

# VETERANS

COMMUNITY PROJECT

ST. LOUIS



**BUILDING COMMUNITY.**

**CHANGING LIVES.**

CASE FOR SUPPORT

## LEFT BEHIND

**On a single night in January 2023, volunteers counted 35,574 Veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States.**

We know tens of thousands more were uncounted: Veterans living in secluded camps, couch surfing, sleeping in cars, and even hiding in plain sight.

Unbelievably, being a Veteran in the United States makes you 50% more likely to become homeless than someone who has never served. Nearly 10% of our country's Veterans say they've experienced homelessness at some point in their adult lives.

The root causes of Veteran homelessness are varied and complex. Key factors include difficulties transitioning from military to civilian life, exposure to traumatic events, and a lack of access to critical healthcare and supportive services. In fact, only half of all Veterans are eligible for or receive care from the Veterans Affairs Healthcare system.

For many Veterans, homeless shelters and other group-living facilities create more problems than solutions. PTSD-related anxiety and concerns about privacy, safety, and security can keep a Veteran in crisis mode, making it more difficult to address day-to-day challenges, let alone plan for the future.

Because most housing programs prohibit animals, Veterans with pets are faced with the difficult decision of surrendering a trusted companion for the hope of temporary help. Fear of losing their pet, coupled with concerns about their pet's well-being, create even more stress and emotional hardship for a Veteran in distress.

Many times, the strict rules, “red tape,” and predetermined schedules inherent in conventional approaches to Veteran homelessness yield suboptimal results. National studies indicate that merely 20% of individuals participating in traditional housing programs manage to regain stability and attain long-lasting success.

**Veteran homelessness is a heartbreaking reality. Heroes who once stood tall in uniform now stand alone on our street corners. Fellow Americans who once said, “thank you for your service,” look away in discomfort or fear.**



“Even when I was home from Iraq, I wasn’t really home from Iraq. I started having nightmares, and that meant I was never getting enough sleep. I’d fly off the handle and blow up about little things that didn’t used to make me mad. People around me kept telling me I was having problems, but I felt like everyone else had changed.

Things just kept getting worse and I started self-medicating. I went from seeing myself as a success to seeing myself as a drunk who couldn’t stay out of trouble. Within months, I’d lost my house, my cars, and most of my relationships.”

- Chris, USMC Veteran

## WELCOMING THEM HOME

**Give homeless Veterans what we owe them: safety, dignity, and a chance to rebuild their lives.**

Founded by a group of combat Veterans from Kansas City, Missouri in 2016, Veterans Community Project is an innovative and highly effective transitional housing model designed to help Veterans overcome systemic barriers and achieve long-term housing stability.

Bound by the sacred promise of “leave no one behind,” VCP serves any man or woman who took the oath to protect our country regardless of discharge status and length or type of service.

**Our mission:**  
**Veterans housing Veterans, armed with the strength and support of the community.**

To accomplish this mission, VCP provides high quality, well-developed strategic services that enable Veterans to meet the challenges of day-to-day living, resolve immediate crises, and move towards permanent stability.

**These services include:**

- VCP Village, a supportive, transitional housing community for Veterans experiencing homelessness, and
- VCP Outreach Center, a centralized, walk-in resource for any Veteran experiencing any type of problem.



## VCP VILLAGE: HOUSING WITH DIGNITY

**Research supports that once Veterans are stably housed (for three months or more), mental health symptoms, quality of life, and social support networks begin to improve.**

Moreover, stable housing provides a platform to receive essential supportive services that ultimately lead to permanent housing stability.

Therefore, in contrast to traditional housing services, VCP builds communities of tiny homes with on-site supportive services. These homes offer Veterans a sense of privacy, security, and the opportunity to reintegrate into society at a comfortable pace.



The homes are built on concrete foundations, connect to city utilities, and meet all code requirements for new construction. Each home features a full kitchen, bathroom, and living space. Single occupancy residences are 240 square feet; family residences are 320 square feet. Every detail of the tiny home and Village is designed with Veterans' needs and preferences in mind. From the placement of doors and windows to the physical layout of the Village, VCP's trauma-informed design helps reduce stress and other triggers for those impacted by PTSD.

**Because many Veterans arrive at VCP Village with little more than a bag of personal belongings, each tiny home is fully furnished with brand new furniture, beds, kitchen appliances, and household goods. For those with pets, supplies like new bowls, leashes, and beds are included as well.**



“I often thought I wasn't being fair to my wonderful dog ... he's the only thing that kept me going. I thought of finding a good home for him because he deserved a roof over his head, a flea and tick collar ... food and water every day in bowls. He brings me so much love. Now I know he's safe - we're both safe - thanks to this wonderful house.”

- Mark, USAF Veteran

## Veterans experiencing homelessness often grapple with profound isolation, feeling disconnected from the communities they once served.

The journey to recovery can be a lonely one, but VCP changes that narrative. Residing alongside fellow Veterans who share their experiences creates a powerful sense of belonging and camaraderie. At VCP Village, Veterans find not just shelter but an opportunity to form genuine connections and a newfound sense of family and community. This supportive environment is instrumental in helping Veterans heal and reintegrate into society with renewed hope and purpose.



“Having a home has made all the difference. I can get better sleep. I can get back to work. And, you know, now I have somebody to talk to. You can make some good friends here.”

**Elvis, USMC Veteran**

## REBUILDING LIVES

The Village offers sanctuary and the emotional space needed for each Veteran and VCP’s specially trained team to thoroughly address the underlying causes of his or her homelessness.

With the support of their case managers and neighbors, Veterans work to achieve incremental, lasting results in the areas of health and wellness, income stability, education and training, fiscal understanding, and the development of a personal support network.

**For Veterans requiring additional resources, VCP collaborates with trusted community partners to address issues related to mental and behavioral health, addiction, or other barriers to success.**

Once the Veteran's individual goals are met, VCP assists him or her in securing a permanent housing solution and transitioning to a new life.

409

Average number of days a Veteran lives in VCP Village before transitioning to a long-term housing solution.

## **VCP OUTREACH CENTER: Centralized Support for All Veterans**

**Many Veterans fail to receive the services they need because access to them is confusing to navigate.**

According to a recent study, more than 70% of the Veterans who die by suicide each day are not connected to the VA or other support agency.

The VCP Outreach Center creates a straight line to life-changing support. Regardless of time in service, discharge status, or service type, VCP is ready to help.

Specially trained case managers assist Veterans with navigating the VA and their benefits, emergency assistance funds, housing, military identification services, mental and physical health referrals, financial counseling, and employment supports among other services.

In addition, Veterans can receive hygiene kits, food from the pantry, or other necessities. All services are free of charge to any person who has taken the oath to defend our country. By greatly reducing barriers to access, VCP strives to not only prevent Veteran homelessness, but radically impact the crisis of Veteran suicide in our community.

## PROVEN SUCCESS

Since its beginning in 2017, VCP's impact on the community has been profound. An astounding 85% of Veterans in VCP Village successfully transition to sustainable, long-term housing of their own. Hundreds more have mitigated the threat of homelessness by utilizing VCP case management and emergency assistance funds through the VCP Outreach Center.

45,629

Total number of nights Veterans have slept in their own tiny homes since 2018

2,194

Number of at-risk and homeless Veterans who received assistance in 2023

404

Number of Veterans who mitigated the threat of homelessness by utilizing VCP case management and emergency assistance funds in 2023

2,970

Number of pantry boxes and hygiene kits distributed to Veterans and their families

\$642

Average number of emergency assistance dollars shared with a Veteran in crisis

18,299

Community volunteer hours served



## THE ST. LOUIS PLAN

Using the success of Kansas City as a blueprint, VCP has the long-term goal of preventing and ending Veteran homelessness in St. Louis.

# 10%

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 10% of St. Louis' homeless population are Veterans.



### The VCP of St. Louis Campus

On September 9, 2021, VCP broke ground on the VCP of St. Louis campus. Located on a nearly 4-acre property in the heart of the Jeff-Vander-Lou neighborhood, the campus includes a tiny home village for Veterans experiencing homelessness and an Outreach Center to provide walk-in support services for any Veteran in the St. Louis metro area.

This new campus not only provides critical resources for our Veterans, it also:

- Beautifies a once blighted area, increasing property values of surrounding homes and businesses
- Provides ongoing opportunities for community volunteerism
- Strengthens St. Louis' social services sector
- Becomes as a source of civic pride

## VCP Village

VCP Village is a specialized community of 50 tiny homes that provide sanctuary and the emotional space needed for each Veteran to thoroughly address the underlying causes of his or her homelessness.

The homes are built on concrete foundations, connect to city utilities, and meet all code requirements for new construction. Each furnished home features a full kitchen, bathroom, and living space. Single occupancy homes are 240 square feet; the Village's ten family homes are 320 square feet and accommodate a family of five.



## VCP Village Center

Serving as “base camp” for residents, VCP Village Center is a hub for continuum of care as well as a place for residents to connect with one another and build strong networks of support. With a variety of private offices for case management,



classroom spaces, and a fellowship hall for social events, the Village Center promotes the physical and mental well-being of Village residents and enhances their sense of community.

## VCP Outreach Center

St. Louis VCP Outreach Center, located at 1515 N. Grand Blvd, provides walk-in services to any Veteran in the St. Louis metro area. Since its opening in August 2023, VCP has proudly assisted regional Veterans with navigating the VA and their benefits, emergency assistance funds, food, and employment supports among other services.

## TIMELINE



## **Phase I**

### **Fall 2019**

Governor Parson advocates for VCP of STL

### **Summer 2020**

Property purchased from Land Reutilization Authority (LRA)

### **Fall 2020**

Land Dedication Ceremony

### **Spring 2021**

Board of Alderman approves VCP of STL Project

### **Fall 2021**

Groundbreaking Ceremony & infrastructure begins

### **Winter 2021**

Hire executive director & support staff

### **Summer 2022**

Phase 1 Village and VCP Outreach Center construction begins



### Summer 2023

VCP Outreach Center opens for services

### Fall 2023

First five Veterans move into VCP Village

### Phase II

#### Pending Funding

Phase II construction begins

#### Pending Funding

VCP Village Center construction begins

#### Pending Funding

Amenities construction begins

#### Pending Funding

St. Louis Village complete/Campaign celebration

## THE BUILDING CAMPAIGN

**The “Building Community. Building Lives.” campaign is a nation-wide funding opportunity that not only helps build the St. Louis campus, but provides Veterans the tools they need to rebuild their lives.**

The VCP campaign funds all elements associated with the new campus including mission-critical space – both individual and common areas – as well as programs, resources and specialized case manager care. **Our goal: \$12,800,000.**

Each investment supports access to services and a higher

quality of life for our St. Louis-area Veterans in need. A variety of sponsorship opportunities, including building naming rights, are available throughout the campus to commemorate your gift or to honor a loved one.

## JOIN THE MISSION

Community isn't just part of our name; it's part of our DNA.

VCP is funded by individuals, foundations, and corporations who want to do more than simply thank a Veteran for their service. Our campaign has many ways to give, including significant campus recognition opportunities for our most generous supporters.

Over the next year, hundreds of community volunteers will help build VCP Village and thousands more will help us serve Veterans on this campus for years to come.

**Now is your opportunity to permanently leave your mark on this life-changing, community-changing mission.**

**You can invest in the lives of those who once invested in you.**

**VETERANS**  
COMMUNITY PROJECT

**Join the campaign or learn more at [vcp.org](http://vcp.org)**



# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



**ST. LOUIS**

**BUILDING COMMUNITY. CHANGING LIVES.**







## Discover how partnering together will bring to life the VCP of St. Louis community.

As champions of both compassion and action, we, the connectors, feelers, and doers of VCP, stand united by a sacred mission: to uplift those who've answered the call to protect our Constitution.

With each naming opportunity, you have the chance to connect your legacy to lasting impact. Join us as we understand that true success lies not just in constructing projects but in nurturing the very essence of community and camaraderie that defines us.

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“It takes a community to build a village.”

- Rebecca Tallman, Veteran, U.S. Air Force  
Executive Director VCP of St. Louis





# VCP Outreach Center

Located at 1515 N. Grand Boulevard, the VCP Outreach Center connects St. Louis metro area Veterans to critical support services.

Many Veterans fail to receive the services they need because access to them is confusing to navigate. The VCP Outreach Center creates a straight line to life-changing support, connecting Veterans to specially trained case managers who help Veterans address immediate needs and plan for long-term stability.

Services include assistance navigating the VA and benefits, mental and physical health referrals, emergency rent and utility assistance, employment support, and case management. In addition, Veterans can visit the VCP Outreach Center for hygiene kits and food, as needed.

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Your investment in the VCP Outreach Center removes access barriers for any St. Louis area Veteran. Current opportunities include:

**LOBBY**  
~~\$250,000~~

**DONATION INTAKE AREA**  
~~\$150,000~~

**BOARD ROOM**  
~~\$150,000~~

**RECEPTION AREA**  
\$150,000

**PANTRY**  
~~\$100,000~~

**READY ROOM (FLEX SPACE)**  
~~\$50,000~~

**CASE MANAGER/ADMIN  
OFFICES (5 AVAILABLE)**  
\$50,000



# VCP Village Center

The Village Community Center provides a hub for VCP's continuum of care and a place for residents to connect with one another and build healthy relationships.

With various classroom spaces, a healthcare clinic, a computer lab, and a Great Hall for social events, the Center promotes the physical and mental well-being of Village residents and enhances their sense of community.

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Your investment in the VCP Village Community Center supports access to services and a higher quality of life for Village residents. Current opportunities include:

### THE GREAT HALL

\$500,000

### COMMS CENTER (COMPUTER LAB)

\$250,000

### READY ROOM ALPHA (LARGE FLEX SPACE)

\$250,000

### KITCHEN

~~\$150,000~~

### READY ROOM BRAVO (MEDIUM FLEX SPACE)

~~\$100,000~~

### HEALTHCARE SUITE

~~\$100,000~~

### PET CENTER

~~\$100,000~~

### RECEPTION/VILLAGE MAIL CENTER

~~\$100,000~~

### WELLNESS ROOM ALPHA

~~\$75,000~~

### WELLNESS ROOM BRAVO

~~\$75,000~~

# VCP Village

VCP Village is a specialized community of 50 tiny homes with on-site, wraparound support services designed to equip Veterans with the tools needed to return to a stable, prosperous, independent life.

Each tiny house provides everything a Veteran needs to live with dignity and security: new furniture, appliances, housewares, bedding, personal items, and utilities—all free of charge. The homes offer sanctuary and the emotional space needed for each Veteran and VCP's specially trained team to thoroughly address the underlying causes of his or her homelessness.

With the support of their case managers and battle buddies, Veterans work to achieve incremental, lasting results in the areas of health and wellness, income stability, education and training, fiscal understanding, and the development of a personal support network. Once the Veteran's individual goals are met, VCP assists him or her in securing a permanent housing solution and transitioning to a new life.

## ~~SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES~~

*We are grateful to report that all 50 tiny homes are sponsored at \$50,000 each.*





First Veteran Resident  
at VCP of St. Louis

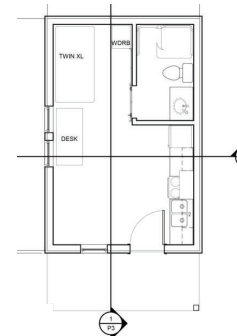
DESIGNED TO FIT INDIVIDUAL FAMILY NEEDS



**10**  
Number of family  
homes that can sleep  
up to 7 people

**40**

Number of single  
resident homes



VETERANS  
COMMUNITY PROJECT



**YOUR INFORMATION**

Donor Name / Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Preferred Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR TOTAL GIFT/PLEDGE AMOUNT**

\$

**GIFT PURPOSE**

- Named Sponsorship \_\_\_\_\_  
 Charitable Gift      Operations / Admin

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE (PLEASE SELECT ONE)**

- Contribute All at Once**     Put your gift to work immediately by making an outright gift of cash, check or credit card.  
Gift completed by \_\_\_\_\_
- Contribute Annually (2 Installments)**     Two equal annual installments beginning \_\_\_\_\_  
Pledge payments need to be completed by \_\_\_\_\_
- Contribute Annually (3 Installments)**     Three equal annual installments beginning \_\_\_\_\_  
Second pledge payment to be completed by \_\_\_\_\_  
Final pledge payment to be completed by \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT OPTIONS (PLEASE SELECT ONE)**

- Check**     Please make check payable to **Veterans Community Project of St. Louis**
- Send Invoice**     Please send to the address listed above.
- Credit Card**     Please follow up for secure payment.
- Other**     Please contact donor for payment.

**GIFT RECOGNITION**

- For additional recognition purposes, please list my/our name as follows:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I/We wish to have the gift remain anonymous.

**YOUR SIGNATURE**

*For questions regarding other payment options, including appreciated stocks or other assets, please contact Anne Marie Carroll, Director of Development, at amcarroll@vcp.org. Please see the reserve for gift terms and conditions.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU!**

**Please return to:**  
Veterans Community Project  
1515 N. Grand  
St. Louis, MO 63106



## **GIFT TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Veterans Community Project agrees to memorialize your gift on permanent signage within the St. Louis Village. As construction nears completion, Veterans Community Project staff will work with you or your designee to document your preferred verbiage for the sign. Veterans Community Project reserves the right to remove the sign and terminate other memorialization of your gift if at any time the Board of Directors of Veterans Community Project determines, in its sole discretion, that such memorialization compromises or could compromise the public trust in, or the reputation of, Veterans Community Project or any of its partners.

Veterans Community Project agrees to use your gift to finance the construction of the St. Louis Village. Specifically, your gift will be used by Veterans Community Project for the advancement, reimbursement, or direct payment of direct and indirect costs and expenses incurred by Veterans Community Project or any of its partners prior to or following your gift in connection with the construction of the St. Louis Village, including, without limitation, costs and expenses associated with property acquisition, permitting, professional services, material purchases, and underground infrastructure and other site preparation, and the occupancy cost of the sponsored St. Louis Village, including, without limitation, maintenance of the St. Louis Village and support services provided to veterans.

Veterans Community Project will provide written confirmation of your gift for your use in providing satisfactory documentation to the IRS for your gift as a charitable contribution.