

2022



St. Michael's
VETERANS CENTER

Annual Report





Message From the Director

2022

Wow, what a year 2022 was! We embraced our new normal, reinstated social activities on campus, installed new solar panels, finalized plans for Patriot Park, received funding and approval to begin the third, and final, phase of permanent, affordable housing on the campus, hired a new social worker and a peer support specialist after saying goodbye to two valued staff members and celebrated in person at our annual Celebration of Heroes event to honor our founder Art Fillmore! And that's not even counting the dozens of you we hosted on campus this year for various events and activities.

This year, through a Community Development Block Grant through the City of Kansas City, Missouri, we installed new solar panels that will help us reduce electricity cost so that we can allocate more dollars to provide direct services to our residents and other veterans on our housing wait list. Saving costs and helping our planet is a win in our book!

We announced in 2021 that we applied for and were awarded the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) from the Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) to generate more than \$11 million to build the third and final phase of housing on our campus. We secured additional funds through the Federal Home Loan Bank and Kansas City's Housing Trust Fund to help cover gaps in funding and are working with our partners to finalize the design and construction schedule. This new housing will provide 62 permanent homes for veterans experiencing homelessness or living with a disability. New to the campus in this third phase of housing will be seven market-rate units. We plan to break ground in 2023.

We couldn't have done any of this without you, our SMVC community. You showed up this year in droves and we felt the love and support throughout the year. Because of you, we've been able to help more residents and more veterans in our community and look forward to another year of making a lasting impact to our community. Thank you for your continued support!

Susan Engel

Susan Engel
Executive Director

Our Impact

130

veterans lived at SMVC in 2022

90
PERCENT

of veterans were homeless before living at SMVC; **10%** qualified because they are living with a disability



99%

of SMVC veterans remained permanently housed

98%

of SMVC veterans chose to remain housed at SMVC

100%

of veterans engaged one-on-one with social services

87%

of veterans worked on goals with social services

5

PERCENT
of veterans engaged with social services to avoid eviction



20

PERCENT
increased income through employment or VA/federal benefits



20

PERCENT
increased health care benefits

9

PERCENT
improved mental health and substance recovery



St. Michael's Veterans Center empowers veterans toward healthy reintegration with their families and communities through permanent housing and supportive services.

We provide a dignified place to live and an opportunity for veterans to become their best selves. St. Michael's Veterans Center's (SMVC) professional staff customize wraparound solutions to support veterans' goals around employment, physical and mental health, trauma and addiction management with the means and support necessary to achieve long-term health, employment and financial stability.

Our campus is a home and a community where veterans can live their best lives and give back to their community.

2022

Highlights

JANUARY

- Intention Setting exercise to align thoughts, attitudes and actions for the new year.

FEBRUARY

- We celebrated Valentine's Day with a chili lunch and heart-shaped cookies.

MARCH

- Rockhurst Physical Therapy students provided balance screenings to aid in preventing falls by risk factors.
- SMVC Staff and residents worked together to clean up the community garden for the upcoming growing season **1**.

APRIL

- SMVC veterans enjoyed a field trip to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art **2**.

MAY

- Celebration of Heroes attendance was over capacity as we honored Art Fillmore and the 2022 Guardian Award recipients. **3**

- Several SMVC veterans spoke to middle school children at St. Michael the Archangel School.

- Starbucks volunteers started staffing the SMVC coffee shop one day a month sharing Starbucks drinks and snacks. **4**

JUNE

- Working for Veterans Rotary organized the 2nd Annual Fun Day with games and lunch.
- SMVC celebrated our 4th Annual Flag Day event with flag retirements and lunch. **5**

JULY

- CBIZ/MHM volunteers organized a Corn Hole Tournament. **6**
- US Bank provided tickets to multiple Royals Games that dozens of SMVC veterans enjoyed. **7**



AUGUST

- SMVC was recognized at the Sporting Salutes & UMB Title Night.



SEPTEMBER

- A Celebration of Service recognized the invaluable contributions of two SMVC social workers and introduced veterans to Donnie Wilson, the new service manager. **8**



OCTOBER

- Several Elks Lodges organized a bowling outing.

NOVEMBER

- Upward Bound began providing weekly IT support and education.
- Traveling Turkeys brought Thanksgiving meal baskets for over 70 veterans. **9**



DECEMBER

- The SMVC community gathered for a pizza party to welcome new peer support specialist, John Riley.
- The KC community remembered SMVC veterans with gifts and meals for the holidays. Thank you to University of Kansas Health System; Parsons & Associates, Jewish War veterans, Plaza Rotary, Big Tea's, Sun Life Financial and Charlie Regan. **10**



2022

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**For more information
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VETERANS CENTER

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