

SUPPORT AT VA BUTLER'S DOMICILIARY

March 2015 marks two years since VA Butler Healthcare's new Domiciliary first opened its doors to female Veterans. Army Veteran Kevlene "Keyv" Kelly was one of the first females admitted to the program. She lived in one of the townhomes designated just for female Veterans.

"At the beginning of the program, it's almost annoying – you don't want these people in your face all the time. You can't just lay around in bed at the Domiciliary. Sure, you have your space, but you're expected to do things and be places. There were a couple times I wanted to leave," Keyv said. "I'm thankful to the Butler staff, they wouldn't let up. They are very supportive."

For Keyv, the people at the Domiciliary were the most important during her stay. "My therapist, Sue, was the most helpful for me. We hashed it out. I was able to, for the first time in my life, talk honestly about my food issues. She helped teach



me compassion for myself."

In addition, recreation therapy, and the recreation therapist, Chris, played an important role in Keyv's stay at the Dom. "I hated the idea of groups and trips. When I first got to the Dom, I would be in agony, 'I didn't want to go. I didn't want to do that,'" Keyv said. "But one day—I remember we were driving down the road, heading for a golfing trip. AC/DC was playing on the radio, and Chris was singing along. I noticed that for the first time, in a very long time, I smiled and felt comfortable. I felt joy. I learned to laugh again at the Domiciliary."

Veterans in VA Butler's Domiciliary participate in a range of rehabilitation services. These include physical, behavioral, spiritual, psychosocial, vocational, dietary, occupational therapy and intervention, and addiction counseling. Unique programs are available just for female Veterans too, such as classes in the domestic violence cycle and the history of addiction.

As a disabled Veteran with PTSD who is in recovery from substance abuse, and struggles with an eating disorder, Keyv's journey has been heroic. "Some think the VA has a bad reputation, but I can tell you this—since I got out of the service in 1980, the VA has helped me. They have been taking care of me for a long time. VA Butler's Domiciliary is a wonderfully structured program, and I felt very well taken care of while there."

Keyv has remained sober since leaving the Domiciliary, and now serves as a sponsor for four women. She continues her recovery daily. "You don't just get rid of this stuff. You learn how to accept these issues, and all that goes with it."

“I noticed that for the first time, in a very long time, I smiled and felt comfortable. I felt joy. I learned to laugh again at the Domiciliary.” —Kevlene Kelly, Army Veteran

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...MARCH

- 1 Ellis Island's hospital opens to treat people from all over the world having a variety of diseases and ailments (1902)
- 4 King Charles II of England grants a huge tract of land in the New World to William Penn to settle an outstanding debt... the area later becomes Pennsylvania (1681)
- 13 Chester Greenwood patents earmuffs, originally called the "Champion Ear Protector" [Stay warm! Spring is coming] (1877)
- 15 The American Legion holds its first meeting (1919)
- 19 Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) begins (2003)
- 19 The first air combat mission in U.S. history is initiated as eight American planes take off for Mexico in search of Pancho Villa (1916)



DOMICILIARY RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION TREATMENT

VA Butler's 56-bed Domiciliary (Dom) provides residential rehabilitation for Veterans suffering from substance abuse, homelessness and behavioral health issues. Learn more: www.butler.va.gov/services/Domiciliary_Residential_Rehabilitation_Treatment.asp

NEWLY RELEASED VA APPS



Launchpad

The VA Mobile Launchpad houses all Apps for Veterans that connect to VA's Electronic Health Record (EHR) and access your personal VA health information. VA developed this tool to group VA's Mobile Apps and websites that require a secure logon to access your EHR. By signing into the VA Mobile Launchpad once with a DS Logon Level 2 (Premium) Account, you can access multiple resources without logging in to each App or website individually. You also can access the Apps or websites separately.



Mobile Blue Button

The Mobile Blue Button App was designed to help both you and your Caregivers better manage your health care needs and communicate with your health care teams. By using the Mobile Blue Button App, you can access, print, download and store information from your Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Electronic Health Record (EHR).



Summary of Care

The Summary of Care App lets you receive and view your VA medical information – including lab results, medications, allergies, and more – in one place and from the convenience of your mobile device.

VA Mobile Health regularly releases new Apps for Veterans. Check <https://mobile.va.gov/often> for new information about available Apps. A special portal with training materials is now available too!

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS!

VA Butler Healthcare's Voluntary Services Office is currently accepting nominations of regularly-scheduled VA Butler volunteers for the annual Making Lives Better Volunteer of the Year program. Forms and criteria may be obtained from Voluntary Services (Room 207-C). If you have questions, please contact 724-285-2575.

To learn about volunteering at VA Butler Healthcare, visit www.butler.va.gov/giving/index.asp.



VA Butler's female winner of the 2014 Making Lives Better Volunteer of the Year program, Betty Slaughaupt

VA ELIGIBILITY & ENROLLMENT

Annual Financial Assessment Change

As of March 24, 2014, most Veterans are no longer required to complete the annual financial assessment known as a Means Test. Instead, VA will receive income information from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Social Security Administration (SSA), and will contact the Veterans only if the information received indicates a change in their VA health benefits may be appropriate.

The elimination of the annual means test frees enrolled Veterans to enjoy their VA health care benefits without worrying about completing annual income assessment forms. Under the new process, Veterans will be required to have one financial assessment on file – their current file if they're already enrolled, or the assessment they provide when they apply. That assessment will be maintained and monitored by VA and updated only as substantial income changes occur.

Explore your health care benefits today—
<http://explore.va.gov/health-care>.

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

EVENTS

Veterans Behavioral Health Council Meeting

10 Tuesday, March 10 • 10am
Room 218WS, VA Butler Healthcare

Diabetes Alert Day

24 Tuesday, March 24 • 10am-2pm
VA Butler Primary Care Waiting Area

Save-the-Date – VA2K 2015

Mark your calendars! The annual VA2K will take place on Wednesday, May 20. All are invited. More details coming.



800.362.8262
724.287.4781

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325 new castle road . butler pa 16001

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