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Veterans Inc. Hosts 2nd Annual Recovery Summit During National Recovery Month

Veterans Inc. brings awareness to recovery and the female veteran experiences

Shrewsbury MA. - Veterans Inc., a leading organization dedicated to supporting Veterans in their journey towards recovery and empowerment, hosted over 150 community members, stakeholders, and supporters at their 2nd Annual Recovery Summit. This year's theme, More Than Our Past: Recovery and the Female Veteran Experience, was held at the Veterans Inc. Behavioral Health Facility in Shrewsbury, MA

The event honored the strength and resilience of female Veterans, recognizing their past experiences while emphasizing the hope and opportunity for recovery while providing a platform for education and awareness about their distinctive challenges and triumphs on their recovery journey.



Photo of Veterans Inc. Executive leadership team, the 2nd Annual Recovery Summit Panelists, and moderator.

“The 2nd Annual Recovery Summit was an exciting and educational event that celebrated our clients, our caregivers, and our community,” said Executive Director, Denis Leary, “The event took place against the backdrop of amazing art and music. From the opening ceremony led by Crocodile River Music’s drum team, to our keynote speaker, General Andrea Bennet, to our panel of experts, the day was an amazing success, including unveiling our newest art installation, “More Than Our Past.”

Keynote speaker Andrea Gayle-Bennett, a retired Brigadier General in the Massachusetts National Guard and currently the Deputy Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans’ Services (EOVS), brought her advocacy and leadership experience to the event. Moderator Danielle Applegate, U.S. Army Veteran and Chair of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, addressed the challenges homeless Veterans face.

During the event, BG Gayle-Bennett, on behalf of Governor Healy, presented Veterans Inc. with a signed Proclamation for Recovery Month. The proclamation shared, “We are committed to this work, to give the support that you need cause the work that you are doing is incredible and the work that you do day-in and day-out, in the community, touches lives.”

“The national average for female veterans experience PTSD is 12% which is a rate that is nearly double that of their male counterparts,” said Brigadier General Andrea Gayle-Bennett, “Women Veterans also shoulder heavier burdens of depression, eating disorders and face suicide rates at almost twice the rate of those that are non-veterans. Therefore, this theme, “More than our Past” should remind everyone that every female Veteran’s journey is unique, and their potential is boundless, and that these experiences and challenges are often overlooked and often underserved.”

The event showcased a panel of esteemed recovery professionals who shared their insights and experiences. Panelists included LTC, Katherine Murphy, MA National Guard; Dr. Danielle Leary. LT, U.S. Navy Veterans; Janelees Hernandez, U.S. Marine Coprs; and Lauren Wright, SSGT, U.S. Airforce National Guard and Healthcare Navigator at Veterans Inc.

Veterans Inc. also gave a Lifetime Achievement award to Patrice M. Muchowski, a Behavioral Health professional who has been in the field for over forty years.

Veterans Inc. operates the first-of-its-kind behavioral health treatment center focused on veteran recovery for those battling addiction, PTSD, mental illness, trauma, and depression. Licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), Veterans Inc. Behavioral Health Services provides inpatient stabilization, rehabilitation, co-occurring enhanced residential care, and intensive outpatient counseling. Services are centrally located at our Worcester headquarters site and at our Shrewsbury site, Independence Hall, where medication-assisted treatment is fully supported as a primary recovery tool. Women's Services provides specialized inpatient stabilization treatment to women with a substance use diagnosis.

For more information about Veterans Inc. and our recovery programs, visit Veteransinc.org or RecoverIndependence.org

About Veterans Inc.

Veterans Inc. is the nation's leading non-profit veteran services provider. A 501(c)3 non-profit, the organization's single-minded mission is to be there for veterans and their families in their time of need. Programming locations are located throughout New England, Montana, and North Dakota. The service area expands across the U.S. with a toll-free service center connecting callers to appropriate resources. Services provided include housing, homelessness prevention, employment and training, counseling and case management, family support programs, benefits/healthcare coordination, suicide prevention, temporary financial assistance, food services, substance use disorder treatment and recovery support, and women and children services.

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