



St. Patrick Center
Building Permanent, Positive, Change.

OUR mission
St. Patrick Center provides opportunities for self-sufficiency and dignity to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Individuals achieve permanent, positive changes in their lives through affordable housing, sound mental health, employment and financial stability.

HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAM (HVRP) A St. Patrick Center Employment & Training Program

Almost half of Missouri's veterans live in St. Louis. In addition, over a million reside in Illinois. Tragically, many of these vets are homeless, and many of them are forced to come across the Mississippi River to obtain services available at St. Patrick Center.

"Conservatively, one out of every four homeless males who is sleeping in a doorway, alley, or box in our cities and rural communities has put on a uniform and served our country," says the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. "Now, they need America to remember them."

Since 1988, St. Patrick Center has served homeless veterans through our Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project (HVRP). When a homeless vet comes to St. Patrick Center, he or she meets with an intake counselor who conducts an interview, addresses any emergency requirements (clothes, food, hygiene products, and showers) and takes the necessary steps to place the veteran in HVRP.

In HVRP, veterans receive the support services they need, such as referral for substance-abuse and mental health issues; job-readiness classes, which provide four days of interviewing skills training, resume writing and instruction in appropriate on-the-job conduct. Veterans receive \$15-a-day stipend and an additional \$15 for perfect attendance.

Veterans are assigned to one of the HVRP Employment Specialists, who guides them toward employment and self-sufficiency. The Employment Specialist asks questions that provide an understanding of barriers faced by the veteran that led to his or her current situation. They also assess them for employment skills, needs and career interests. With this information, an Individual Employment Plan is created, which outlines the veteran's employment goals, strategies to achieve goals, employment barriers and methods to overcome those barriers. These plans also are used to identify enrollee progress and are adjusted to facilitate ongoing goal achievement.

Depending on existing job skills, veterans will either start looking for employment or begin job-skills training offered at St. Patrick Center or through another training provider. After veterans complete job training, HVRP Employment Specialists assist them with job searches, which include referrals to the hundreds of employers that have previously hired enrollees. They also give them job fair information and the opportunity to utilize Missouri's Workforce web site.

Veterans are allowed to use St. Patrick Center's copiers, fax machines, computers, stationery, envelopes and postage for job-searching activities. HVRP Employment Specialists advise enrollees on cover letters, resumes, and thank-you letters. They provide bus passes and dress clothes for interviews as well as work clothes and tools needed on the job. After enrollees become employed, Employment Specialists facilitate career advancements and act as resources for work and life problems that could jeopardize employment retention. Employment Specialists contact employers and enrollees at 90, 180, and 270 days after employment.

In Fiscal Year 2011, HVRP placed 146 veterans into full-time jobs and 90 into housing; 44 received advanced employment training.

Other St. Patrick Center Employment & Training Programs: The BEGIN New Venture Center; The BEGIN Training & Education Center; Building Employment Skills for Tomorrow (BEST); General Employment; Homeless Employment Program (HEP); Job Experience Training (JET); McMurphy's Grill; Project HERO; Veterans GO! Green.

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