

Veterans Services

Homeless – to – Heroes, Back in Action

Eleven Workforce Central Career Center members, veterans currently residing at Veterans Inc., have recently transformed their lives in short order with the help of Workforce Central Veteran Representatives Bill Ryan and Tom Forhan, as well as Operation ABLE Coordinator Deb Gonzalez.

Thanks to a long-standing relationship with Veterans Inc., Workforce Central veterans staff brought in Operation ABLE to expand opportunities for veterans in need of work. The team worked alongside Veterans Inc. counseling staff to create a “work incentive” initiative allowing qualified homeless veterans with significant barriers to employment to work part time at various jobs at the shelter. Working on-site at the shelter keeps the veterans in a secure, supportive environment while giving them the skills and confidence needed to re-enter the labor market. Additionally, this arrangement eliminates the transportation barrier.

All veteran participants became members of Workforce Central Career Center by attending the Career Center Seminar (CCS). They also constructed resumes and underwent individual career/employment counseling.

The veterans that are now enrolled in this program are still working at Veterans Inc. One female veteran in the program is working off-site as the front desk receptionist at the Green Island Community Center. People say she is now “smiling ear to ear”!

Another female participant was hired to work in the kitchen at Christopher House. Christopher House management liked her so much, they promised to hire her full time as a CNA if she got the necessary training. And, she is doing just that having started her training at Peak Medical Academy, where she plans to get her CNA credential by the end of August! Operation ABLE is paying her weekly stipend while in training at Peak, and Veterans Inc. has covered her tuition fees.

This multi-agency initiative with Veterans Inc., Workforce Central Career Center, Operation ABLE, and the Worcester Veterans Services office is the first of its kind statewide!

For more information about Veterans Services or Operation ABLE, please contact Workforce Central Career Center at 508-799-1600.