



Veterans Service Program Newsletter



January

"HORSES FOR HEROES" Therapeutic Horsemanship



www.thstl.org

Therapeutic Horsemanship is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization located in Wentzville, MO, and provides award-winning equestrian therapy programs for people with disabilities. In April of 2010, they will be implementing our "Horses For Heroes" Program. This Program will provide America's wounded service personnel and veterans with Equine Assisted Activities through Certified Instructors and various professionals, including physical and occupational therapists to physically improve and socially enhance their lives. The program will help veterans with challenges such as head and spinal cord injuries, amputation of both upper and lower limbs, auditory and visual impairments and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

For individuals with special needs, Equine Assisted Activities have shown to normalize muscle tone, increase range of motion, improve balance, posture and coordination, instill patience and emotional control and increase concentration and self-awareness. The Program will offer Hippotherapy and Sports Riding sessions. Hippotherapy literally means "horse therapy" or "treatment with the help of the horse."

"Horses For Heroes" is built on the foundation of "soldiers helping soldiers" and utilizes the camaraderie between service men and women to provide a healing environment. For additional information about the Therapeutic Horsemanship "Horses For Heroes" Program, to become a rider, a volunteer or to provide financial support, please contact Sandy Rafferty at 636-332-4940 or at sraffot@gmail.com.

WELCOME ABOARD

To the New Service Officer

Northeast Region: Chris Ross
Northwest Region: Amy Bennett
Northwest Region: Dennis McElroy
Southeast Region: Andrew Sharp
Southwest Region: Susi MacDonald

Promotions /Changes

Paula Nordin – Incarcerated Veterans
Re-Entry Coordinator

Welcome to Veteran Service Program

Jamie Reed – Outreach Specialist
Bonnie McNeill- Boyt – Workforce
Development

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Central Office/Veterans Service Program/Cemeteries Program.

**Michael Hopper, VSO for the Southwest
Region was selected as the December 2009
Employee of the Month.**

Michael Hopper was selected because of his willingness to step forward with the resignation of the Branson VSO and the early departure of our Mt. Vernon VSO for medical leave to handle all responsibilities in both the Branson and Mt. Vernon area with a high quality of care. He has helped maintain coverage at his former domicile in the Springfield office and maintained coverage at his Ozark outreach location. From August through October he also handled the additional responsibility of being the primary trainer for our new VSO in Branson West location. His compassionate care for the Veterans and his can-do attitude is a valuable asset to the Veterans Services Program.

If you have news or events you would like to post, please submit the information to:
Cindy Stivers, VSO at Cindy.Stivers@mvc.dps.mo.gov or
Karla Alsberge, OSA at Karla.Alsberge@mvc.dps.mo.gov for submission
www.mvc.dps.mo.gov



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EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Central Office/Veterans Service Program/Cemeteries Program.

**Miriam Flores, Senior Office Support
Assistant (Keyboarding) for the Southeast
Region was selected as the January 2010
Employee of the Month.**

Miriam Flores was selected because of her outstanding job keeping the schedules of the VSO's, consolidating VSP reports, preparing the activity reports for the SE Region, and assisting in training the new VSO's in the SE Region with monthly reports, leave forms and all administrative duties. Not only did she take on the responsibilities of her vast duties, she unofficially has been the receptionist for Retirement Services, Transition Services and ACAP who has moved into her office. She has positively adapted to the change in the office as well as with the supervisor's constantly changing schedule. She never complains and takes it in stride to provide high quality of service to the soldiers, Veterans and their family members. Her compassionate care and can-do attitude is a valuable asset to MVC.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE



4th Annual State Women Veterans Conference
May 6th 2010
10:00 a.m. – 2:00p.m.
Community Center
2344 McKelvey Road
Maryland Heights, MO

If you have information, would like to participate
or would like to set up a display contact
Karen Etzler (816)-387-2841 or email
Karen.Etzler@mvc.dps.mo.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS

Missouri Association of Veteran Organization
(MAVO) upcoming Legislative Days at the
Capital February 1-2, 2010

Feb 1

10:00a.m.

The Missouri Veteran Commission Meeting
(MVC)

1:30p.m.

Missouri Association of Veterans Organization
(MAVO) meeting

Both meetings are being held in Room 400,
Truman Office Building Jefferson City, MO

6:00p.m.

Legislative Reception held at the American
Legion Post 5, 1423 Tanner Bridge Road,
Jefferson City, MO 573-636-7442

Feb 2

8:00a.m.

Coffee, Juice and donuts at the Missouri State
Capitol Rotunda

5:00p.m.

Testimony before Joint Session Senate and
House Veterans Committees, Missouri Capital,
3rd Floor, Senate Lounge

You are invited to visit your Senator and State
Representative during the times between
scheduled events.



JANUARY Birthdays

Robert Blum	1/1
Tony Pridgeon	1/12
Pamela Robbins	1/12
John McLean	1/23

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