

2023 Annual Report

ur nation set a goal to end veteran homelessness in 2010. The same year St. Michael's Veterans Center (SMVC) founders began imagining a permanent solution to veteran homelessness in Kansas City. In 2014 this dream was realized with the opening of the St. Michael's Veterans Center. Homeless veterans in the Kansas City area found themselves with a new home at St. Michael's Veterans Center. Veterans like Bob, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, who following a violent attack that almost took his life, found himself "a little cloud in heaven," in a brand-new apartment he could call his own.

Bob said he felt "rescued" when he spent his first night at SMVC nearly 10 years ago. It is a sentiment shared by many of our residents: thankfulness to have a safe community to call home.

"God sent me to SMVC. I was struggling to maintain myself before. I had already been through life and death, but to finally be in a place where I was surrounded by other veterans, some of whom were struggling, I just had a lot to reflect on and be thankful for," Bob said. "I'll never forget how it felt to have a brand-new apartment, in a new building with a new bed and dishes and blankets. I am so thankful."

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2023 IMPACT

St. Michael's Veterans Center is a valued living community with an average of 90 percent of residents choosing St. Michael's as their home from year-to-year. In 2023, 98 percent of SMVC veterans retained permanent housing.

In 2023, 32 percent of veterans addressed personal goals one-on-one with SMVC staff and 74 percent of these veterans accomplished their goals: 9 percent of veterans increased their income through work or mainstream resources; 13 percent addressed health, mental health and substance use issues; 9 percent maintained housing with interventions.

SMVC provided direct services to 92% of SMVC veterans including the following:

- · 88% used the Food Pantry
- 85% participated in community meals and social activities
- 77% received holiday gifts
- 71% used the Dignity Pantry
- 42% participated in educational programs and field trips
- · 27% received household items
- · 23% completed tax returns / rent rebate returns
- 19% created legal documents (wills, powers of attorney)

This high level of stability is achieved because on-site professional services are designed to improve the quality of life and well-being of veterans along with housing permanency.

For more financial and governance information, please visit www.guidestar.org/profile/90-0765963.

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