



SAVED MY LIFE

During the holiday season, many people take time to reflect on their blessings, and what they're thankful for, whether that is family, friends, a good job, a nice home, or

something else. For Army Veteran Steven Cram, he is thankful for VA Butler Healthcare.

Steven served as an 88M – Heavy Vehicle Operator in the Army. He was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado and spent a year deployed in Afghanistan. He first came to VA Butler Healthcare seeking medical and mental health care, as well as help with addiction.

Steven is currently a resident at the Domiciliary, a residential facility on VA Butler's main

campus for Veterans who may be dealing with addiction, as well as other issues such as homelessness, mental health, and/or unemployment.

In addition to the Domiciliary, Steven participates in the Veteran "X" program. Veteran "X" is a weekly recovery group for Veterans by Veterans. In the program, participants serve as the treatment team for a fictitious Veteran "X." Veteran "X" has a number of social barriers that are similar to those faced by the group's

participants. While helping Veteran "X" to solve his issues, the participants gain valuable skills and information to resolve their own issues.

"My overall VA experience has been very helpful. I receive care for all current issues," Steven said. To other Veterans, Steven wants to share this: "VA Butler saved my life."

Veterans can learn more about the Domiciliary, Veteran "X" and other VA programs available to them by calling VA Butler's Center

for Behavioral Health (CBH) at 800.362.8262, ext. 5039 or visiting www.butler.va.gov/services/Behavioral_Health.asp.

With the New Year fast approaching, Steven is looking to the future, and his future includes VA Butler. He plans to continue his care, including staying involved with Veteran "X." He also plans to volunteer at the Butler County Humane Society and become more connected in the local community.

“My overall VA experience has been very helpful. I receive care for all current issues. VA Butler saved my life.” – Steven Cram, Army Veteran

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...DECEMBER

- 1 The Civil Air Patrol is founded [75th anniversary] (1941)
- 3 The first heart transplant is performed (1967)
- 7 Japanese planes raid Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in a surprise attack, bringing the U.S. into WWII [75th anniversary] (1941)
- 10 AMVETS (American Veterans of WWII) is founded (1944)
- 16 The Battle of the Bulge begins, the last major German offensive campaign of WWII (1944)
- 27 Anesthesia is used for the first time for childbirth, helping to revolutionize the use of anesthesia in medicine and surgery (1845)
- 28 The Pledge of Allegiance is officially recognized (1945)



THANK YOU VETERANS

This holiday season, VA Butler Healthcare salutes the valor of our nation's men and women—past and present—who sacrificed so much to preserve our liberty. We are grateful for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines deployed around the world, advancing the cause of peace and protecting the freedoms we treasure.





NEW HEALTH CARE CENTER PROGRESS

Construction continues to progress on VA Butler’s new Health Care Center (HCC)! The new HCC continues to remain ahead of schedule, set to be completed by summer 2017 and officially opening for Veterans in fall 2017!

Veterans and the community can stay up-to-date on construction progress, by visiting the HCC webpage (www.butler.va.gov/news/building.asp) or attending regularly scheduled HCC Town Hall Meetings. The next town hall meeting to receive HCC updates at is scheduled for January 4, 2017, at 5pm in VA Butler’s auditorium.

HOPE CHILD CARE PROGRAM

This fall, VA Butler Healthcare started the Hope Child Care Program (HCCP), the first of its kind in the country! HCCP is a babysitting service exclusively for women Veterans who attend the weekly Veteran “HOPE” program at VA Butler.

In the Veteran “HOPE” program, women Veterans work with other women Veterans as a treatment team for a fictitious Veteran “HOPE” who has an abundance of challenges similar to their own. These challenges are presented in the form of a scenario and may include things like mental illness, addiction, homelessness, economic hardship, family issues, etc.

As a group, women Veterans navigate the many challenging obstacles on the path to empowerment in a supportive and collaborative environment with peers. While helping Veteran “HOPE”, women Veterans in the group help one another and ultimately themselves.

HCCP allows women Veterans to attend Veteran “HOPE” without the concern of child care. Two female volunteers staff the new child care program, and it is available every Tuesday from 5:45pm until 8:00pm. For more information about the Veteran “HOPE” Program, women Veterans may talk to their VA Butler provider or call 724.285.2756.



ONE NUMBER TO CALL TO REACH VA

VA recently introduced MyVA311 as a go-to source for Veterans and their families who don’t know what number to call when trying to find VA-provided services and locations. This new national toll-free number – 1.844.MyVA311 (1.844.698.2311) – will help Veterans and their families navigate VA.

With 1.844.MyVA311, Veterans, families, and caregivers can access information about VA services, such as disability, pension, healthcare eligibility, enrollment, and burial benefits, in addition to a self-service locator to find the nearest VA facility. Veterans looking for immediate assistance with housing or who have a mental health crisis can call and MyVA311 will route them to the Homeless Veteran help line and the Veterans Crisis Line.

None of the existing VA numbers will go away. The future vision is that 1.844.MyVA311 will become a 24/7 one-stop information service platform for all VA services.

We want to hear from you! Email amanda.kurtz2@va.gov to share your story with us!

EVENTS

Veterans Behavioral Health Council Meeting

13 Tuesday, December 13 • 10am
Room 218WS, VA Butler Healthcare

Veteran Town Hall

15 Thursday, December 15 • 5pm
Michael A. Marzano VA Outpatient Clinic
(Mercer County)
295 N. Kerrwood Drive, Suite 110
Hermitage, PA 16148



800.362.8262
724.287.4781

www.butler.va.gov



butler.va.gov



facebook.com/vabutlerpa



twitter.com/vabutlerpa



www.butler.va.gov/news/MediaCenter.asp



325 new castle road . butler pa 16001

