



2016 ANNUAL REPORT



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***To our honored Veterans, dedicated employees, generous volunteers,
and dear friends of VA Butler Healthcare,***

I am excited to share with you VA Butler Healthcare's 2016 Annual Report. THANK YOU to everyone who has helped make this year a success. The information in the following report showcases some of the major highlights from 2016, while the calendar itself reflects the current year so you can use it throughout 2017.

This year the most dedicated group of people in health care I know, our employees, served over 22,000 of our country's very best, our Veterans. I hope you enjoy "reading" through our calendar — from major progress on our new Health Care Center and making same-day access a reality to new services and new staff! 2016 was truly remarkable, and I know 2017 will be excellent as we continue doing what VA Butler Healthcare does best — Making Lives Better for our Veterans and their families.



David P. Cord
Director, VA Butler Healthcare



**VA BUTLER
HEALTHCARE
LEADERSHIP**

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| DAVID P. CORD | <i>Director</i> |
| REBECCA HUBSCHER | <i>Associate Director</i> |
| DR. RHONDA MOUGH | <i>Chief of Staff</i> |
| SHARON PARSON | <i>Nurse Executive</i> |



january



From VA's *MOVE!* classes and support groups to the free Wellness Center and Fitness Classes, Veterans and staff focused on healthy living in fiscal year 2016. Just a *few* of the achievements include:

1,170.4 pounds

Veterans' lost through VA Butler's *MOVE!* program

4,994 total attendees

who exercised at the Wellness Center

243 free Veteran fitness classes held,

with **879** Veteran attendances

s	m	t	w	th	f	s
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Gulf War began 1991	17	18	19	20	21 Women's Healthy Weight Day
22	23	24	25 National IV Nurse Day	26	27 Vietnam Peace Agreement signed 1973	28
29	30	31				

VA Butler also hosted two successful healthy living events in January – the 4th Annual Healthy Living Recognition Event where **39** Veterans were honored for their healthy living achievements, as well as the Healthy Living Food Drive.

Food donations were collected during the month of January and were distributed during the month of February to **25** individual Veterans and **10** Veteran families with a total of **988** items collected.



february

Same Day Access is a Reality at VA Butler Healthcare

VA Butler participated in the second National Access Stand Down in February to ensure all Veterans are receiving the care they deserve in a timely manner. The Access Stand Down took place at VA facilities across the country on Saturday, February 27 to identify and address the health care needs for Veterans having the most important and acute needs and to ensure they are seen either in VA or in the community as soon as possible. No Veterans were on VA Butler's Access Stand Down list – i.e., no Veterans with outstanding consults for critical health care appointments.

Additionally, in 2016, the VA Butler Leadership team signed the MyVA Access Declaration to further demonstrate our commitment to same day access to Veterans health care. The signed poster is displayed at the main facility.

VA Butler is ranked as having the **best primary care access in the country!** Specifically, we are ranked #1 for Veterans' perception of timeliness (both urgent and routine), as well as #1 in terms of Patient-Aligned Care Team (PACT) access measures. 99% of Veteran appointments here are completed in 30 days. For Veterans seeking new appointments, wait times for primary care are 1 day or less, for specialty care 3 days or less, and for mental health care 1 day or less.

Additionally, in 2016, Leadership received feedback from the Patient Centered Care Office that VA Butler exceeded the 90th percentile — receiving a score of 7 out of 7 (**the only facility nationally to do this!**).



s	m	t	w	th	f	s
			1	2	3 Four Chaplains Memorial Day National Wear Red Day	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 National Salute to Veteran Patients Week 12 - 18	13 Marine Corps Women's Reserve created 1943	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20 Presidents' Day	21	22	23 Desert Storm Ground War began 1991	24	25
26	27	28				



More February Calendar Highlights

GO RED FOR WOMEN VETERANS

VA Butler's Women's Health and Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Programs hosted 29 of our women Veterans at the third annual Winter Women's Wellness Event in February. Women Veterans wore red to support heart health, and were provided important information about VA programs and services while enjoying an afternoon of relaxation and wellness!

Women Veterans continue to be the fastest growing group within the Veteran population.

VA Butler served **1,253** Veterans in FY16, including **202** new women Veterans!

38TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERAN PATIENTS WEEK

VA Butler's Voluntary Service Office coordinated several special events for Veteran patients during the 38th annual National Salute to Veteran Patients Week (February 14-20, 2016), a time to express our honor and appreciation to Veterans who receive their care from VA.

2016 highlights included: Bowling with Veterans, Dinner "Date" with a Veteran, and Lunch "Date" with a Veteran events.



march



VA conducted hundreds of events nationwide in March 2016 to recognize, honor and thank U.S. Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifices as part of the national Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemoration. The significance about the Vietnam Commemoration is that our Vietnam Veterans were never welcomed home and honored like previous wars. Vietnam was a long war, and accordingly a long commemoration period is planned. By presidential proclamation, the Commemoration extends from Memorial Day 2012 through Veterans Day 2025.

VA Butler Healthcare recognized and thanked Vietnam Veterans throughout the week of March 28, 2016, with the main event being an Appreciation Breakfast on March 30 sponsored by American Legion Post 778.

Over **300** attended the Appreciation Breakfast, and all Vietnam Veterans who attended received a Certificate of Appreciation signed by VA Butler's Director along with the Vietnam Veteran lapel pin.

VA Butler Healthcare, along with more than 9,000 organizations across the country, has joined with the Department of Defense as a Commemorative Partner and will continue to host events for the next few years to thank and honor our Vietnam Veterans and their families.

s	m	t	w	th	f	s
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Army Distinguished Service Medal authorized 1918	8	9 Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day	10	11
12 Daylight Savings	13	14	15 VA Cabinet Status 1989	16	17	18
19 Operation Iraqi Freedom began 2003	20	21	22 Tuskegee Airmen activated 1941	23	24	25 National Medal of Honor Day
26	27	28 Diabetes Alert Day	29	30 National Doctors' Day	31	

NEW HEADACHE CLINIC

VA Butler's Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) Department initiated a new Headache Clinic for Veterans in 2016. The new, interdisciplinary clinic meets twice monthly and consists of a physiatrist, two chiropractic physicians (licensed in acupuncture), a physical therapist, and a behavioral health psychologist.

WOMEN VETERANS QUILT DEDICATION

VA Butler collected quilt squares from women Veterans last year in recognition of National Women's History Month, celebrated annually in March. To celebrate Women's History Month this year, the final quilt was presented at a special dedication event.

The quilt recognizes **26** women for their military service. It is made up of individually designed squares, each one devoted to a woman Veteran.





april

HCC Topping Out

In early April, VA Butler Healthcare held the official Topping Out Ceremony to celebrate the construction progress of the new Health Care Center (HCC). At the ceremony, the final steel beam for this new facility was placed. Additionally, remarks were provided by VA and Cambridge Leadership and Mike Kelly, U.S. Representative, 3rd District of Pennsylvania provided a keynote speech.

Construction on the facility is approximately six months ahead of schedule, set to be completed by summer 2017 and officially opening for Veterans in fall 2017. The official Topping Out was just one of many accomplishments for this construction project in FY2016:

- Design completed
- Structural steel installation completed
- All major mechanical, electrical and plumbing equipment installed and tested
- Roofing completed
- Shell of building (masonry and windows) completed
- Site lighting completed
- Site utilities completed
- Overall site work (grading, landscaping, asphalt) 80% complete
- Drywall 95% complete
- Interior plumbing 99% complete
- Interior electrical 90% complete
- Interior fire protection 90%



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. In helping Veteran "HOPE," women Veterans in the group help one another and ultimately themselves.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

VA Butler held its 3rd Annual Making Lives Better Volunteer of the Year Program on April 15 to commemorate National Volunteer Week. Six volunteers were nominated for the Volunteer of the Year award: [Chuck Jennings](#), [John Morgan](#), [Danny Turner](#), [Donna Croft](#), [June Gregg](#), and [Linda Trimpey](#). Together, these volunteers contributed over **12,492** hours over 29 years. CONGRATULATIONS to the 2016 Male Volunteer of the Year [Chuck Jennings](#) and the 2016 Female Volunteer of the Year [Linda Trimpey](#)!

VA Voluntary Service also celebrated 70 years of volunteer support and philanthropic donations to VA hospitals this year. VA Butler's **331** volunteers provided **34,421** hours of service, and donations increased by over \$30,000 this fiscal year for a total of **\$188,395**.

LAUNCHED NEW SECURE MESSAGING TEAM FOR MY HEALTHVET

A new, 'Ask a Pharmacist' Secure Messaging Team was launched in April, and the new team sent/received **313** Secure Messages! Also in April, the Secure Messaging Workload Credit was launched nationally. VA Butler completed all related actions to this **one year in advance!**

VA Butler Healthcare is **first** in VISN 4 for percentage of Veterans authenticated with My HealthVet premium account status. We have 210 Secure Messaging staff users, and **21,316** Secure Messages were sent/received in FY16. Also in FY16, **28,266** prescription refills were ordered online through the online Refill Prescription option in My HealthVet!

More April Calendar Highlights

NEW VETERAN HOPE PROGRAM FOR WOMEN VETERANS

The *first* Veteran HOPE group kicked off on April 19! 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

s	m	t	w	th	f	s
						1
2	3	4	5	6 U.S. Entered WWI 1917	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Paralyzed Veterans of America established 1946	15
16 Easter Sunday National Healthcare Decisions Day	17	18 National Stress Awareness Day	19	20	21	22 Earth Day
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Fall of Saigon 1975						



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

may



Most Contributions Nationwide — Annual VA2K Event

The sixth annual VA2K Walk & Roll event was held on May 18, and VA Butler had a record year! We had **311** participants for a total of **385.6** miles, and **4,435** items were collected for a total of **\$5,211.47** in donations! VA Butler won first-place nationwide for VA (for our facility-size) for most contributions for this year's event!

New Mindfulness Group

In May, VA Butler started offering an introductory group about Mindfulness. Mindfulness means paying attention, on purpose, to whatever is going on in the present moment without passing judgment on it. Mindfulness has been shown to be effective for reducing stress, improving emotional balance, increasing self-awareness, helping with anxiety and depression, and coping more effectively with chronic pain.

Volunteer Support

Navy Veteran Andrew (Drew) Womeldorf III completed his college degree while residing at VA Butler thanks to a youth volunteer, and was able to attend the graduation ceremony in May, thanks to generous Veteran Service Organizations! Youth volunteer Anchor Loesch, who is also in Butler County's Jr. ROTC program, worked with Drew to help him get his classwork submitted successfully, and ultimately complete his degree at Penn State. Thanks to the support from American Legion's Post 117 and 778 and the American Legion Riders of Butler County, he was also able to attend his graduation ceremony on May 6, 2016.



s	m	t	w	th	f	s
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Military Spouse Appreciation Day National Nurses Week 6-12
7 Official End of Vietnam War 1975	8 V-E Day 1945	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15 Peace Officer Memorial Day	16	17	18	19	20 Armed Forces Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31 National Senior Health & Fitness Day			



Honoring Veterans on Memorial Day

This year, VA Butler hosted and participated in several special events to honor our fallen heroes. For staff, VA held a special recognition event as well as observed a moment of silence. We also participated in a ceremony on Sunday evening at the American Legion Hall, and hosted the traditional Monday morning ceremony for Veteran residents.

VA Butler also honored **49** Veterans who passed away over the past year in the Community Living Center by releasing live butterflies at the Third Annual Butterfly Release Ceremony. This ceremony provides a unique way to honor and remember our heroes, our Veterans.





june

WISR
680 AM news talk radio



Sun Safety & Cancer Prevention

VA Butler's Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Program hosted this annual event in June to educate Veterans about the importance of sun protection. Tools needed to help prevent skin cancer were provided, and educational information on sun safety and cancer prevention were available.

On the Radio with Dave and Dave

In 2016, VA Butler's Director Dave Cord talked with Dave Malarkey on his show "It's Your Turn" every month. "It's Your Turn" is the county's only live, call-in talk show. For June, the two talked about the new Health Care Center, access to VA health care, and VA Butler's Call Center. Listen in live monthly to hear VA news and information at wisr680.com.

PTSD Awareness

VA Butler provided two opportunities for Veterans and their family members to learn more, connect, and share information during Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month in June — a "Helping Family Members Understand Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Event" and a "PTSD Awareness Day Event."



s	m	t	w	th	f	s
				1	2	3
4	5 National Cancer Survivors Day	6 D-Day 1944	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Flag Day U.S. Army established 1775	15	16	17
18 Father's Day	19	20	21	22 GI Bill signed into law 1944	23	24
25 Korean War began 1950	26	27 National HIV Testing Day PTSD Awareness Day	28	29	30	

Diabetes Support

The annual Diabetes Support Group Picnic was held in June. The group also holds an annual Thanksgiving Luncheon in November. Veterans of every age and theatre of war attend, as well as their family members.

New Veterans Advisory Council at Cranberry CBOC

In June, the Cranberry Township Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) started a Veteran Advisory Council. The council meets monthly and discusses areas for improvement, outreach, and changes to VA health care. Similar councils are planned for the other contracted sites in Armstrong and Clarion counties.

Also new at the CBOCs in 2016, an AMVETS representative now provides services at all three contracted sites (Armstrong, Clarion, and Cranberry), and all five CBOCs are able to process Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC) to save Veterans time traveling to and from the main facility in Butler.



july



Mil-X Training

In July, 20 VA Butler employees participated in a two-day training called Military Culture -101, or Mil-X. The Mil-X training focuses on the 'spark' that changes conversations from, "Last name-last four," to interactions that truly embody the dignity and respect our Veterans deserve. The new training is now available to all staff.

Eat Wisely

VA Butler's Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Program hosted three Farmers Markets in 2016, with the first being held in July. Brenckle's Farms and Greenhouses provided locally grown, farm fresh produce.

New Greenhouse for Recreation Therapy

Thanks to local Boy Scout Colton Walker, Veterans residing at VA Butler's Domiciliary have a new source for recreational therapy in the form of a brand new greenhouse. It took approximately one year to complete this service project as part of Colton's requirements to obtain his Eagle Scout rank.

Acupuncture for Domiciliary Veterans

Beginning in July, VA Butler's Chiropractors and Physiatrist expanded acupuncture services to Veterans residing in the Domiciliary (Dom). Every week a VA Provider visits the Dom to offer group auricular acupuncture to consenting Veterans. Auricular acupuncture — "ear acupuncture" — can help with cravings, stress, anxiety, and pain, which are often main triggers for using substances. It doesn't replace traditional therapies, but is a complementary treatment.

Multi-Cultural Day

VA Butler's EEO Committee held the first Multi-Cultural Day Event in July. Event highlights included: a Nutrition Kitchen demonstration, Tae Kwon Do demonstrations, cultural dance performances, and a Veteran speaker on the Cherokee Tribe.

s m t w th f s

						1
2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6 Air Force Cross created 1960	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 VA created 1930	22
23	24	25	26 DOD created 1947	27 Korean War Armistice 1953	28 World War I began 1914	29
30	31					

CLC Carnival

About five years ago, VA Butler's Nursing Assistants came up with the idea to host a Summer Carnival for Veterans in the Community Living Center. This (favorite) annual event continues to be a success, and the 2016 Carnival even included VA Butler's Director in the dunk tank!

Mental Health Creative Arts

The 4th Annual Mental Health Creative Arts Event was held in July, and art ranging from woodwork and copper tooling, to ceramics, drawings, and more were shared by Veterans. Veterans at VA Butler's Community Living Center (with a total of eight entries) won first place! Army Veteran Samuel Brothers donated his artwork after the event, and it will be displayed at the new HCC when it opens in fall 2017.



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



august

The Right Care in the Right Place at the Right Time

In August, the Telehealth Education Delivered (TED) van visited VA Butler for the second time to demonstrate ways that telehealth can extend health care access, enhance patient care, and enable collaboration among health care providers and patients.

In FY16, VA Butler's Telehealth Program introduced new programs and saw more Veterans than ever before. The Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT) Program saw an increase across its programs, especially notable in Clinical Pharmacy, *MOVE!*, and Behavioral Health. New CVT programs were also started (and offered at the main campus and all CBOCs) to include:

- CVT Pre & Post-Operative Transplant care for Kidney and Liver
- CVT Palliative Care
- CVT Bariatric Surgery (pre-op education, pre-op Optifast, pre-op psych, post-op follow up care)
- CVT Gastroenterology
- CVT Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)
- CVT Chronic Kidney Disease education
- CVT Dementia Care (memory disorder clinic)
- CVT Primary Care (Dr. Burke's Team)

Store & Forward Telehealth, specifically for Teleretinal (70% increase) and Teledermatology (35% increase) imaging, grew at every CBOC location this year too, ultimately providing greater same day access to Veterans. VA Butler is also growing as a Regional Reading Center for TeleDermatology and Teleretinal Reading. With 3 dermatology readers, the program grew **101%** since FY15 (981 reads in FY15, 1972 reads in FY16). TeleRetinal Reading increased from 212 reads in FY15 to **1,631** reads in FY16 (>600% increase).



s	m	t	w	th	f	s
		1	2	3	4 U.S. Coast Guard established 1790	5
6	7 Desert Shield began 1990	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 National Aviation Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

More August Calendar Highlights

MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

87 individuals all focused on enhancing access to mental health services and constantly improving mental health care for Veterans attended VA Butler's Mental Health Summit in August. The 2016 Summit focused on health care access and suicide prevention. There were also breakout sessions related to the opioid crisis, pain management, and risk reduction.

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT SERVICES TEAM

VA Butler's Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) served over 200 Veterans in FY16. In August, the VIST Coordinator traveled with eight blind Veterans and their family members to the VA Cleveland Blind Rehabilitation Center to participate in the 5th Anniversary Reunion. Additional events for VIST for FY16 included: White Cane Education Day and Diversity Awareness Day.

WELCOME HOME VETERANS

In August, VA Butler's Transition and Care Management (TCM) Program hosted the annual Welcome Home Event for Post/11 Veterans and their family members. This year's event was a family-friendly picnic at Moraine State Park. Post 9/11 Veterans from VA Butler also attended this year's Heroes at Heinz Field Event with the Pittsburgh Steelers in the fall.

The Transition and Care Management (TCM) Program was previously known as the National Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) Care Management Program, but was changed in 2016 to better reflect the current and future Veteran population (who not only served in combat supporting OEF/OIF/OND but also post 9/11 Veterans). VA Butler's TCM program served **2,610** Veterans in FY16.



september

Four Stand Downs for Homeless Veterans

VA Butler partnered with the local community to host the first ever Butler County Stand Down Event in September. Free medical screenings, clothes, shoes, a light meal, haircuts, and more were just some of the services offered.

149 Veterans attended the event, and the 29 homeless Veterans who attended were further assisted by VA Butler's Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Coordinator after the event. Additional Stand Down events also took place in Armstrong/Clarion counties, Lawrence County, and Mercer County.

VA Butler's Healthcare for Homeless Veterans program served 31 Veterans this year. VA Butler also provided over 3,000 days of temporary shelter for homeless Veterans through the transitional housing programs and added 10 new HUD-VASH vouchers in 2016, bringing the total number of vouchers to 125.

VA Butler's HCHV program also hosted its annual CHALENG event during Butler County's Homeless Awareness Month in November and participated in the 2016 Point In Time (PIT) Count, sending representatives to assist with the count in Butler, Mercer, Lawrence and Clarion Counties.

This year, VA Butler staff joined with the Western COC to create a list of homeless Veterans so that every homeless Veteran will be known by name and offered immediate assistance through the continuum of care programs provided by VA and our community partners. One homeless Veteran is one too many.



More September Calendar Highlights

NEW VISN 4 CENTRALIZED RN TRIAGE CALL CENTER

VA Butler operates the new VISN 4 Centralized RN Triage Call Center that provides Veterans telephone medical advice from a Registered Nurse. While the Call Center is located at VA Butler, it provides service to more than 300,000 Veterans throughout the region. The nurse call line provides a way to resolve primary, specialty, and mental health needs and, ultimately, to enhance timely and same day access.

NEW VETERAN HOPE CHILDCARE PROGRAM

In September, VA Butler 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. Two female volunteers staff the new child care program, and it is available every Tuesday from 5:45 pm until 8 pm.



s	m	t	w	th	f	s
					1 World War II began 1939	2 V-J Day 1945
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
10 World Suicide Prevention Day	11 Patriot Day and National Day of Remembrance	12	13	14	15 National POW/MIA Recognition Day	16 American Legion Chartered by Congress 1919
17 VFW Ladies Auxiliary organized 1914	18 U.S. Air Force established 1947	19	20	21 World Alzheimer's Day	22	23
24	25 Disabled American Veterans established 1920	26	27	28	29 Veterans of Foreign Wars created 1899	30



october



Employee Achievements

VA employee Andy Pepe received the Gold Service Champion Award (voted by his peers) during Customer Service Week in October for providing exemplary customer service to his coworkers and Veterans, and for exhibiting VA's core values of Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence (ICARE). VA Butler recognizes its employees' achievements year-round with ICARE events and certificates.

In FY16, **over 200 employees** were acknowledged with ICARE certificates at three events. In addition to ICARE certificates, a new option for recognizing employees was initiated, called the "On-the-Spot Award." **77** of these awards were given to employees this year for immediate recognition of one-time, short-term efforts.

VA Butler's 647 employees went above and beyond in 2016 to serve Veterans. A few of the employee achievements for 2016 include:

- Police Officer William Myers was awarded the status of Honor Graduate Student for his performance in the Basic Police Officer Course at VA's Law Enforcement Training Center. Officer Myers finished with the highest academic achievement rating for the class with an academic score of 98.2% — one of the highest averages seen since the inception of the course.
- Pharmacist Tiffany Reid had her poster accepted at IntNSA's Annual Educational Conference.
- My HealthVet Coordinator Lauren Heiger submitted an 'innovative best practice' to the VA Community Care's Diffusion of Excellence 'Shark Tank' that made the national finalist cut for the Under Secretary for Health's Second Annual Shark Tank Competition!



Employee Additions

In FY16 VA Butler welcomed new staff, including new Leadership. VA appointed David Cord (Air Force Veteran) as the new Director of VA Butler Healthcare and Dr. Rhonda Mough as VA Butler's Chief of Staff. VA Butler also welcomed new Associate Chief of Staff for Behavioral Health, Dr. Tom Laton.

s	m	t	w	th	f	s
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Columbus Day	10 World Mental Health Day	11	12	13 U.S. Navy established 1775	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 National Mammography Day	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween				



november



Veterans Day 2016

VA Butler celebrated Veterans Day for an entire week in 2016, with each day of the week focused on a different era, ranging from WWII to OEF/OIF/OND. VA information and refreshments were available throughout the week as a small way to say 'thank you.' In addition, VA employees showed their support during the week by wearing patriotic colors.

On Veterans Day, a special lunch and entertainment program was held for Veterans in the Community Living Center, and a recreational outing was planned for Veterans in the Domiciliary. The Butler County Veterans Day Committee hosted its annual Veterans Day Ceremony at VA Butler as well.

Caregiver Support

As part of National Family Caregivers Month in November, VA Butler hosted a fall Caregiver Self-Care Program focusing on Health and Wellness, Sleep Hygiene, and Pain Management. An artist from the local studio Brushes and Barstools also came and taught a painting class for attendees.

Veterans Treatment Court Graduates 18

VA Butler's Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) served **123 Veterans** this year, and collaborated with the local courts for four successful Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) graduations.

November marked the second graduation in 2016 for the Butler County VTC. A court graduation for Butler was also held in January. Mercer County's VTC also held two graduations in 2016. There were 10 successful Veteran graduates from Butler's VTC and eight from Mercer's VTC this year. Looking into FY17, a VTC is planned for Armstrong County.

s	m	t	w	th	f	s
			1	2	3	4
5 Daylight Savings	6	7	8	9	10 U.S. Marine Corps established 1775	11 Veteran's Day
12	13	14 World Diabetes Day	15	16 National Rural Health Day Great American Smokeout	17	18
19 Cold War formally ended 1990	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		





december



Veterans Give Back

Veteran residents in VA Butler's Community Living Center (CLC) donated toys for the 2016 Toys for Tots program. In fact, Veteran James "Jimmy" Becker donated approximately \$750 worth of toys! Representatives from the Bantam Marine Corp League visited VA Butler Healthcare's CLC along with representatives from Berkshire Hathaway (the event organizer) to collect the toys in December.

New Veteran Input Pool Accomplishments

The Veteran Input Pool (VIP) Program was developed in FY16 to seek input directly from Veterans on matters of changes/suggestions and satisfaction with services. 15 significant accomplishments were made in 2016 thanks to this new program. A few of the highlights include: Improvements to the Behavioral Health Waiting Area, better security (hiring of more Police Officers), installation of new vending machines, and extended hours to the Wellness Center.

s	m	t	w	th	f	s
					1 Civil Air Patrol founded 1941	2
3	4	5 International Volunteer Day	6	7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 U.S. enters WWII 1941	9
10 AMVETS founded 1944	11	12	13	14	15 Bill of Rights Day	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve						

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS IN 2016

GOLD CORNERSTONE AWARD
VA Butler was notified in November that it had (yet again!) received a Gold Cornerstone Award for Patient Safety in FY16.

FIRST PLACE IN DENTAL CARE
In the National VA Dentistry Survey of Dental Care Experiences of Patients, in 2016, for the sixth year in a row, VA Butler Healthcare's Dental Care received first place marks. In every survey measure, including patient satisfaction for overall experience (highest ranking) VA Butler scored well above the national average.

CARF ACCREDITATION
A three year CARF accreditation was issued this year for the Domiciliary, CWT/TR, and Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program.

TWO SUCCESSFUL SURVEYS
VA Butler received positive results from two surveys this year - the EMCAP Survey, a VA Program that surveys the Emergency Management Program and the Long Term Care Institute Survey, which looks at the care provided in the Community Living Center.



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VA HEALTHCARE-VISN 4



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january



february



march



april



may



june



july



august



september



october



november



december

2016 Statistics for the Year

22,249

Veterans Served

647

Employees

331

Volunteers

34,421

Volunteer Hours

\$104.8 million

Operating Budget

163

Operating Beds

193,734

Outpatient Visits

1,660

Twitter Followers

2,067

Facebook Fans

VA Butler Healthcare, located in Butler County, Pennsylvania has been attending to Veteran's total care since 1947. We are the health care choice for over 22,000 Veterans throughout Western Pennsylvania and parts of Ohio and are a member of VA Healthcare VISN 4 under the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. VA Butler Healthcare provides comprehensive Veteran care including primary, specialty and mental health care - as well as management of chronic conditions and social support services to our nation's Veterans. We proudly serve America's Veterans at our main campus as well as at our five Primary Care VA Outpatient Clinics in Armstrong, Southern Butler County (Cranberry Township), Clarion, Lawrence and Mercer Counties.