and opportunity to ask questions and get directives as to websites and contact information.

The second Town Hall meeting followed the first with Senior Enlisted E-7 through E-9. The same panel remained from the first meeting. There were approximately 175 Senior Officers and family members.

A final Executive Roundtable with all Base/Tenant Leadership and Executive Steering Committees was hosted by CO Bennett. At this time 25 leaders were able to speak directly to and with the Panel guest regarding issues they see that directly affect our Military men and women. The roundtable concluded with pictures with Mrs. Petraeus and guest.



Upon arrival to the Sheraton Dallas, the Coalition hosted a "Dinner and Conversation with Mrs. Petraeus". The invited guests were sponsors of the seminar and selected officials including Commissioner Maurine Dickey, Judge Clay Jenkins, and Judge Brent Carr of Tarrant County and Board Member of VETCO. The dinner opened with a song by National Country Music Recording artist Danny Griego singing "Lady Liberty". Board Member Judge Michael Snipes opened the night by introducing Nekima Booker and welcoming all to the dinner. A total of 34 attendees were present representing sponsoring organizations from the following entities:

1. Mental Health America
2. Coalition Board Members & FES Leadership Team
3. Wells Fargo Bank
4. Wells Fargo Advisors
5. New York Life Insurance
6. Raytheon





7. NAACP
8. Dallas Jr. League
9. Dallas County Judge
10. Tarrant County Judge
11. Dallas County Commissioners Office
12. Momentum Texas
13. VSweeps(absent)
14. VFW Plano 4380 (absent)

The night ended with a group picture and a tour of the travel bus of Mr. Taylors.

On the 19th of April, the "Financial Education Seminar began at 9:00am. The event was hosted by Maj. General(Ret) James Williams. There were eight speakers that covered Financial Education covering the following topics:

1. Credit Card Management
2. How to Deal with Credit Problems
3. Legal Issues and Solutions
4. Home Mortgage and Loans
5. Payday lending and Title Loan Services
6. Various types of Insurance
7. Cash Value
8. Long Term Care

Throughout the seminar, attendees were able to visit the "Resource Room" where members of the Coalition and Military supporting agencies were set up as vendors to supply resources and information to attendees and each other. The vendors included:

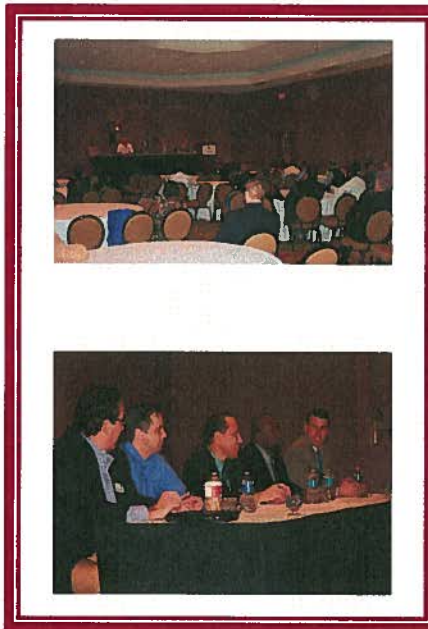
1. Operation Healthy Reunions
2. Life in the Trinity Ministries
3. US Army Wounded Warrior Program
4. VA of North Texas
5. Dallas County Veterans Office
6. Northwood University
7. Texas NAACP Health and Veterans Affairs
8. U.S. Department of Labor
9. Texas Housing Resource Commission
10. Volunteers of America
11. Love Your Veterans
12. Patriot Outreach
13. Center for Brain Health



14. REACH Inc. of Dallas
15. Attitudes and Attire
16. Jewish Family Services
17. Momentum Texas
18. Dallas County Vet Center
19. Starlite Recovery Center
20. METlife
21. Beacon Financial Advisors
22. University of Phoenix
23. Liberty Mutual Insurance
24. Broad Band Specialist
25. CIS Group
26. World Financial Group
27. Devry University
28. Wells Fargo Advisors
29. Wells Fargo Bank
30. New York Life Insurance Co.
31. Volunteers of America
32. Tuskegee Airman



Mrs. Holly Pretraues spoke at the noon hour to approximately 135 attendees for lunch, this includes vendors and other guest. Members of General Petraeus West Point Graduating Class were also present. Mrs. Petraeus is an Assistant Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), heading up the Office of Service Member to partner with the Pentagon to receive strong financial complaints from military complaints by the CFPB and federal and state agencies improve consumer protection



Affairs. Her office's mission is see that military families education; to monitor families and responses to those other agencies; and to see that coordinate their activities to measures for military families.

The second day of the event, Nekima Booker welcoming the General James Williams as the with a discussion panel with the The panel introduced with attendees about hiring Federal and State jobs, how to service men and women asked dialogue with the Hiring

Friday, April 20th opened with attendees and introducing Maj. Host. The "Hiring Fair" opened Hiring Agencies and attendees. themselves and spoke candid practices, how to obtain interview, and more. The questions and had an open Directors and Managers

gaining an inside perspective of interviewing and resume conversion. Once all Hiring agencies rotated through the panel they convened in the Hiring room and the attendees rotated through. Approximately

50 service men and women participated in the Hiring Fair. The Hiring agencies present were for following:

1. J.P. Morgan Chase Bank
2. Volunteers of America
3. Beacon Financial Advisors
4. New York Life Insurance
5. Northwood University
6. Liberty Mutual
7. CIS Group
8. Broadband Specialist Inc.
9. U.S. Department of Labor
10. Dallas VA Medical Center
11. World Financial
12. Wells Fargo Bank

During the Financial Education Seminar and Hiring Fair the following Military Personal completed evaluations:

Army	13	OIF/OIF	18
Navy	5	Vietnam	5
Air Force	9	Desert Storm	4
Marine	14	Unidentified	7
Nat. Guard	3	Total Years Served	412.5

Jobs were offered on sight, follow-up interviews and call backs were offered as well. During the event breakfast, snacks, and lunch was served to all those in attendance. All those in attendance were given seminar bags that consisted of a "How Money Works: A Common Sense Guide to Financial Success, the Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas Resource Guide, give-a-ways and additional Financial Education materials. Follow up Financial Education sessions and Job Readiness Skills will be conducted once a week at Mental Health America. These one hour sessions will be conducted by Financial Advisors and Job Readiness Experts.

Coalition Service Data

The following table will quantify our first year's successes. As we moved forward month after month, it was important that we as a Coalition and a Governing Board were able to gather information from each event, meeting, and collaboration to understand the impact we were making on Military men and women and their family members. You will also garner an understanding of the family members serviced, years of service, and number of volunteers for our events. You will also understand the amount of Military service and first-hand knowledge of our Board Members. We believe the essential keys to success are "Leadership" and "Collaboration".

Number of Coalition Meetings	10
Number of Attendees	528
Number of Events	2
Veterans & Families Served	2,332
Combined years of service	2,146.5
Dollar amount of services	\$40,779
Number of Volunteers	42
Partnering Organizations	63
Sponsoring Organizations	37
Number of Board Members	7
Number of BM Direct Years of Service	115
Number of Indirect Years of Service	141

Coalition Network Report Form

The Coalition was able to quantify the impact the Coalition made on its members through networking and collaborating. Members were asked to record and submit how being a part of the Coalition allowed them to service more Veterans and their family members as well as participate in more community sponsored programs for Veterans. They also identified the amount of referrals sent and received from other Coalition members. Coalition members identified their increase of partnering, collaborating, and supporting each others events and programs. Coalition members also reported the number of guest they invited to Coalition meetings. This table is a representation of approximately 40% of the Coalition members.

Number of Veterans Served	978
Number of Dependents	233
Number of Received Referrals	327
Number of Referrals Sent	168
Number of Events	220
Number of Contacts Made	744
Number of Guest	76

Our Charge To You

“To every man there comes a special moment when he is figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered that chance to do a very special thing, unique to him and fitted to his talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds him unprepared or unqualified to do the work that could have been his finest hour.”

-Winston Churchill

The Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas is committed to working together to ensure the reintegration of the Veteran and their families. To this we charge the Coalition members, community partners, sponsors, and Veterans of all eras; we have been tapped on the shoulder to do a very special thing. This opportunity is unique to us and it is fitted to our talents. That is to come together and work together to take care of our Veterans and their family members. We have been here before and we as a Country have dropped the ball and let an era of Veterans think we as a society forgot what their service meant to its Country. We can't and won't drop the ball again, not now or ever again.

I charge you to recognize this is our finest hour and we must come together to show our Veterans and their family members we are organized, we have a strategy, we are implementing our plan, and we are here to welcome them home and support them as they have supported us. If not now... when, if not us... who? Thank you!

Special Recognitions

Founding Board Members

- Dr. Greta Kerwin-15 year Provider
- Nekima Booker-11 year Army Wife
- Robert Johnson-8 year Marine Veteran
- Tracy Little-20 year Air Force Veteran
- Tamarya Stell-23 year Army Veteran
- Judge Michael Snipes- 29 year Army Veteran
- Maj. General James Williams-35 year Marine Veteran

Sponsoring Organizations

- Wells Fargo Advisors
- Wells Fargo Bank
- Junior League of Dallas
- VSweeps
- New York Life Insurance Co.
- Boardband Specialist
- Raytheon
- Chicksaw Nation Casino
- Mental Health America of Greater Dallas

For more information about The Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas, contact:

Nekima Booker, Coalition Chair

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Website:

www.VCNCT.org

Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas

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