



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.



PROJECT HERO A St. Patrick Center Employment & Training Program

According to the statistics from the Department of Veterans Affairs' annual project CHALENG, there are approximately 2,771 homeless veterans in the states of Kansas and Missouri. Many are caught in a system of shelters and stairwells. How do we speak to the needs of individuals who have served our nation, but due to circumstances and change, have no permanent address or a place to call home? Sadly, many of our homeless veterans have a substance abuse problem, a mental illness or both. With the current situation in Iraq and Afghanistan, we have yet to see the toll these conflicts will inflict upon our service men and women.

Through a working relationship with the Department of Mental Health and the Veterans Administration, St. Patrick Center launched Project HERO (Housing, Employment & Recovery Opportunities) in 2008 as a program designed to move homeless veterans toward permanent housing, self sufficiency and community integration.

When a veteran first enters the HERO program, they are housed in their own apartment. By giving a clean and dignified environment, the individual is safe to make future plans while anticipating success. Veterans are required to pay one third of their income toward rent and all utility costs while in program. Veterans participating in HERO are assigned an Intensive Case Management Team (ICM) who will partner with the veteran for a period not to exceed two years. During our working relationship, the individual will design an Individual Service Plan (ISS) which will map his or her route to success.

The goals of HERO are easily explained using the acronym itself: Housing, Employment, Recovery and Opportunities. The veteran is allowed up to two years in HERO under the federal guidelines of the program. Along the way, assessments are made and new directions determined in conjunction with the team. Whatever the veteran's needs, the goal is to lead the individual to meaningful opportunities and open doors for success. At the end of 17 months, the veteran will be assessed for future housing placement in the community. For a period of one year, follow up will continue to assess present strengths and future plans.

Since the program's inception, Project HERO has helped veterans who have served a total of 140 years of military service and ended over 130 years of homelessness. HERO is the first program of its kind in the St. Louis area providing intensive case management and solutions to formerly veterans who are homeless in our community.

In Fiscal Year 2011, Project HERO placed 70 honorably discharged veterans into housing and stabilized an additional 27 vets for more than one year. A total of 125 vets received comprehensive housing and employment assistance.

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); Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP); Job Experience Training (JET); McMurphy's Grill; Veterans GO! Green.

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