



# VETERANS TRANSITION CENTER OF CALIFORNIA

Empowering Veterans to move from crisis to self-sufficiency

Jan 2025



## TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Meet Casey,

Our HCHV case manager who has been serving at VTC for almost 2 years. With 13 years of sobriety, he brings amazing strengths to our organization. During his 13.5 years in prison, he focused on self-education, earning four vocational trade certifications and three associate degrees. He also created curriculum for 11 self-help groups and facilitated nearly 20 different groups over a 10-year period. Currently, he is attending Adams State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in Social Welfare and plans to begin his master's program in Developmental Psychology in the fall.

"I don't say no to someone in need of help and am privileged to step in and be there for someone."

Casey went on to cite a quote by George Bernard Shaw, which he believes encapsulates him quite well.

*"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it what I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*You're Invited*

VTC'S SECOND ANNUAL  
HOPE FOR HEROES

# GALA

Friday, April 4th, 2025

The Club at Pasadera



We're excited to celebrate with you at VTC's second annual Hope for Heroes Gala, VTC's largest fundraiser of the year. This event is key in raising critical funds needed to support our mission of empowering Veterans to move from crisis to self-sufficiency.

5:00pm - Cocktail Reception & Silent Auction  
6:30pm - Dinner, Presentation, Live Auction and Dancing

Join us for a masquerade ball and enjoy live music, silent auction, elegant dinner, presentations, live auction, and dancing.

To purchase tickets,  
scan the QR code or visit:  
[visit vtcofcalifornia.org/gala2025](http://vtcofcalifornia.org/gala2025)



## WANT TO SPONSOR AN EVENT?

EMAIL US AT [EVENTS@VTCMONTEREY.ORG](mailto:EVENTS@VTCMONTEREY.ORG)



There are many ways to sponsor an event that supports Veterans at VTC, whether by backing the entire event, contributing to specific aspects, or offering a venue to make it happen. We'd love to talk about how you can get involved! Contact us at [events@vtcmonterey.org](mailto:events@vtcmonterey.org) for more information.

Scan here for more VTC events,  
or visit: [vtcofcalifornia.org/upcomingevents](http://vtcofcalifornia.org/upcomingevents)



## SEASONAL GIVING



### Bringing Joy to Heroes During the Holidays!

The holidays can be a tough time for those in need, but Sheila Polson and her team from American Legion Auxiliary unit 31 made a tremendous impact! They brought by dozens of toys, gifts and food for our residents and their families. When we first heard Sheila was coming by, we never imagined just how much she would bring on her multiple deliveries to VTC. We are truly grateful for your support!



### BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Amy Burkman's live painting performance at last year's Gala was such a success that we've invited her back. We can't wait to see what she'll paint this year. In 2024, after auctioning off not one, but two of her paintings, Amy personally delivered the second one to VTC, thanks to a generous anonymous donor from the Gala.

**Interested in Sponsoring the 2025 Gala art performance?** The benefits include 2 complimentary tickets to the Gala and a personal painting by Amy Burkman. Email us at [events@vtcmonterey.org](mailto:events@vtcmonterey.org) for more information.



[vtcofcalifornia.org/gala2025](http://vtcofcalifornia.org/gala2025)

## MONTEREY QUILTERS GUILD



The Monterey Quilters Guild kindly donated their handmade quilts just in time for our Veterans' holiday party. These stunning quilts were deeply appreciated by everyone, adding a personal touch that was perfect for the chilly weather. The quilt shown in the lower left corner earned 3rd place at the quilt show and will be proudly displayed in our auditorium. A sincere thank you to the Guild for their beautifully crafted donations!



Stay up to date on everything VTC, and see firsthand how your compassion and support makes a difference. Follow us on social media.

### FOLLOW US!



@VTCofCalifornia

# A look back at 2024



## Volunteer with VTC!

## MONTEREY COUNTY **GIVES!** Joining Together for Big Ideas



A heartfelt thank you to wonderful donors like you! Through McGives we raised over \$75,000 for the Veterans Transition Center, not including the matching percentage from the MC Gives! partners. We are so grateful for your contributions during this campaign and proud to be part of such a remarkable community. Rest assured, we will use these funds responsibly to assist more Veterans and continue offering vital programs and resources to Veterans in need.

We hosted our first ever Volunteer Welcome Party and it was such a pleasure connecting with both new and returning volunteers.

Our executive team delivered an inspiring presentation about VTC, and we were thrilled to share the exciting volunteer opportunities coming in 2025. A special thanks to Cheesecake Dreamations for adding a sweet touch to the evening by donating their delicious mini cheesecakes.

Raffle prizes were donated by Scratch Restaurant, Cafe Mia, LOCAL Eats Merch Vibes, and Michaels Grill & Taqueria.

To our **incredible volunteers**, thank you for your unwavering support. We couldn't do this without you! ❤️

Interested in volunteering? Email us at [info@vtcmonterey.org](mailto:info@vtcmonterey.org)

### Farewell Kristen & Dan



Saying goodbye is never easy, but we're filled with joy for Kristen and Dan as they begin their new life together. In our last newsletter, we bid farewell to Dan, and November marked Kristen's final day as our incredible leader in GPD. Thank you both for your unwavering dedication and all you've done for our Veterans! Your impact will be felt for years to come.



Veterans Transition Center of California  
 220 Twelfth St  
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*Thank You!*

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- The NASCAR Foundation

Learn more about becoming a sponsor in 2025:  
[info@vtcmonterey.org](mailto:info@vtcmonterey.org) or call (831) [883-8387](tel:883-8387)

**A WARM WELCOME FROM  
 MAYOR TYLLER WILLIAMSON**



Mayor Tyller Williamson made a special visit as Bill Ambrosia, a newly graduated VTC veteran, was settling into his new home. With warmth and generosity, the Mayor personally welcomed Bill to the neighborhood, making the move-in experience truly memorable. All of us at VTC are incredibly proud of you, Bill!