



MILITARY & VETERANS SERVICES



Easter Seals has long served military service members and veterans. For nearly 100 years the organization has provided exceptional services to people with disabilities or special needs and their families, and following World War II Easter Seals expanded its reach to military service members returning home with disabilities. Building on these years of experience, Easter Seals' Board of Directors established service to our nation's military and veteran communities as a national priority in 2005.



In response to new challenges, Easter Seals is reaching out with services and support to thousands of military service members, veterans, their families and families of the fallen. Since 2011, more than \$25 million has been invested through government contracts, grants and the philanthropic community to set up a national network of care and support for veterans and military families through Easter Seals. This support encompasses longstanding Easter Seals supporters including individual donors and corporate partners, while drawing new individuals, companies and foundations to the organization to achieve our goals. Programs include employment, mental health, caregiver training and information and referral services, as well as community convenings. Camping, housing, and other special care services, that make transitioning and reintegrating into the community easier for the men and women who have bravely served our country are also provided.

Through the Military and Veterans Services, Easter Seals touches the lives of America's heroes and their families through more than 70 affiliates in 48 states and a nationwide network of 24,000 professional staff and 40,000 local volunteers. Within the Military and Veterans Services, new programs and partnerships have helped Easter Seals expand its reach in underserved communities and serve more veterans in need.



Staff Sergeant Donnie D. Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Community Services

Dixon Center is providing leadership to communities and acting as a clearinghouse for more efficient and effective delivery of services or to services. Dixon Center is doing this through the development of new community-centered systems that help organizations find veterans, focus on their needs and make solutions easily accessible.

Working with nonprofits, community leaders, educators, philanthropists, faith-based organizations, healthcare providers and employers, Dixon Center is leading the charge to support veterans when they come home. Education, meaningful employment and access to healthcare are essential for achieving a fulfilled quality of life. The solutions to these complex challenges exist within communities but because they are not coordinated and not well publicized, access is challenging.

In partnership with Easter Seals, a trusted expert with a 65-year track record in providing direct services to American veterans and military families, Dixon Center maximizes public and private resources and, more importantly, enables and empowers our veterans and their families to thrive where they live.



“Dave Sutherland, of Dixon Center, has defined the American model of excellence for the successful reintegration of our veterans and military families. From his tireless work in the Pentagon to the emergence of Dixon Center, Sutherland inspires and encourages all of us to break down the silos and never forget to put the veteran and their needs first. His and Kim Mitchell’s vision for collaboration and consolidation will greatly help our country drive the systemic changes that our brave veterans and their families deserve.”

-Admiral Michael Mullen, U.S. Navy (Retired), 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff





Easter Seals Community OneSourceSM

An Easter Seals Signature Program

For many service members returning from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, adjusting to life – especially with an injury or disability – can be a complex and bewildering process. Navigating the multitude of public and private support systems can be an overwhelming challenge. Community OneSourceSM (COS) is an Easter Seals program that provides veterans, military service members and their families with one place to call to obtain vital information. Acting as a navigator of and connector to appropriate resources, COS empowers service recipients across the country to take the information we provide and then contact the resource directly. If the veteran or family member feels overwhelmed or for some other reason cannot reach out, the COS team makes an initial call for them, and then creates a direct link between the service recipient and the resource. The more the veteran can do for him or herself the more confident they become, which is crucial for recovery and reintegration. The bridge that COS creates for veterans and family members helps them regain or maintain stability in their lives.

IMPACT

Serve over 2,500 veterans and their family members nationwide.

Vets2Jobs

BNY Mellon Foundation

Vets2Jobs is a partnership of Easter Seals, Inc., Dixon Center, Easter Seals New York and Fedcap Rehabilitation Services, and is supported by a grant from BNY Mellon Foundation and a donation from a private funder. The focus of Vets2Jobs is to get veterans in front of employers and in living-wage jobs as quickly as possible. The first step was a community convening of potential employers, veterans groups, nonprofit providers, universities and community colleges, and government agencies. The program is comprised of job readiness workshops for veterans, including reviewing resumes and conducting mock interviews; two Connect2Careers events that bring veterans and employers together in a “speed-dating” type of environment, follow-up with employers and veterans, and wrap-around resources for veterans and their families.

IMPACT

Serve 150 veterans with 50 obtaining and retaining living-wage jobs.
Program to serve as a pilot to be modeled or expanded across the nation.





Operation Veterans THRIVE

Farmer Family Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation The Carol Anne and Ralph V. Haile, Jr. / U.S. Bank Foundation

This 3-year project funded by the Farmer Family Foundation and The Carol Anne and Ralph V. Haile, Jr. / U.S. Bank Foundation to conduct community asset mapping is located in Cincinnati, Ohio. The focus of the project is to identify the gaps in services and solutions for veterans and their families. The primary focus is on employment, education, health, wellness, recreation, family resources and housing. A local Community OneSourceSM operation will be established as a satellite of the national COS program, which is located in Chicago and managed by Easter Seals, Inc. The project is a partnership of Dixon Center, Easter Seals TriState in Cincinnati, and Easter Seals, Inc.

IMPACT

Serve 500 veterans and their families within Cincinnati, Ohio communities.



Financial Planning4Vets

Foundation for Financial Planning (FFP)

This grant provides financial planning services for veterans at three sites – Syracuse, New York, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Salem, Oregon. Easter Seals and Dixon Center will provide online access to FFP's financial planning tools for military and veterans families. Financial planners will provide workshops and pro-bono one-on-one financial consulting services to veterans, as well as an orientation to the financial planning field as a potential career.



IMPACT

Assist 500 veterans and their families to become financially stable through education, information, consultation and access to financial planning tools.





Women Veterans Mental Health Program

Vanguard Charitable

An award was granted to Easter Seals and Dixon Center to develop a pilot program with Easter Seals New Jersey to identify the mental health support services available to meet the needs of women veterans. Matching funds by Easter Seals New Jersey have been combined with funding from an anonymous donor to convene community organizations, businesses, government agencies and veterans groups to identify, leverage, and coordinate the system of supports needed by women veterans in the selected community, as well as educate them on the needs of women veterans. A rally event will be held for women veterans and their families to introduce them to the community resources identified through the convening. Experts on women's issues, veterans and mental health will speak about self-care and empowerment. A peer-mentoring program for women veterans will also be created.

IMPACT

Reach 200 women Veterans and convene 75 community stakeholders.



Community Forums & Veterans Rally Points

Newman's Own Foundation

Easter Seals Inc., Dixon Center, Easter Seals Crossroads and Easter Seals Minnesota, formed a partnership to map, plan and evaluate the current state of veterans and military family services and identify associated gaps in the Indianapolis, Indiana and St. Cloud, Minnesota communities. The scope of this assessment includes employment, mental health, education and access to healthcare. Rally Point sites are also being identified and developed to provide veterans with a place to meet for peer-to-peer support, camaraderie, resources, and other services, as determined by the communities.

IMPACT

Engage 100 community stakeholder organizations and serve 600 veterans.





Veterans Caregiver Training Program

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Easter Seals, Inc. was awarded the contract for the Veterans Caregiver Training Program by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. National partners include Atlas Research, Axiom Resource Management, Family Caregiver Alliance, National Alliance for Hispanic Health and National Alliance on Caregiving, as well as a number of Easter Seals affiliate staff who serve as trainers. To date over 12,400 caregivers have been served in the program. New modules for general caregivers are being created and are in the approval process with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

IMPACT

Provide workbook, online and classroom training to Post-9/11 wounded service personnel caregivers. Since inception 12,634 caregivers have completed the program. In addition, provides general caregiving classes to all veteran age groups.



Caregiver Training

USO

The USO engaged Easter Seals to provide caregiver training to active military caregivers who are receiving medical services at Fort Belvoir and Bethesda Naval/Walter Reed Army Hospitals. Through a partnership with Easter Seals Serving Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Northern Virginia we are providing monthly classes to caregivers based on topics identified by the USO. These will be offered in English and Spanish. This pilot project was initiated in February 2013 and potentially will be expanded to other sites by year-end.

IMPACT

Provide caregiver training to active military caregivers receiving medical services.





Legacy Corps Caregiver Support Services

Corporation for National and Community Services

Funded through the Corporation for National and Community Services' AmeriCorps Program, Legacy Corps is administered by the University of Maryland, Department of Health Services Administration. Legacy Corps is a multi-site, evidence-based health intervention and community-based caregiver support program that utilizes highly trained AmeriCorps volunteers to provide a range of caregiver support services focusing on in-home respite care for service members, veterans and their families. The following Easter Seals affiliates, making up four of the 17 Legacy Corps sites, are participating in the program: Easter Seals New Hampshire, Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin, Easter Seals Serving Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Northern Virginia and Easter Seals South Florida. These Easter Seals affiliates have recruited and trained 164 AmeriCorps volunteers to provide respite support for military and veterans families.

IMPACT

Development and delivery of a 7-module training series to volunteer caregivers on topics to include military culture, home life and family issues, veteran personal care, amputation, burn injuries, blindness/visual impairment, depression, substance abuse & suicide prevention, TBI, PTSD & Alzheimer's disease, privacy, legal & financial issues.



National Veterans Online Dialogue & Community Assistance

U.S. Department of Transportation

Easter Seals Project ACTION hosted a national web-based dialogue on veteran transportation in 2012, 2,241 individuals visited the site during the one-month online event. Nearly 500 individuals registered and provided ideas, voted or gave comments.

IMPACT

Generated 1,073 actions: 78 ideas, 239 comments, and 756 votes.





Dixon Center Supporters & Alliances: Developing New Community-Centered Systems

»»» **Heroes to HealthCare (H2HC)**

A pilot program launched in Illinois for veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserve and National Guard helps them find gainful employment opportunities through no-cost training in health care industries. H2HC will train human resource professionals, in the health care field, in the essentials of transitioning medics from the military into civilian employment. H2HC also identifies career paths for those individuals with specialty training and skill sets to enable the employer and/or industry expert to bridge the gaps and impediments that a veteran may encounter in obtaining employment.

»»» **Teamsters Military Assistance Program (TMAP)**

This is a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs approved CDL Training & Apprenticeship - National Training to Placement Program. TMAP was launched in Illinois as a Labor/Management partnership to assist veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserve and National Guard members to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL) via the Illinois Teamsters labor/management training program. TMAP was designed to help veterans, guard and reserves surmount obstacles to finding work in the transportation industry after returning home. The program is currently operating in ten states throughout the country. Teamsters and the Department of Defense will launch a mobile training program that will be offered to active military service members a year prior to separation.





Dixon Center Supporters & Alliances: Developing New Community-Centered Systems *(cont.)*

»»» **Utility Workers Military Assistance Programs (U-MAP)**

This \$3.5 million national public/private partnership “Training to Placement” program is open to veterans who have recently returned from service. It provides veterans with the skills and knowledge needed to become successful in a career path within the gas and utility sector. The U-Map seven-month training program includes a one-month paid internship and mentorship with experienced journey-level gas utility workers. Classes are for credit and taught through Wright College and Dawson Technical Colleges, which are part of the Chicago Community College system.

»»» **Student Veterans of America**

Dixon Center plays a major role with Student Veterans of America (SVA) and their programs nationally. Dixon Center Chairman, David Sutherland, plays a crucial role as a member of the Board of Directors. Today’s veterans face numerous obstacles in their path of attaining a college degree. These challenges range from a missing sense of camaraderie to feeling like an outsider amongst 18 year old traditional students to a lack of understanding by university faculty. When coupled with the visible and invisible wounds of war, a college degree can be an elusive goal for men and women returning from military service. SVA makes that goal a reality. Dixon Center has traveled around the country and met with over 300 colleges, universities, community colleges and trade schools, to work with their administration, counselors and staff.

»»» **Society for Human Resource Management**

As the world’s largest association devoted to human resource management, SHRM provides key leadership in helping Human Resource professionals find, hire and retain skilled military service members. Dixon Center has been asked to participate in several Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) conferences and discussions across the country regarding the importance and critical need of not only hiring veterans and military families into the business organization, but the importance of hiring, integrating, training, and retaining these people who bring a worldly amount of leadership experience to any organization.

»»» **Gray Wolves Telecom LLC**

The National Communications/Telecoms Industry is funding a \$1.5 million strategic training – to – placement pilot program. This is designed to train and place veterans, national guard and reserves, who are seeking long-term careers in the telecommunications industry.



»»» Veterans to Manufacturing

A pilot public/private partnership was launched with small businesses in manufacturing, state workforce agencies, and the Alliance for Manufacturing in the North Business Industrial Center, Illinois.

»»» Social Innovation Summit

Dixon Center was asked to attend and participate in a discussion about the challenges of transition and reintegration of our veterans and military families and the role of social networks and social innovation with this process. The Social Innovation Summit was a private, invitation-only forum that explored the “What’s Next?” in the world of Social Innovation. It was held at the United Nations in NYC. The summit connected and inspired a global network of leaders to discuss the key strategies and business innovations creating social transformation across the corporate, investment, government, and non-profit sectors. Dixon Center Chairman David Sutherland so inspired the audience with his comments that Dixon Center received the Presidential Award of \$25,000.



“COL Sutherland demonstrated his selfless courage and dedication to his peers and the men and women who served with him on a daily basis. The development of Dixon Center and Sutherland’s dedication to warriors and family services in his retirement is an effort that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters will proudly stand shoulder to shoulder with. The Teamsters along with Dixon Center will continue to fight for those who fought for us.”

- General President, James P. Hoffa, International Brotherhood of Teamsters





“As Robin Hood launched our veterans’ initiative, Col. David Sutherland and Lieut. Cmdr. Kim Mitchell have been instrumental in shaping both our programmatic initiatives and our strategic thinking around veterans. Robin Hood initially began its work with Col. Sutherland and Cmdr. Mitchell two years ago when they were the senior veterans leaders in the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Since that time, they have helped us to understand the value of a community blueprint and the importance of engaging all sectors of communities to support veterans and their families. We continue to leverage the thought capital of Col. Sutherland and Cmdr. Mitchell in their current roles as leaders at the Dixon Center to further advance New York City’s investment in veterans. Their leadership is changing the way that communities across the country invest in services for veterans, specifically as they transition to communities following service to our country”

- Robin Hood Foundation







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