Army Veteran Cloud Walker, calls himself someone who solves problems. He said that when he sees something that needs done, he does it. Walker is in recovery from mental illness and homelessness and receives treatment at the Roseburg VA. He participated in the HUD-VASH supported housing program and moved into Eagle Landing in October 2016. Eagle Landing is permanent housing for Homeless Veterans located on the Roseburg VA campus and operated through a land use agreement. As a dog owner, Walker wanted a safe and open place to let his dog run and get exercise.

He approached Eagle Landing and they said they didn’t have the funding to build a dog park. He had heard that local businesses sometimes donate to Veteran projects. He found out that Lowes had a grant program and wrote a grant to fund the project. He recalled running into multiple roadblocks but did not give up. The park was completed in early September and is available for use for any Eagle Landing resident with or without fur. Several residents have expressed gratitude for having this new amenity. Congratulations to Walker for his persistence, his service to his community, and his tireless advocacy. He is truly living the principles of recovery!

Roseburg hold Successful Stand Down for Homeless Veterans

The Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Team and local community partners held the annual Douglas County Stand Down for Homeless Veterans. Services included medical services, clothing, haircuts, legal aid, DoD surplus, veterinary care, and resources related to employment, mental health and VA and community resources. More than 195 Veterans attended and at least 60 homeless Veterans were served.
Suicide Prevention Month: Be There

“We all can take action to help prevent suicide, but many people don’t know what they can do to support the Veteran or Service member in their life who is going through a difficult time. A simple act of kindness can help someone feel less alone. Suicide prevention can start with one simple act of support: Be There.

Veterans, Service members, and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, send a text message to 838255, or chat online to receive free, confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, even if they are not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care.

Since its launch in 2007, the Veterans Crisis Line has answered nearly 2.8 million calls and initiated the dispatch of emergency services to callers in crisis nearly 74,000 times.”


Monthly Recovery Message

—by Keith Lewis, Local Recovery Coordinator

Most of us have heard the statistic that more than 20 Veterans take their own life each day. We honor the lives of those individuals and the loved ones they leave behind. We also honor those who have stared down the option of suicide and chose to live. We honor those who found a sliver of hope in a hopeless moment and chose to make a phone call, reach out, visit a clinic, or just wait for a dark moment to pass.

I recall working with a Veteran who made the decision to get help. He told me that a friend realized something was off and asked if he can help. “I realized that someone cared about me and I might still have good things to come.” This Veteran is alive today. If you know someone struggling right now, be there. And if you are struggling, right now, be there for yourself. No matter how dark it is, there is always hope.

Have Feedback? Contact Keith Lewis at the information below.

Roseburg VAHCS Suicide Prevention Month

The Roseburg VA Health Care System Commemorates the Month of September as Suicide Prevention Month. Suicide Prevention is the currently the number one clinical priority in the VA. The Suicide Prevention team at the Roseburg VAHCS provides supportive services to high risk Veterans, as well as community outreach, education, and advocacy to end Veteran suicide.

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Roseburg HUD-VASH Veterans Fish for Recovery

On August 23, seven Roseburg HUD-VASH Veterans went to Bowman Pond near Winston. They spent several hours fishing, joking around, and talking about their progress in recovery. Roseburg HUD VASH Social worker, Vern Jorgensen, started these fishing trips to support recovery through recreation and leisure. About these trips, Veteran Jon Boyette said, “I am always so tense, but when I come here I can relax. This is so needed! We need more of this.”

Roseburg VAHCS Suicide Prevention Month

Ryan Cooper, Suicide Prevention Case Manager (Left)
Kurt Rossbach, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, (right)

Have Feedback? Contact Keith Lewis at the information below.

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#BeThere