



## **Tri-County Veteran Support Network**

*Charleston, Berkeley & Dorchester Counties*

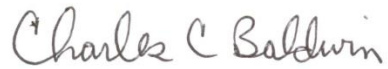
Updated April 15, 2014

## Foreword

This directory consists of many organizations filled with dedicated men and women committed to serving our veterans and families of the Charleston Tri-County area.

There can be no doubt that the people of the Charleston Tri-County community care a great deal for our warriors. We are grateful for the sacrifices of our veterans and their families. Now, please receive our gratitude and our desire to serve you with that same spirit of excellence.

We wish to thank Jeanne Carmichael and Eileen Hadbavny of the American Red Cross and LTC Larry Dandridge of AUSA for their contributions in laying a solid foundation in this effort. We also want to thank Family Services, Inc. for their wonderful support in this project and, in particular, the tremendous efforts of Jordan Hardy.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles C. Baldwin".

Charles C. Baldwin  
Chaplain, Major General USAF (ret)  
Board of Directors  
US Vet Corps Resources

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**DISCLAIMER:** The organizations and individuals listed in this directory cannot and do not guarantee that they can provide assistance, but each of us are “committed” to doing everything within our charters and organizations, bylaws, governing Federal-State-Local laws and rules-regulations, and resolve to do whatever we can that is legal, moral, and ethical and within in our resources and approvals processes to help those in need. Everyone and every organization in this directory is devoted to trying to help our beloved wounded, ill, injured, and needy troops and disabled veterans, veterans, and their families. Although most of the services in this directory are free, some are not free. For example (and just one example) there are some co-pays for medications under hospice for Medicare covered hospice patients. However, all the organizations and individuals listed here are committed to help in every way possible and to make sure if there are any fees associated with their assistance that they are fully disclosed up front and before there are any charges accrued.

New organizations that wish to become a member of the Tri-County Veteran Support Network may submit contact information, mission statement, and website address (if applicable) via fax to (843) 416-2333.

**Please direct questions or concerns to:**

Tim Taylor, US Vet Corps Resources

(843) 276-2840 (p)

(843) 416-2333 (f)

[tim@usvetcorps.org](mailto:tim@usvetcorps.org)

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## **Basic Needs Assistance**

**Organization Name:** VA Homeless Prevention Program & Walk-In Clinic

**Contact:** Dawn Mills

**Address:** Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401

**Phone:** 843-577-5011

**E-mail:** [Dawn.Mills@va.gov](mailto:Dawn.Mills@va.gov)

**Purpose:** The Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center offers a walk-in clinic for veterans searching for re-housing assistance and means to prevent homelessness. In addition to referral services, the walk-in clinic offers basic outpatient medical care.

**Website:** <http://www.charleston.va.gov/services/homeless/index.asp>

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## **Community Resources**

**Organization Name:** Airman & Family Readiness Center-Transition Assistance Program (TAP)

**Contact:** Kevin Hawks, Community Readiness Specialist

**Address:** 104 E. Simpson Street, Building 500, Joint Base Charleston, SC 29404

**Phone:** 843-963-7231

**E-mail:** [kevin.hawks.1@us.af.mil](mailto:kevin.hawks.1@us.af.mil)

**Purpose:** The Airman & Family Readiness Center assists all Reserves, Active Duty, National Guard, retired veterans and civilian employees regardless of branch. The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) assists those associated specifically with the United States Air Force and prepares separating, retiring, and demobilizing service members and their families with skills and knowledge to facilitate a successful transition from life in the military to the civilian sector. The first step in the transition process is to complete the congressionally-mandated pre-separation counseling session, which provides detailed information on the various benefits and services available to separating members. Each Family Readiness Center is staffed to provide personalized assistance for all transition-related needs of armed services members.

**Website:** <http://www.jbcharleston.com/youth-and-family/air-base/airman-a-family-readiness>

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**Organization Name:** American Red Cross: Carolina Lowcountry Chapter

**Contact:** Jeanne Carmichael, Regional Manager, Service to the Armed Forces; Eileen Hadbavny, Chair of Service to the Armed Forces

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**Address:** 2424 City Hall Lane, North Charleston, SC 29406

**Phone:** 843-764-2323

**E-mail:** [Jeanne.Carmichael@redcross.org](mailto:Jeanne.Carmichael@redcross.org); [Eileen.Hadbavny@redcross.org](mailto:Eileen.Hadbavny@redcross.org)

**Purpose:** The American Red Cross provides emergency communication services to military (active duty, National Guard, Reserves, retired, and veterans) and their families, helping them locate and send messages to their loved ones across the globe. When service members return home, they have access to several programs and American Red Cross volunteers who are ready and willing to ease the transition from deployment or discharge into the civilian sector. Programs provided include, but are not limited to, emergency assistance and disaster preparedness, reconnection and family mental health education, resiliency training to cope with the challenges of life in the military, and supportive transitional services for wounded soldiers and their family members.

To initiate an Emergency Communication Message, call 1-877-272-7337 when you need to contact a service member in the event of a family emergency. This service is available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

**Website:** <http://www.redcross.org/what-we-do/support-military-families>

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**Organization Name:** Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA)

**Contact:** LTC W. Larry Dandridge (Retired), AUSA Charleston SC Chapter VP for Veterans Affairs

**Address:** 236 North Ainsdale Drive, North Charleston, SC 29414

**Phone:**

- 843-573-9657 (office)
- 843-573-9241 (fax)

**E-mail:** [LDandridge@earthlink.net](mailto:LDandridge@earthlink.net)

**Purpose:** AUSA is a not-for-profit, professional, education organization devoted to helping troops, veterans, their families, and all of our armed services communities in the Lowcountry. AUSA's Charleston Chapter helps troops and vets write resumes and cover letters, learn to network and interview effectively, follow up after interviews, and helps find suitable employment. The AUSA Charleston Chapter also adopts Army (Regular, Reserve, and National Guard) units to help identify short-term housing, ships supplies and comfort items to troops overseas, helps industries find reliable employees, hosts social events for troops and their families, distributes helpful publications for parents and spouses, and adopts the widows and widowers of troops killed in the war on terror.

**Website:** [www.ausa.org](http://www.ausa.org)

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**Organization Name:** Crisis Ministries

**Contact:** Capri Griffith, Director of Veteran Services

**Address:** 573 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29403

**Phone:**

- Crisis Ministries Main Line: 843-723-9477
- Supportive Services for Veterans & Families Hotline: 843-737-8389

**E-mail:** [cgriffith@charlestonhomeless.org](mailto:cgriffith@charlestonhomeless.org)

**Purpose:** Crisis Ministries is the largest homeless service provider in South Carolina, serving a hot meal daily in the Charleston-area homeless shelter and the Palmetto House shelter in Summerville, SC. Crisis Ministries staff are certified to oversee comprehensive case management for all clients, including military veterans, civilians, individuals and families.

**Website:** [www.charlestonhomeless.org](http://www.charlestonhomeless.org)

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**Organization Name:** East Cooper Baptist Church & Church Mobilization Hub of Charleston

**Contact:** Craig Tuck, Membership Development

**Address:** 361 Egypt Road, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

**Phone:** 843-856-3222

**E-mail:** [craigt@eastcooperbaptist.com](mailto:craigt@eastcooperbaptist.com)

**Purpose:** To equip others to live and spread the Christian faith in addition to positively impacting our surroundings in daily life.

**Website:** <http://www.eastcooperbaptist.com/>

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**Organization Name:** Family Services, Inc.

**Contact Name, Phone, E-mail:**

- Management-David Geer, CEO, 843-735-7802, [dgeer@fsisc.org](mailto:dgeer@fsisc.org)
  - Bankruptcy Counseling
-



- Behavioral Health Services
- VA Conservatorship Program
- Consumer Credit Counseling
- Foreclosure Prevention
- Home Purchase Programs
- Homeless Prevention/Supportive Services
- Homeownership Resource Center
- Representative Payee Program
- Supportive Services for Veterans & Families-Jordan Hardy, AmeriCorps VISTA Member, 843-735-5884, [jhardy@fsisc.org](mailto:jhardy@fsisc.org)

**Address:** 4925 Lacross Road, North Charleston, SC, 29406

**Purpose:** Family Services, Inc. has existed since 1888, bringing hope and quality customer service to the Charleston community and beyond. Our goal is to empower individuals and families to achieve financial independence and sustainability at a cost comparable to industry standards.

**Website:** [www.fsisc.org](http://www.fsisc.org)

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**Organization Name:** Fleet & Family Support Center (FFSC)

**Contact:** Mick Mahon, Community Readiness Specialist

**Address:** 1005 Jefferson Ave., Building 755, Goose Creek, SC 29445

**Phone:** 843-794-7427 or 843-794-7840

**E-mail:** [milton.mahon.1@us.af.mil](mailto:milton.mahon.1@us.af.mil)

**Purpose:** The Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC), Naval Weapons Station is the military community's primary resource for information and services. We are recognized by commands in the area as vital to the success of their mission. We serve with pride and distinction and are renowned for our superb performance. The Fleet and Family support Center assists all Reserves, Active Duty, National Guard, retired veterans and civilian employees regardless of service branch. The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) assists and prepares members separating, retiring, or demobilizing service members and their families with skills and knowledge to facilitate a successful transition from life in the military to the civilian sector. Each Family Readiness Center is staffed to provide personalized assistance for all transition-related needs of armed services members.

**Website:** <http://www.jbcharleston.com/youth-and-family/weapons-stations/fleet-a-family-support>

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**Organization Name:** Goodwill Industries of Lower South Carolina

**Contact:** Rolandra Marshall, Veteran Employment Specialist

**Address:** 2150 Eagle Drive, Building 100, North Charleston, SC 29406

**Phone:** 843-377-2834

**E-mail:** [rmarshall@palmettogoodwill.org](mailto:rmarshall@palmettogoodwill.org)

**Purpose:** The Palmetto Goodwill mission is to help people “achieve their full potential through the dignity and power of work.” This mission is achieved through employment training and job placement in 18 counties across South Carolina, helping recent graduates of work training programs face the challenges of preparing for the work force and maintaining steady employment to improve financial stability and well-being. Palmetto Goodwill staff offer assistance in career coaching, vocational assessment, skills training and job placement, case management, and training.

**Website:** [www.palmettogoodwill.org](http://www.palmettogoodwill.org)

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**Organization Name:** My Sister’s House, Inc.

**Contact:** Kristi Cogswell, Outreach Coordinator & Case Manager

**Phone:**

- 843-767-4069
- 843-744-3242
- 800-273-HOPE (24-hour crisis hotline)

**E-mail:** [hope@mysistershouse.com](mailto:hope@mysistershouse.com)

**Purpose:** To provide a safe-haven for women and children looking to escape the cycle of domestic violence and other forms of abuse. An emergency shelter is available 24 hours per day with 36 beds for women and children throughout Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties.

**Website:** <http://mysistershouse.org/>

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**Organization Name:** Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

**Contact:** Kim Bradley, Combat Casualty Visiting Nurse, RN, BSN

**Address:** 1004 Jefferson Avenue, NWS Building 717, Goose Creek, SC 29445

**Phone:** 571-216-6329

**E-mail:** [Kim.Bradley@nmcrs.org](mailto:Kim.Bradley@nmcrs.org)

**Purpose:** The Combat Casualty Assistance (CCA) Visiting Nurse Program is the only one in the country that provides ongoing, face-to-face visits and follow up by experienced Registered Nurses for any active duty or veteran Marine or Sailor who have served in a combat zone since 2001 and their families. Our nurses travel throughout the U.S. making visits to help them adjust to the changes in their lives and lifestyles as a result of their wartime service. These visits are provided at no cost regardless of their location and discharge status.

This includes:

- *Health education*- teaching clients and their families how to recognize and deal with physical and mental health issues.
- *Referrals and follow up*- finding relevant and appropriate community resources to help with various problems or challenges and following up to ensure the client and family are receiving the appropriate care and support.
- *Emotional support*- providing a knowledgeable medical professional to discuss any challenge or issue related to the sailor or Marine's combat service.

**Website:** <http://www.nmcrs.org/>

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**Organization Name:** The Salvation Army

**Contact:** Thomas Richmond

**Address:** 4248 Dorchester Rd., North Charleston, SC 29407

**Phone:** 843-747-5271

**E-mail:** [Thomas.Richmond@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Thomas.Richmond@uss.salvationarmy.org)

**Purpose:** The Salvation Army provides food, clothing, shelter, financial assistance, and after school programs to all those in need without discrimination.

**Website:** <http://www.salvationarmycarolinas.org/charleston/home/>

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**Organization Name:** SC Army National Guard-Family Programs

**Contact:** Audra Harmon, Family Assistance Specialist

**Address:** Citadel Armory, 68 Hagood Street, Charleston, SC 29403

**Phone:** 803-429-9792

**E-mail:** [audra.d.harmon.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:audra.d.harmon.ctr@mail.mil)

**Purpose:** The Family Assistance Program exists to educate National Guard members and their families about life in the military and how to cope with its unique challenges. In addition to this support, there is a Community Outreach component to connect National Guard members with local, regional and national resources to support them in their daily lives and activities, pre and post-deployment.

**Website:** [www.sguard.com](http://www.sguard.com)

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## **Benefits**

**Organization Name:** VA Walk-In Clinic

**Contact:** Dawn Mills

**Address:** Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401

**Phone:** 843-577-5011

**E-mail:** [Dawn.Mills@va.gov](mailto:Dawn.Mills@va.gov)

**Purpose:** The Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center offers a walk-in clinic for veterans searching for re-housing assistance and means to prevent homelessness. In addition to referral services, the walk-in clinic offers basic outpatient medical care and assists veterans identify the benefits they are eligible for as a result of their military service.

**Website:** <http://www.charleston.va.gov/services/homeless/index.asp>

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**Organization Name:** Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)

**Contact:** Meredith Miller, LISW-CP

**Address:** Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401

**Phone:** 843-297-0019

**E-mail:** [Meredith.Miller2@va.gov](mailto:Meredith.Miller2@va.gov)

**Purpose:** To avoid unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among veterans. The Veterans Justice Outreach initiative is a liaison between county jails, court, police and other justice partners, and the VA for veterans.

**NOTE:** The VA cannot provide legal representation.

**Website:** <http://www.benefits.va.gov/PERSONA/veteran-incarcerated.asp>

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## **Community Resources**

**Organization Name:** Berkeley County City Government-Veterans Affairs

**Contact:** Janice “Jan” Helton, Director of Veterans Affairs

**Address:**

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- Physical Location: 303 N. Goose Creek Blvd., Goose Creek, SC 29445
- Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6122 Moncks Corner, SC 29461

**Phone:** 843-377-8506

**E-mail:** [jhelton@berkeleycountysc.gov](mailto:jhelton@berkeleycountysc.gov)

**Purpose:** To help veterans apply for and receive benefits they may be eligible for as a result of their service. These benefits may include, but are not limited to, disability compensation, pension, death, education benefits, home loans, and medical/dental benefits.

**Website:** [www.berkeleycountysc.gov](http://www.berkeleycountysc.gov)

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**Organization Name:** Charleston County Veterans Affairs Office

**Contact:** Donald Morillo, Sr.

**Address:** 3346 Rivers Avenue, Suite D-2, North Charleston, SC 29405

**Phone:** 843-974-6360

**E-mail:** [dmorillo@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:dmorillo@charlestoncounty.org)

**Purpose:** This office is a state-mandated, county-funded organization constructed to aid veterans in filing claims for benefits counseling, dependents assistance, and veteran assistance. Veterans may receive help in preparing and submitting claims for the above-mentioned purposes, receiving guidance in researching, preparing, and presenting their appeals to the state and federal government.

**Website:** <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/Departments/VeteransAffairs/index.htm>

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**Organization Name:** Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

**Contact & E-mail:**

- **DAV District Contact:** Charles Wood – [davdistrict\\_1@att.net](mailto:davdistrict_1@att.net)
- **Veterans Helping Veterans Contact:** Brian Wilner – [bewilner@yahoo.com](mailto:bewilner@yahoo.com)

**Purpose:** To empower veterans to live life with respect and dignity, receiving the care they deserve.

**Website:** [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

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**Organization Name:** Dorchester County Veterans Affairs Office

**Contact:** Edward J. Burns III

**Address, Phone, E-mail:**

- Summerville Office:
  - Dorchester County Human Services, 500 North Main Street, Summerville, SC, 29483
  - 843-832-0050
  - [eburns@dorchestercounty.net](mailto:eburns@dorchestercounty.net)
- St. George Office:
  - Department of Social Services, 201 Johnston Street, St. George, SC, 29477
  - 843-563-0116

**Purpose:** To assist veterans and their families with applications for benefits, to aid in preparing forms to submit claims to receive benefits, and to help veterans and their family members receive benefits from the state of South Carolina.

**Website:** <http://www.dorchestercounty.net/index.aspx?page=93>

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**Organization Name:** Fleet Reserve Association Lowcountry-Branch 269

**Contact:** Fred Bolz

**Address:** 99 Wisteria Lane, Goose Creek, SC 29445

**Phone:** (843) 797 3515

**E-mail:** [htcmret@aol.com](mailto:htcmret@aol.com)

**Purpose:** To represent the interests of United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard members, retired veterans and their families to the members of the United States Congress.

**Website:** [www.fra.org](http://www.fra.org)

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**Organization Name:** Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Charleston Chapter

**Contact:** Col. Butch Fuller

**Address:** P.O. Box 70421, Charleston, SC 29415

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**E-mail:** [butchfuller@aol.com](mailto:butchfuller@aol.com)

**Phone:** 843-821-0169

**Purpose:** MOAA advocates for members belonging to all branches of the military who have held an officer rank during their career. This organization actively seeks benefits and compensation for its members and their families, participating in military personnel matters for the benefit of its officers.

**Website:** <http://www.charlestonmoaa.com>

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**Organization Name:** Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

**Contact:** Kim Bradley, Combat Casualty Visiting Nurse, RN, BSN

**Address:** 1004 Jefferson Avenue, NWS Building 717, Goose Creek, SC 29445

**Phone:** 571-216-6329

**E-mail:** [Kim.Bradley@nmcrs.org](mailto:Kim.Bradley@nmcrs.org)

**Purpose:** The Combat Casualty Assistance (CCA) Visiting Nurse Program is the only one in the country that provides ongoing, face-to-face visits and follow up by experienced Registered Nurses for any active duty or veteran Marine or Sailor who have served in a combat zone since 2001 and their families. Our nurses travel throughout the U.S. making visits to help them adjust to the changes in their lives and lifestyles as a result of their wartime service. These visits are provided at no cost regardless of their location and discharge status.

This includes:

- *Health education*- teaching clients and their families how to recognize and deal with physical and mental health issues.
- *Referrals and follow up*- finding relevant and appropriate community resources to help with various problems or challenges and following up to ensure the client and family are receiving the appropriate care and support.
- *Emotional support*- providing a knowledgeable medical professional to discuss any challenge or issue related to the sailor or Marine's combat service.

**Website:** <http://www.nmcrs.org/>

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**Organization Name:** The Retired Enlisted Association

**Contact:** James W. Rodgers

**E-mail:** [jrodgers11@sc.rr.com](mailto:jrodgers11@sc.rr.com)

**Purpose:** The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) was established by 2 retired USAF officers with the intention of serving as the voice of service members to ensure all promised benefits were honored during and after serving.

**Website:** <http://www.trea.org/>

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**Organization Name:** South Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs

**Contact:** Shelby Garrett

**Address:** Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401

**Phone:** 843-789-7506

**E-mail:** [Shelby.garrett@va.gov](mailto:Shelby.garrett@va.gov)

**Purpose:** To assist veterans and their families in filing claims for federal benefits earned through their service.

**Website:** [www.charleston.va.gov](http://www.charleston.va.gov)

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## **College Education/Vocational Certification**

**Organization Name:** Air Force Association (AFA)

**Contact:** Linda Sturgeon, President; Chief, Education Element, Joint Base Charleston

**Phone:** 843-963-4576

**E-mail:** [linda.sturgeon@us.af.mil](mailto:linda.sturgeon@us.af.mil)

**Purpose:** The Air Force Association (AFA) is a non-profit, independent, professional military and aerospace education association promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation. AFA publishes the Air Force Magazine, conducts national symposia and distributes information via outreach programs. It sponsors professional development seminars and recognizes excellence in the education and aerospace fields through national award programs. AFA presents scholarships and grants to Air Force active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members and their dependents. The AFA also awards educator grants to promote science and math education at the elementary and secondary school level.

**Website:** [www.afa.org/home](http://www.afa.org/home)

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**Organization Name:** Education Element-Joint Base Charleston

**Contact:** Linda Sturgeon, Chief

**Address:** 104 E. Simpson Street, Charleston, SC 29405

**Phone:** 843-963-4406

**E-mail:** [linda.sturgeon@us.af.mil](mailto:linda.sturgeon@us.af.mil)

**Purpose:** The Education Element at Joint Base Charleston serves Airmen and their family members in counseling for degrees in higher education, manages the Air Force Military Tuition Assistance Program, and oversees the delivery of training techniques for active and reserve-duty military occupation specialties.

**Website:** <http://www.charleston.af.mil/ownersmanual/628thforcesupportsquadron.asp>

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**Organization Name:** Goodwill Industries of Lower South Carolina

**Contact:** Rolandra Marshall, Veteran Employment Specialist

**Address:** 2150 Eagle Drive, Building 100, North Charleston, SC 29406

**Phone:** 843-377-2834

**E-mail:** [rmarshall@palmettogoodwill.org](mailto:rmarshall@palmettogoodwill.org)

**Purpose:** The Palmetto Goodwill mission is to help people “achieve their full potential through the dignity and power of work.” This mission is achieved through employment training and job placement in 18 counties across South Carolina, helping recent graduates of work training programs face the challenges of preparing for the work force and maintaining steady employment to improve financial stability and well-being. Palmetto Goodwill staff offer assistance in career coaching, vocational assessment, skills training and job placement, case management, and training.

**Website:** [www.palmettogoodwill.org](http://www.palmettogoodwill.org)

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**Organization Name:** South Carolina Military Family Care Association

**Contact:** Michele Canchola

**E-mail:** [michele.canchola1@us.army.mil](mailto:michele.canchola1@us.army.mil)

**Purpose:** Created to enhance the quality of life for all service members, the SC Military Family Care Association (SCMFA) provides scholarships to the families of military members and also finances various efforts to ensure units are mission ready. Funds from the SCMFA also provide emergency assistance in cases of unpreventable hardship.

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**Organization Name:** Veterans Upward Bound-Trident Technical College

**Contact:** Brian Jerdan, Capt. USAF, Ret.

**Address:**

- Location: Trident Technical College Main Campus, 7000 Rivers Avenue, Building 700, Room 127, North Charleston, SC 29406
- Mailing Address: Veterans Upward Bound, P.O. Box 118067, VB-M, Charleston, SC 29423-8067

**Phone:** 843-574-6871

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**E-mail:** [brian.jerdan@tridenttech.edu](mailto:brian.jerdan@tridenttech.edu)

**Purpose:** Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is a federally-funded program designed to prepare eligible military veterans for postsecondary education to reach their academic goals. With one-on-one guidance from VUB staff, the veteran receives help in identifying short and long-term goals, needs, personal interests related to education and potential career paths, using strengths and overcoming weaknesses identified through a free personal academic assessment, and assistance with college admissions and financial aid. After completing their studies, VUB can continue to offer assistance as needed.

**Website:** [http://www.tridenttech.edu/vub\\_14801.htm](http://www.tridenttech.edu/vub_14801.htm)

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## **Employment**

**Organization Name:** Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)

**Contact:** Joan Dunn, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist

**Address:** Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC, 29401

**Phone:** 843-789-7830

**E-mail:** [Joan.Dunn@va.gov](mailto:Joan.Dunn@va.gov)

**Purpose:** To assist veterans in preparing for, obtaining, and maintaining employment. To qualify for services veterans must have a mental or physical disability or be homeless and unemployed. Referrals are made by VA providers. Please call for additional information.

**Website:** [http://www.benefits.va.gov/columbia/vre\\_ncharleston.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/columbia/vre_ncharleston.asp)

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## **Community Resources**

**Organization Name:** Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA)

**Contact:** LTC W. Larry Dandridge (Retired), AUSA Charleston SC Chapter VP for Veterans Affairs

**Address:** 236 North Ainsdale Drive, North Charleston, SC 29414

**Phone:** 843-573-9657 (office)

**E-mail:** [LDandridge@earthlink.net](mailto:LDandridge@earthlink.net)

**Purpose:** AUSA is a not-for-profit, professional, education organization devoted to helping troops, veterans, their families, and all of our armed services communities in the Lowcountry. AUSA's Charleston Chapter helps troops and vets write resumes and cover letters, learn to network and interview effectively, follow up after interviews, and helps find suitable employment. The AUSA Charleston Chapter also adopts Army (Regular, Reserve, and National Guard) units to help identify short-term housing, ships supplies and comfort items to troops overseas, helps industries find reliable employees, hosts social events for troops and their families, distributes helpful publications for parents and spouses, and adopts the widows and widowers of troops killed in the war on terror.

**Website:** [www.ausa.org](http://www.ausa.org)

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**Organization Name:** Charleston City Police Department

**Contact:** Lt. Sherri Rowan

**Address:** 180 Lockwood Blvd., Charleston, SC 29403

**Phone:** 843-901-3769

**E-mail:** [rowans@charlestonsc.gov](mailto:rowans@charlestonsc.gov)

**Purpose:** Charleston Police Department provides assistance to current military and veterans through the S.M.A.R.T. program (Supporting Military Active in Reintegration & Transition), which includes sworn police officers and non-sworn civilian employees activated for military service. The program pairs a Military Support Officer who is also a CPD employee with the activated office.

**Website:** [www.charlestonsc.gov](http://www.charlestonsc.gov)

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**Organization Name:** Goodwill Industries of Lower South Carolina

**Contact:** Rolandra Marshall, Veteran Employment Specialist

**Address:** 2150 Eagle Drive, Building 100, North Charleston, SC 29406

**Phone:** 843-377-2834

**E-mail:** [rmarshall@palmettogoodwill.org](mailto:rmarshall@palmettogoodwill.org)

**Purpose:** The Palmetto Goodwill mission is to help people “achieve their full potential through the dignity and power of work.” This mission is achieved through employment training and job placement in 18 counties across South Carolina, helping recent graduates of work training programs face the challenges of preparing for the work force and maintaining steady employment to improve financial stability and well-being. Palmetto Goodwill staff offer assistance in career coaching, vocational assessment, skills training and job placement, case management, and training.

**Website:** [www.palmettogoodwill.org](http://www.palmettogoodwill.org)

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**Organization Name:** Hero2Hired (H2H): Jobs for Reserve Components and Military Spouses

**Contact:** Elisa Edwards

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**E-mail:** [elisa.m.edwards2.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:elisa.m.edwards2.ctr@mail.mil)

**Purpose:** To connect military-friendly employers with Reserve component service members looking for jobs. The website offers information on upcoming virtual and in-person job fairs, the ability to browse by career category and other features, and information on how skills gained in the military will transfer to certain jobs in the civilian sector.

**Website:** [www.h2h.org](http://www.h2h.org)

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**Organization Name:** SC Works Trident

**Contact:** Chuck Alexander, Charleston location

**Address & Phone:**

- SC Works Charleston Center
  - 1930 Hanahan Road, Suite 200, North Charleston, SC 29406
  - 843-574-1800
- SC Works Berkeley Center
  - 100 South Highway 52, Moncks Corner, SC 29461
  - 843-761-4400
- SC Works Dorchester Center
  - 2885 West 5<sup>th</sup> North Street, Highway 78, Summerville, SC 29483
  - 843-821-0695

**E-mail:** [calexander@dew.sc.gov](mailto:calexander@dew.sc.gov)

**Purpose:** To connect potential employees with employers through career fairs, job postings, and skills training.

**Website:** <http://www.tridentscworks.org/index.htm>

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**Organization Name:** South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation

**Address, Contact, Phone, E-mail:**

- Charleston County Center
  - 4360 Dorchester Road, North Charleston, SC 29405
  - 843-740-1600
- Berkeley-Dorchester County Center
  - 2954 South Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, SC 29461
  - 843-761-6036

**Purpose:** SC Vocational Rehabilitation provides a range of services to assist disabled individuals in obtaining employment. Each client works with an employment counselor to determine their skill range and personal strengths to create a rehabilitative skills training plan to become employment ready. The staff and clients are both highly motivated to find work suited to their interests and abilities to encourage pride and positive societal and familial contribution.

**Website:** [www.scvrd.net](http://www.scvrd.net)

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## **Financial Assistance**

**Organization Name:** Family Services, Inc.

**Contact Name, Phone, E-mail:**

- Management-David Geer, CEO, 843-735-7802, [dgeer@fsisc.org](mailto:dgeer@fsisc.org)
- Bankruptcy Counseling
- Behavioral Health Services
- VA Conservatorship Program
- Consumer Credit Counseling
- Foreclosure Prevention
- Home Purchase Programs
- Homeless Prevention/Supportive Services
- Homeownership Resource Center
- Representative Payee Program
- Supportive Services for Veterans & Families-Jordan Hardy, AmeriCorps VISTA Member, 843-735-5884, [jhardy@fsisc.org](mailto:jhardy@fsisc.org)

**Address:** 4925 Lacross Road, North Charleston, SC, 29406

**Purpose:** Family Services, Inc. has existed since 1888, bringing hope and quality customer service to the Charleston community and beyond. Our goal is to empower individuals and families to achieve financial independence and sustainability at a cost comparable to industry standards.

**Website:** [www.fsisc.org](http://www.fsisc.org)

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**Organization Name:** Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

**Contact:** Kim Bradley, Combat Casualty Visiting Nurse, RN, BSN

**Address:** 1004 Jefferson Avenue, NWS Building 717, Goose Creek, SC 29445

**Phone:** 571-216-6329

**E-mail:** [Kim.Bradley@nmcrs.org](mailto:Kim.Bradley@nmcrs.org)

**Purpose:** The Combat Casualty Assistance (CCA) Visiting Nurse Program is the only one in the country that provides ongoing, face-to-face visits and follow up by experienced Registered Nurses for any active duty or veteran Marine or Sailor who have served in a combat zone since 2001 and their families. Our

nurses travel throughout the U.S. making visits to help them adjust to the changes in their lives and lifestyles as a result of their wartime service. These visits are provided at no cost regardless of their location and discharge status.

This includes:

- *Health education*- teaching clients and their families how to recognize and deal with physical and mental health issues.
- *Referrals and follow up*- finding relevant and appropriate community resources to help with various problems or challenges and following up to ensure the client and family are receiving the appropriate care and support.
- *Emotional support*- providing a knowledgeable medical professional to discuss any challenge or issue related to the sailor or Marine's combat service.

**Website:** <http://www.nmcrcs.org/>

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**Organization Name:** The Salvation Army

**Contact:** Thomas Richmond

**Address:** 4248 Dorchester Rd., North Charleston, SC 29407

**Phone:** 843-747-5271

**E-mail:** [Thomas.Richmond@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Thomas.Richmond@uss.salvationarmy.org)

**Purpose:** The Salvation Army provides food, clothing, shelter, financial assistance, and after school programs to all those in need without discrimination.

**Website:** <http://www.salvationarmycarolinas.org/charleston/home/>

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**Organization Name:** South Carolina Military Family Care Association

**Contact:** Michele Canchola

**E-mail:** [michele.canchola1@us.army.mil](mailto:michele.canchola1@us.army.mil)

**Purpose:** Created to enhance the quality of life for all service members, the SC Military Family Care Association (SCMFA) provides scholarships to the families of military members and also finances various efforts to ensure units are mission ready. Funds from the SCMFA also provide emergency assistance in cases of unpreventable hardship.

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**Organization Name:** Semper Fi Fund

**Contact:** Duane Perry

**E-mail:** [duanebperry@gmail.com](mailto:duanebperry@gmail.com)

**Purpose:** The Marine Corps Semper Fi Fund was created by 9 Marine Corps spouses to support and assist injured soldiers at the beginning of their road to recovery, during the process, and in their re-integration following rehabilitation. This fund has evolved to serve all service branches, active and reserves, current military and retired. Support from the fund includes adaptive housing, family support, transportation, rehabilitative sports and therapies, and more.

**Website:** <http://semperfifund.org/>

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**Organization Name:** Support the Fallen

**Contact:** Christopher Freshman, Founder and President

**Phone:** 843-847-1001

**E-mail:** [ruck4wounded@yahoo.com](mailto:ruck4wounded@yahoo.com)

**Purpose:** A non-profit organization designed to support and raise awareness for those wounded while serving in the military or as a first responder. All donations help pay medical bills, feed and clothe their family members, and meet any other emergency need presented.

**Website:** <http://www.supportthefallen.org/>

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**Organization Name:** Trident United Way Prosperity Centers

**Address:**

- Berkeley Center, 325 East Main Street, Moncks Corner, SC 29461
  - Phone: 843-761-6033
- Dorchester Center, 222 Old Trolley Road, Summerville, SC 29483
  - Phone: 843-282-6294

**Contact:** Walter Simmons; Amanda Lawrence

**E-mail:** [wsimmons@tuw.org](mailto:wsimmons@tuw.org); [alawrence@tuw.org](mailto:alawrence@tuw.org)

**Purpose:** Through the collaboration between The Benefit Bank, Family Services, Inc., and Palmetto Goodwill, hundreds of Lowcounty residents have been able to increase their financial stability and find suitable employment.

**Website:** <http://www.tuw.org/prosperity-centers>

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## **Government**

**Organization Name:** Office of Senator Lindsey Graham

**Contact:** Leslie Thrasher

**Address:** 530 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Suite 202, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

**Phone:** 843-849-3887

**E-mail:** [1mpl-lgraham@lgraham.senate.gov](mailto:1mpl-lgraham@lgraham.senate.gov)

**Purpose:** The Office of Senator Lindsey Graham is dedicated to assisting veterans and their family members meeting their needs. These resources include filing for VA benefits and medical claims, applying to receive the Montgomery GI Bill to pursue higher education, receiving assistance with suicide prevention, filing for survival benefits, accessing military records, and receiving benefits from awards earned while in the service.

**Website:** <http://www.lgraham.senate.gov/public/>

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**Organization Name:** Congressman Sanford

**Address:** 530 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Suite 201, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

**Phone:** 843-352-7572

**Purpose:** Congressman Mark Sanford serves the First District of South Carolina, focusing on various issues pertinent to the population of Charleston and surrounding areas of the Lowcountry.

**Website:** <http://sanford.house.gov/resources/veterans-resources>

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**Organization Name:** Office of Senator Tim Scott

**Contact:** Roger Yongue

**Address:** 2500 City Hall Lane, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Suite, North Charleston, SC, 29406

**Phone:** (843) 727-4525

**E-mail:** [Roger\\_Yongue@scott.senate.gov](mailto:Roger_Yongue@scott.senate.gov)

**Purpose:** The Office of Senator Tim Scott is dedicated to assisting veterans. These resources include filing for VA benefits and medical claims, applying to receive the Montgomery GI Bill to pursue higher

education, receiving assistance with suicide prevention, filing for survival benefits, accessing military records, and receiving benefits from awards earned while attached to the service.

**Website:** <http://www.scott.senate.gov/resources/veterans>

## **Health & Wellness**

**Organization Name:** Charleston Vet Center

**Contact:** Emily G. Shannon, Team Leader

**Address:** 5603-A Rivers Avenue, North Charleston, SC, 29406

Moving soon to: 3625 West Montague Ave., North Charleston, SC 29418

**Phone:** 843-789-7000

**Purpose:** The Charleston Vet Center is part of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The goal of the Vet Center program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible combat veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life. Services are also provided to veterans who suffer from PTSD as a result of Military Sexual Trauma. The family members of all veterans listed above are eligible for Vet Center services as well. Bereavement counseling services are provided to surviving parents, spouses, children and siblings of service members who die of any cause while on active duty, to include federally activated Reserve and National Guard personnel.

**Website:** <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>

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**Organization Name:** VA Medical Foster Home (VA MFH) Program

**Contact:** Natasha Simeon-Major

**Address:** Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401

**Phone:** 843-789-7071

**E-mail:** [Natasha.simeon-major@va.gov](mailto:Natasha.simeon-major@va.gov)

**Purpose:** The Department of Veterans Affairs has sponsored this Community Residential Care (CRC) program to provide long-term medical support to veterans who are no longer able to live independently with a serious disability or medical condition and do not wish to reside in a hospital or nursing home-type setting. The VA MFH Program Coordinator is responsible for locating an individual or family unit willing to open their home and provide 24/7 assistance and care for the veteran's personal needs.

**Website:** [www.charleston.va.gov](http://www.charleston.va.gov)

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**Organization Name:** VA PTSD Clinical Team

**Contact:** Dr. Ron Acierno, Director of PTSD Clinical Team

**Address:** Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401

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**Phone:** 843-789-7246

**E-mail:** [acierno@musc.edu](mailto:acierno@musc.edu)

**Purpose:** The PTSD Clinical Team works with veterans and non-veterans in Charleston and beyond to confront mental health struggles with various forms of evidence-based therapeutic interventions. The program is one of the few in the world to earn the distinguished SOARS award for its effectiveness, drawing individuals and families seeking relief and answers to the Medical University of South Carolina and the Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

**Website:** <http://www.muschealth.com/psychiatry/services/adult/PTSD/>

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**Organization Name:** VA Walk-In Clinic

**Contact:** Dawn Mills

**Address:** Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401

**Phone:** 843-577-5011

**E-mail:** [Dawn.Mills@va.gov](mailto:Dawn.Mills@va.gov)

**Purpose:** The Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center offers a walk-in clinic for veterans searching for re-housing assistance and means to prevent homelessness. In addition to referral services, the walk-in clinic offers basic outpatient medical care.

**Website:** <http://www.charleston.va.gov/services/homeless/index.asp>

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### **Community Resources**

**Organization Name:** Air Force Reserve Psychological Health Services

**Contact:** Regan Morris

**Phone:** 843-963-3559

**E-mail:** [regan.morris@us.af.mil](mailto:regan.morris@us.af.mil)

**Purpose:** To promote total health and wellness for optimal fitness and mission readiness among Air Force Reserve personnel and their family members.

**Website:** <http://www.315aw.afrc.af.mil/>

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**Organization Name:** American Red Cross: Carolina Lowcountry Chapter

**Contact:** Jeanne Carmichael, Regional Manager, Service to the Armed Forces; Eileen Hadbavny, Chair of Service to the Armed Forces

**Address:** 2424 City Hall Lane, North Charleston, SC 29406

**Phone:** 843-764-2323

**E-mail:** [Jeanne.Carmichael@redcross.org](mailto:Jeanne.Carmichael@redcross.org); [Eileen.Hadbavny@redcross.org](mailto:Eileen.Hadbavny@redcross.org)

**Purpose:** The American Red Cross provides emergency communication services to military (active duty, National Guard, Reserves, retired, and veterans) and their families, helping them locate and send messages to their loved ones across the globe. When service members return home, they have access to several programs and American Red Cross volunteers who are ready and willing to ease the transition from deployment or discharge into the civilian sector. Programs provided include, but are not limited to, emergency assistance and disaster preparedness, reconnection and family mental health education, resiliency training to cope with the challenges of life in the military, and supportive transitional services for wounded soldiers and their family members.

To initiate an Emergency Communication Message, call 1-877-272-7337 when you need to contact a service member in the event of a family emergency. This service is available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

**Website:** <http://www.redcross.org/what-we-do/support-military-families>

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**Organization Name:** Berkeley Community Mental Health Center

**Contact:** Debbie Calcote

**Address:** SC Department of Mental Health, 403 Stony Landing Road, P.O. Box 1030, Moncks Corner, SC 29461

**Phone:** 843-761-8282

**E-mail:** [dte27@scdmh.org](mailto:dte27@scdmh.org)

**Purpose:** SCDMH Community Mental Health Center provides adults with serious mental illnesses and children with serious behavioral and emotional disorders with outpatient mental health services. Services include: crisis intervention; assessment; individual, group and family therapies; nursing services; psychiatric medical assessments.



To make an appointment, please call the phone number listed to speak with the lead scheduler.

**Website:** <http://www.bcmhc.org/>

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**Organization Name:** Bridges for End of Life

**Contact:** Anne Bauer

**Address:** P.O. Box 417, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

**E-mail:** [annebauer@comcast.net](mailto:annebauer@comcast.net)

**Purpose:** Bridges Resources for End of Life Realities is a hospice and palliative care organization dedicated to providing access to end of life support for patients, caregivers and family members. Bridges also provides the We Honor Veterans coalition effort, which is a program developed between the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Department of Veterans Affairs to meet the specific and often unique needs of veterans at the end of their lives. The program educates caregivers and hospice professionals, plans and hosts community-wide events to increase awareness and education related to VA benefits, and providing information needed by those caring for veterans at the end of their lifespan.

**Website:** [www.bridgessc.org](http://www.bridgessc.org)

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**Organization Name:** Center for Behavioral Health

**Contact:** Ellie Smith, LPC, CAC II

**Address:** 2301 Cosgrove Avenue #F, North Charleston, SC 29405

**Phone:** 843-529-0700

**Purpose:** The Center for Behavioral Health is part of a group of outpatient facilities that treat various problems related to substance abuse, specifically with opiate addiction. Counseling is a crucial part of the treatment plan. Counseling services include individual as well as family and group counseling. The counseling staff offers diversity in background and therapeutic approach that allows the client to find the best fit for their goals and needs.

**Website:** <http://centerforbehavioralhealth.com/treatment-centers/south-carolina/>

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**Organization Name:** Charleston Center: A Division of Charleston County Government

**Contact:** Chanda Brown

**Address:**

- Physical Location: 5 Charleston Center Drive, Charleston, SC, 29401
- Mailing Address: Charleston Center, P.O. Box 31398, Charleston, SC, 29417-1398

**Phone:**

- 843-958-3300 (Main line)
- 843-722-0100 (24-hour hotline)

**Purpose:** The Charleston Center is a division of the Charleston County Government and the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS), serving the Charleston community with substance abuse prevention, intervention, education, and treatment services. A chronic addiction to alcohol and other substances may be fatal if left untreated, so please refer any individual who appears to need assistance in overcoming an addiction to any substance.

The Charleston Center is accredited by the Commission of Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) to provide the following services: inpatient/outpatient services, Alcohol and Drug Safety Action Program, Methadone/Suboxone services, urine drug screening lab, prevention/education services, among many others.

**Website:** <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/daodas/>

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**Organization Name:** Charleston Dorchester Mental Health (CDMHC)

**Contact:** Tamara Starnes, Manager of Forensic Services

**Address & Phone:**

- Charleston: 2100 Charlie Hall Blvd., Charleston, SC 29414; 843-852-4100
- Dorchester: 106 Springview Lane, Summerville, SC, 29485; 843-873-5063

**Purpose:** To provide quality mental health care to adults with persistent mental and emotional illnesses, to adults with psychiatric concerns, and to children with serious emotional disturbances. These services are provided regardless of ability to pay and the state-sponsored facility is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The conditions that are treated through evidence-

based care include, but are not limited to, anxiety, depression, behavioral problems, bipolar disorder, suicide risk, schizophrenia and schizoaffective, and trauma.

**Website:** <http://www.charlestandorchestermhc.org/>

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**Organization Name:** Chesapeake Health Education Program: Veteran Villas

**Contact:** Joe Towles

**Address:**

- Old Navy Base (main location): 1502 Manley Avenue, North Charleston, SC 29405
- Ashley Phosphate Road: 8124 Millstone Drive, North Charleston, SC 29420

**Phone:** 849-452-9258

**E-mail:** [joevetvilla@gmail.com](mailto:joevetvilla@gmail.com)

**Purpose:** The Chesapeake Health Education Program (CHEP) and the Ralph H. Johnson Medical Center partnered in 1997 to create a transitional housing program for homeless veterans on the de-activated US Navy base in Charleston, SC. Veteran Villas allows veterans to continue their substance use therapy while searching for employment and safe, affordable housing in the Charleston area, but units are also offered to veterans in need of housing in general.

To receive assistance from the CHEP and Veteran Villas program staff, veterans must be referred from the walk-in clinic offered through the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center.

**Website:** [http://chepinc.org/southern\\_sites](http://chepinc.org/southern_sites)

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**Organization Name:** Coastal Samaritan

**Contact:** Kathy Heustess, Executive Director, MSW, LISW-CP

**Address:** 901 North Kings Highway, Myrtle Beach, SC, 29577

**Phone:** 843-448-4820

**E-mail:** [executivedirector@coastalsamaritan.org](mailto:executivedirector@coastalsamaritan.org)

**Purpose:** Coastal Samaritan provides professional counseling services, consultation, and education that respects spiritual and personal values.

**Website:** <http://www.coastalsamaritan.org/>

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**Organization Name:** Counseling Center of Georgetown

**Contact:** Joseph Scanlon, Master Addiction Counselor

**Address:** 906 Prince Street, Georgetown, SC 29440

**Phone:** 843-527-8118

**E-mail:** [qigong88@aol.com](mailto:qigong88@aol.com)

**Purpose:** The Counseling Center of Georgetown (CCG) offers several services to outpatient clients including, but not limited to, individual counseling, marriage and family therapy, child/adolescent services, stress and anxiety management, alcohol and substance abuse treatment, pain management, and more.

**Website:** <http://www.ccghelpsite.com/home.html>

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**Organization Name:** East Cooper Baptist Church & Church Mobilization Hub of Charleston

**Contact:** Craig Tuck, Membership Development

**Address:** 361 Egypt Road, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

**Phone:** 843-856-3222

**E-mail:** [craigt@eastcooperbaptist.com](mailto:craigt@eastcooperbaptist.com)

**Purpose:** To equip others to live and spread the Christian faith in addition to positively impacting our surroundings in daily life.

**Website:** <http://www.eastcooperbaptist.com/>

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**Organization Name:** Echo Health Care Group

**Contact:** Dr. Mary Martin, Col. USAF (Ret.), CEO & Founder

**Address:** 2234 Folly Road, Charleston, SC 29412

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**Phone:** 843-817-4336

**E-mail:** [mary@echohealthcaregroup.org](mailto:mary@echohealthcaregroup.org)

**Purpose:** Dr. Martin and her colleagues at the Echo Healthcare Group focus on healthcare management, consulting and education to improve work relations and effectiveness. In addition to her work with Echo Healthcare Group, Dr. Martin is part of ongoing research efforts at the Medical University of South Carolina and investigates the development and necessity of inter-professional relationships.

**Website:** [www.echohealthcaregroup.com](http://www.echohealthcaregroup.com)

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**Organization Name:** Embrace Hospice

**Contact:** Jane Heffron, Hospice Liaison

**Address:** 3640-A Ashley Phosphate Road, North Charleston, SC 29418

**Phone:** 843-760-4410

**E-mail:** [jheffron@embracehealthcare.org](mailto:jheffron@embracehealthcare.org)

**Purpose:** To support families as they search for peace in the final days of life, taking the spiritual, emotional, physical and financial needs of our patients and their families into account. We want to be there for your family.

**Website:** [www.embrace-hospice.com](http://www.embrace-hospice.com)

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**Organization Name:** Gentiva Hospice

**Contact:** Marcia Sisson, LMSW

**Address:** 4975 Lacross Rd., Suite 200, North Charleston, SC 29406

**Phone:** 843-529-3100

**E-mail:** [Marcia.Sisson@gentiva.com](mailto:Marcia.Sisson@gentiva.com)

**Purpose:** To be recognized as the leader in the delivery of quality hospice care, providing excellent clinical services with the highest sense of compassion for patients and their loved ones.

**Website:** [www.gentiva.com](http://www.gentiva.com)

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**Organization Name:** Heartland Hospice

**Contact:** Erin Johnson, Volunteer Coordinator

**Address:** 1064 Gardner Road, Suite 204, Charleston, SC 29407

**Phone:** 843-766-7646

**E-mail:** [4662officestaff20@her-manorcare.com](mailto:4662officestaff20@her-manorcare.com)

**Purpose:** To provide the best quality of hospice and palliative care for patients and their families, easing the bereavement and grieving process with the help of caring and highly-qualified staff.

**Website:** [www.Heartlandhospice.com](http://www.Heartlandhospice.com)

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**Organization Name:** Hidden Wounds, Inc.

**Contact:** Ashley McGee, Marketing and Public Relations

**Address:** 7001 St. Andrews Road #323, Columbia, SC 29212

**Phone:** 803-403-8460

**E-mail:** [Ashley@hiddenwounds.org](mailto:Ashley@hiddenwounds.org)

**Purpose:** To provide short-term emergency counseling for military members, retired veterans, and their family members experiencing mental health struggles and/or crises.

**Website:** [www.hiddenwounds.org](http://www.hiddenwounds.org)

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**Organization Name:** Joint Base Charleston Chapel

**Contact:** Chaplain (Major) Daniel Thompson, USAF

**Address:** Charleston Air Force Base, 107 Arthur Drive, Charleston, SC 29404

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**Phone:**

- During normal base chapel hours: 843-963-5467
- After hours, emergencies only: 843-963-8400

**E-mail:** [Daniel.thompson.2@us.af.mil](mailto:Daniel.thompson.2@us.af.mil)

**Purpose:** The Joint Base Charleston chaplains are responsible for the spiritual care and facilitation of free religious expression for Airmen and their family members on base and in various deployment locations world-wide. While duties include presiding over religious ceremonies and administering religious rites, active and reserve duty chaplains also provide the following services: addiction/substance abuse, combat stress, deployment/re-deployment, domestic violence, ethical/moral dilemmas, health-related issues, life & career transitions, mental health concerns, relationships (family, non-family, and marital), respect for religious beliefs and accommodation, sexual assault and harassment, spiritual guidance, suicide prevention, and advice for work-place issues.

If a veteran maintains their retiree ID card, they may participate in religious services and access spiritual counsel through Joint Base Charleston.

**For a list of chapel services and faith groups served, please visit the chapel website here:**

<http://www.charleston.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=15749>.

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**Organization Name:** National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

**Address, Contact, Phone, E-mail:**

- NAMI of Charleston
  - Marian Rzepkowski, President & Charleston Representative
  - 303 Monarch Court, Charleston, SC 29414-9053
  - 843-871-1009
  - [marianrzep@comcast.net](mailto:marianrzep@comcast.net)
- NAMI of Beaufort
  - Laura Conway
  - P.O. Box 24128, Hilton Head, SC 29925
  - 843-681-2200

**Purpose:** NAMI Charleston provides monthly support groups to clients experiencing struggles with mental illness, but also offer support to family members and friends of the clients, recognizing that the struggles affect more than one individual. Counseling and support services are offered for those struggling with depression, schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, and many others.

**Website:** <http://www.nami.org>

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**Organization Name:** Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

**Contact:** Kim Bradley, Combat Casualty Visiting Nurse, RN, BSN

**Address:** 1004 Jefferson Avenue, NWS Building 717, Goose Creek, SC 29445

**Phone:** 571-216-6329

**E-mail:** [Kim.Bradley@nmcrs.org](mailto:Kim.Bradley@nmcrs.org)

**Purpose:** The Combat Casualty Assistance (CCA) Visiting Nurse Program is the only one in the country that provides ongoing, face-to-face visits and follow up by experienced Registered Nurses for any active duty or veteran Marine or Sailor who have served in a combat zone since 2001 and their families. Our nurses travel throughout the U.S. making visits to help them adjust to the changes in their lives and lifestyles as a result of their wartime service. These visits are provided at no cost regardless of their location and discharge status.

This includes:

- *Health education*- teaching clients and their families how to recognize and deal with physical and mental health issues.
- *Referrals and follow up*- finding relevant and appropriate community resources to help with various problems or challenges and following up to ensure the client and family are receiving the appropriate care and support.
- *Emotional support*- providing a knowledgeable medical professional to discuss any challenge or issue related to the sailor or Marine's combat service.

**Website:** <http://www.nmcrs.org/>

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**Organization Name:** Odyssey Hospice of Charleston

**Contact:** Dana Madanski

**Address:** Aviation Business Park VI, 5965 Core Avenue, Suite 603, North Charleston, SC, 29406

**Phone:** 843-554-4048

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**E-mail:** [dtoth@odsyhealth.com](mailto:dtoth@odsyhealth.com)

**Purpose:** To provide physical, emotional, and spiritual support for hospice patients, but also for their family members and loved ones.

**Website:** [www.odsyhealth.com](http://www.odsyhealth.com)

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**Organization Name:** Palmetto Lowcountry Behavioral Health

**Contact:**

- Stacey Lindbergh, Director of Business Development, 843-747-5830, [stacey.lindbergh@uhsinc.com](mailto:stacey.lindbergh@uhsinc.com)

**Address:** 2777 Speissegger Drive, North Charleston, SC 29405

**Purpose:** A Charleston-based mental health treatment provider that specializes in substance abuse intervention therapy for children, adolescents, adults and military personnel in private or outpatient settings.

**Website:** <http://palmettobehavioralhealth.com/>

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**Organization Name:** Roper St. Francis Hospital

**Contact:** Mark Dickson, Vice President for Missions

**Address:**

- Charleston: 316 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC 29401
- Bon Secours St. Francis: 2095 Henry Tecklenburg Drive, Charleston, SC 29414
- Mt. Pleasant: 3500 Highway 17 North, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466

**E-mail:** [mark.dickson@rsfh.com](mailto:mark.dickson@rsfh.com)

**Purpose:** To provide the highest quality of medical care in the industry.

**Website:** <http://www.ropersaintfrancis.com/>

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**Organization Name:** STARS Mentoring Services, LLC

**Contact:** Michelle Harkey, CEO & Director

**Address:** 1008 Old Highway 52, Suite E, Moncks Corner, SC 29461

**Phone:** 843-868-1895

**E-mail:** [mharkey@starsmentoring.com](mailto:mharkey@starsmentoring.com) or [info@starsmentoring.com](mailto:info@starsmentoring.com)

**Purpose:** STARS Mentoring Services, LLC provides support through in-home therapeutic mentoring and counseling to individuals, families, at-risk youth, and military and first responders. Each staff member is certified to counsel and provide therapeutic intervention for these populations. STARS Mentoring Services, LLC is able to accept Medicaid Fee for Services for Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services as well as other insurance programs.

**Website:** <http://www.starsmentoring.com/>

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**Organization Name:** Veterans, Families & Friends Military PTSD Support Group

**Contact:** Frank Ruse

**Address:** Fellowship of Oakbrook, 1400 Trolley Road, Summerville, SC 29483

**Phone:** 843-637-6463

**E-mail:** [ruset84@yahoo.com](mailto:ruset84@yahoo.com)

**Purpose:** To provide support for the military member, friends, and families experiencing struggles with PTSD and Combat Stress Injury (CSI). Members come together to offer experience, strength, hope, and support to face and overcome their struggles every Monday night at 7pm.

**Website:** <http://www.youarestrong.org/veterans-combat-stressptsd-self-help-and-support-group/>

## **Housing & Homeless Prevention Services**

**Organization Name:** VA Homeless Prevention Program & Walk-In Clinic

**Contact:** Dawn Mills

**Address:** Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401

**Phone:** 843-577-5011

**E-mail:** [Dawn.Mills@va.gov](mailto:Dawn.Mills@va.gov)

**Purpose:** The Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center offers a walk-in clinic for veterans searching for re-housing assistance and means to prevent homelessness. In addition to referral services, the walk-in clinic offers basic outpatient medical care.

**Website:** <http://www.charleston.va.gov/services/homeless/index.asp>

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**Organization Name:** VA HUD-VASH Program

**Contact:** Linda Williams, HUD-VASH Coordinator

**Address:** Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401

**Phone:** 843-577-5011

**E-mail:** [Linda.Williams@va.gov](mailto:Linda.Williams@va.gov)

**Purpose:** The HUD-VASH Program assists homeless veterans in obtaining safe, affordable housing by providing them with a Housing Choice Voucher and clinical services in mental health to encourage a better quality of life.

**Website:** [www.charleston.va.gov](http://www.charleston.va.gov)

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## **Community Resources**

**Organization Name:** Chesapeake Health Education Program: Veteran Villas

**Contact:** Joe Towles

**Address:**

- Old Navy Base (main location): 1502 Manley Avenue, North Charleston, SC 29405
- Ashley Phosphate Road: 8124 Millstone Drive, North Charleston, SC 29420

**Phone:** 849-452-9258

**E-mail:** [joevetvilla@gmail.com](mailto:joevetvilla@gmail.com)

**Purpose:** The Chesapeake Health Education Program (CHEP) and the Ralph H. Johnson Medical Center partnered in 1997 to create a transitional housing program for homeless veterans on the de-activated US Navy base in Charleston, SC. Veteran Villas allows veterans to continue their substance use therapy while searching for employment and safe, affordable housing in the Charleston area, but units are also offered to veterans in need of housing in general.

To receive assistance from the CHEP and Veteran Villas program staff, veterans must be referred from the walk-in clinic offered through the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center.

**Website:** [http://chepinc.org/southern\\_sites](http://chepinc.org/southern_sites)

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**Organization Name:** Crisis Ministries

**Contact:** Capri Griffith, Director of Veteran Services

**Address:** 573 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29403

**Phone:**

- Crisis Ministries Main Line: 843-723-9477
- Supportive Services for Veterans & Families Hotline: 843-737-8389

**E-mail:** [cgriffith@charlestonhomeless.org](mailto:cgriffith@charlestonhomeless.org)

**Purpose:** Crisis Ministries is the largest homeless service provider in South Carolina, serving a hot meal daily in the Charleston-area homeless shelter and the Palmetto House shelter in Summerville, SC. Crisis Ministries staff are certified to oversee comprehensive case management for all clients, including military veterans, civilians, individuals and families.

**Website:** [www.charlestonhomeless.org](http://www.charlestonhomeless.org)

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**Organization Name:** Family Services, Inc.

**Contact Name, Phone, E-mail:**

- Management-David Geer, CEO, 843-735-7802, [dgeer@fsisc.org](mailto:dgeer@fsisc.org)
- Bankruptcy Counseling
- Behavioral Health Services

- Conservatorship Program
- Consumer Credit Counseling
- Foreclosure Prevention
- Home Purchase Programs
- Homeless Prevention/Supportive Services
- Homeownership Resource Center
- Representative Payee Program
- Supportive Services for Veterans & Families-Jordan Hardy, AmeriCorps VISTA Member, 843-735-5884, [jhardy@fsisc.org](mailto:jhardy@fsisc.org)

**Address:** 4925 Lacross Road, North Charleston, SC, 29406

**Purpose:** Family Services, Inc. has existed since 1888, bringing hope and quality customer service to the Charleston community and beyond. Our goal is to empower individuals and families to achieve financial independence and sustainability at a cost comparable to industry standards.

**Website:** [www.fsisc.org](http://www.fsisc.org)

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**Organization Name:** Lowcountry Homeless Coalition

**Contact:** Anthony Haro, Executive Director

**Address:** Crisis Ministries, 573 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29403

**Phone:** 843-737-8370

**E-mail:** [anthony@lowcountryhomelesscoalition.org](mailto:anthony@lowcountryhomelesscoalition.org)

**Purpose:** The coalition is comprised of organizations dedicated to preventing homelessness and re-housing those who are currently homeless in safe, sustainable locations. The service providers within the homelessness coalition are focused on planning and implementing coordinated efforts to decrease the rate of homelessness by supporting those working toward self-sufficiency, and providing opportunities to network, share helpful information and effective strategies.

**Website:** <http://www.lowcountryhomelesscoalition.org/>

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**Organization Name:** My Sister's House, Inc.

**Contact:** Kristi Cogswell, Outreach Coordinator & Case Manager

**Phone:**

- 843-767-4069
- 843-744-3242
- 800-273-HOPE (24-hour crisis hotline)

**E-mail:** [hope@mysistershouse.com](mailto:hope@mysistershouse.com)

**Purpose:** To provide a safe-haven for women and children looking to escape the cycle of domestic violence and other forms of abuse. An emergency shelter is available 24 hours per day with 36 beds for women and children throughout Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties.

**Website:** <http://mysistershouse.org/>

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**Organization Name:** Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

**Contact:** Kim Bradley, Combat Casualty Visiting Nurse, RN, BSN

**Address:** 1004 Jefferson Avenue, NWS Building 717, Goose Creek, SC 29445

**Phone:** 571-216-6329

**E-mail:** [Kim.Bradley@nmcrs.org](mailto:Kim.Bradley@nmcrs.org)

**Purpose:** The Combat Casualty Assistance (CCA) Visiting Nurse Program is the only one in the country that provides ongoing, face-to-face visits and follow up by experienced Registered Nurses for any active duty or veteran Marine or Sailor who have served in a combat zone since 2001 and their families. Our nurses travel throughout the U.S. making visits to help them adjust to the changes in their lives and lifestyles as a result of their wartime service. These visits are provided at no cost regardless of their location and discharge status.

This includes:

- *Health education*- teaching clients and their families how to recognize and deal with physical and mental health issues.
- *Referrals and follow up*- finding relevant and appropriate community resources to help with various problems or challenges and following up to ensure the client and family are receiving the appropriate care and support.
- *Emotional support*- providing a knowledgeable medical professional to discuss any challenge or issue related to the sailor or Marine's combat service.

**Website:** <http://www.nmcrs.org/>

## **Information & Referral Services**

**Organization Name:** Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)

**Contact:** Meredith Miller, LISW-CP

**Address:** Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401

**Phone:** 843-297-0019

**E-mail:** [Meredith.Miller2@va.gov](mailto:Meredith.Miller2@va.gov)

**Purpose:** To avoid unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among veterans. The Veterans Justice Outreach initiative is a liaison between county jails, court, police and other justice partners, and the VA for veterans.

**NOTE:** The VA cannot provide legal representation.

**Website:** <http://www.benefits.va.gov/PERSONA/veteran-incarcerated.asp>

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**Organization Name:** VA Walk-In Clinic

**Contact:** Dawn Mills

**Address:** Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401

**Phone:** 843-577-5011

**E-mail:** [Dawn.Mills@va.gov](mailto:Dawn.Mills@va.gov)

**Purpose:** The Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center offers a walk-in clinic for veterans searching for re-housing assistance and means to prevent homelessness. In addition to referral services, the walk-in clinic offers basic outpatient medical care.

**Website:** <http://www.charleston.va.gov/services/homeless/index.asp>

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## **Community Resources**

**Organization Name:** American Red Cross: Carolina Lowcountry Chapter

**Contact:** Jeanne Carmichael, Regional Manager, Service to the Armed Forces; Eileen Hadbavny, Chair of Service to the Armed Forces

**Address:** 2424 City Hall Lane, North Charleston, SC 29406

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**Phone:** 843-764-2323

**E-mail:** [Jeanne.Carmichael@redcross.org](mailto:Jeanne.Carmichael@redcross.org); [Eileen.Hadbavny@redcross.org](mailto:Eileen.Hadbavny@redcross.org)

**Purpose:** The American Red Cross provides emergency communication services to military (active duty, National Guard, Reserves, retired, and veterans) and their families, helping them locate and send messages to their loved ones across the globe. When service members return home, they have access to several programs and American Red Cross volunteers who are ready and willing to ease the transition from deployment or discharge into the civilian sector. Programs provided include, but are not limited to, emergency assistance and disaster preparedness, reconnection and family mental health education, resiliency training to cope with the challenges of life in the military, and supportive transitional services for wounded soldiers and their family members.

To initiate an Emergency Communication Message, call 1-877-272-7337 when you need to contact a service member in the event of a family emergency. This service is available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

**Website:** <http://www.redcross.org/what-we-do/support-military-families>

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**Organization Name:** Crisis Ministries

**Contact:** Capri Griffith, Director of Veteran Services

**Address:** 573 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29403

**Phone:**

- Crisis Ministries Main Line: 843-723-9477
- Supportive Services for Veterans & Families Hotline: 843-737-8389

**E-mail:** [cgriffith@charlestonhomeless.org](mailto:cgriffith@charlestonhomeless.org)

**Purpose:** Crisis Ministries is the largest homeless service provider in South Carolina, serving a hot meal daily in the Charleston-area homeless shelter and the Palmetto House shelter in Summerville, SC. Crisis Ministries staff are certified to oversee comprehensive case management for all clients, including military veterans, civilians, individuals and families.

**Website:** [www.charlestonhomeless.org](http://www.charlestonhomeless.org)

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**Organization Name:** Goodwill Industries of Lower South Carolina

**Contact:** Rolandra Marshall, Veteran Employment Specialist

**Address:** 2150 Eagle Drive, Building 100, North Charleston, SC 29406

**Phone:** 843-377-2834

**E-mail:** [rmarshall@palmettogoodwill.org](mailto:rmarshall@palmettogoodwill.org)

**Purpose:** The Palmetto Goodwill mission is to help people “achieve their full potential through the dignity and power of work.” This mission is achieved through employment training and job placement in 18 counties across South Carolina, helping recent graduates of work training programs face the challenges of preparing for the work force and maintaining steady employment to improve financial stability and well-being. Palmetto Goodwill staff offer assistance in career coaching, vocational assessment, skills training and job placement, case management, and training.

**Website:** [www.palmettogoodwill.org](http://www.palmettogoodwill.org)

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**Organization Name:** Joint Base Charleston Chapel

**Contact:** Chaplain (Major) Daniel Thompson, USAF

**Address:** Charleston Air Force Base, 107 Arthur Drive, Charleston, SC 29404

**Phone:**

- During normal base chapel hours: 843-963-5467
- After hours, emergencies only: 843-963-8400

**E-mail:** [Daniel.thompson.2@us.af.mil](mailto:Daniel.thompson.2@us.af.mil)

**Purpose:** The Joint Base Charleston chaplains are responsible for the spiritual care and facilitation of free religious expression for Airmen and their family members on base and in various deployment locations world-wide. While duties include presiding over religious ceremonies and administering religious rites, active and reserve duty chaplains also provide the following services: addiction/substance abuse, combat stress, deployment/re-deployment, domestic violence, ethical/moral dilemmas, health-related issues, life & career transitions, mental health concerns, relationships (family, non-family, and marital), respect for religious beliefs and accommodation, sexual assault and harassment, spiritual guidance, suicide prevention, and advice for work-place issues.

If a veteran maintains their retiree ID card, they may participate in religious services and access spiritual counsel through Joint Base Charleston.

**For a list of chapel services and faith groups served, please visit the chapel website here:**

<http://www.charleston.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=15749>.

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**Organization Name:** Kiawah Cares

**Contact:** Tammy McAdory

**Address:** 23 Beachwalker Drive, Kiawah Island, SC 29455

**Phone:** 843-768-9194

**E-mail:** [kiawahcares@kica.us](mailto:kiawahcares@kica.us)

**Purpose:** To encourage partnerships and collaboration with the goal of increasing the overall quality of life for residents of the Sea Islands regions of the Lowcountry.

**Website:** [www.kica.us](http://www.kica.us)

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**Organization Name:** Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

**Contact:** Kim Bradley, Combat Casualty Visiting Nurse, RN, BSN

**Address:** 1004 Jefferson Avenue, NWS Building 717, Goose Creek, SC 29445

**Phone:** 571-216-6329

**E-mail:** [Kim.Bradley@nmcrs.org](mailto:Kim.Bradley@nmcrs.org)

**Purpose:** The Combat Casualty Assistance (CCA) Visiting Nurse Program is the only one in the country that provides ongoing, face-to-face visits and follow up by experienced Registered Nurses for any active duty or veteran Marine or Sailor who have served in a combat zone since 2001 and their families. Our nurses travel throughout the U.S. making visits to help them adjust to the changes in their lives and lifestyles as a result of their wartime service. These visits are provided at no cost regardless of their location and discharge status.

This includes:

- *Health education*- teaching clients and their families how to recognize and deal with physical and mental health issues.
- *Referrals and follow up*- finding relevant and appropriate community resources to help with various problems or challenges and following up to ensure the client and family are receiving the appropriate care and support.
- *Emotional support*- providing a knowledgeable medical professional to discuss any challenge or issue related to the sailor or Marine's combat service.

**Website:** <http://www.nmcrs.org/>

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**Organization Name:** SC Army National Guard-Family Programs

**Contact:** Audra Harmon, Family Assistance Specialist

**Address:** Citadel Armory, 68 Hagood Street, Charleston, SC 29403

**Phone:** 803-429-9792

**E-mail:** [audra.d.harmon.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:audra.d.harmon.ctr@mail.mil)

**Purpose:** The Family Assistance Program exists to educate National Guard members and their families about life in the military and how to cope with its unique challenges. In addition to this support, there is a Community Outreach component to connect National Guard members with local, regional and national resources to support them in their daily lives and activities, pre and post-deployment.

**Website:** [www.scguard.com](http://www.scguard.com)

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**Organization Name:** Trident United Way 2-1-1 Hotline for Information & Referrals

**Address:** P.O. Box 63305, North Charleston, SC 29419

**Phone:** 2-1-1 (if calling within the Tri-County area) or 843-744-HELP

**E-mail:** [211director@tuw.org](mailto:211director@tuw.org)

**Purpose:** This hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to help navigate personal emergencies. Basic needs assistance (clothing, food, shelter), financial assistance, healthcare, and many other inquiries may be addressed through this resource. Volunteers are available to provide information and referrals to help you meet your needs within the Tri-County area.

**Website:** [www.tuw.org/2-1-1-hotline](http://www.tuw.org/2-1-1-hotline)

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**Organization Name:** US Vet Corps Resources

**Contact:** Tim Taylor

**Phone:** 843-276-2840

**E-mail:** [tim@usvetcorps.org](mailto:tim@usvetcorps.org)

**Purpose:** As the Lowcountry Warrior Connection, US Vet Corps Resources is a Veterans advocacy group dedicated to proactive outreach, finding and helping our veterans and their families in their time of crisis. Through the encouragement of a community-wide collaborative network of veterans service agencies, we will serve our warriors as a bridge that connects them to available, appropriate local, state and national resources to ensure they find stability in their lives.

**Website:** <http://www.usvetcorps.org/index.html>

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## **Peer Support & Recreation**

**Organization Name:** VA Peer Support Specialists

**Contact:** Linda Carlson, Coordinator

**Address:** Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401

**Phone:** 843-789-7427

**E-mail:** [Linda.Carlson4@va.gov](mailto:Linda.Carlson4@va.gov)

**Purpose:** Peer Support Specialists are uniquely prepared for effective communication and interaction with veterans after serving in the armed forces and having similar experiences. They act as “life coaches,” helping veterans by creating an individualized plan to achieve their goals. The following VA-sponsored programs offer the option to communicate with a Peer Support Specialist:

- HUD-VASH Program-Charleston
- Mental Health Outpatient Centers-Goose Creek
- PTSD Unit-Charleston
- Substance Abuse Treatment Center-Charleston
- Veterans Enrichment Center-Charleston

**NOTE:** Veteran clients may not self-refer to a Peer Support Specialist. They must first be receiving assistance or services through one of the programs sponsored by the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center that offers the option to speak with a Peer Support Specialist. These roles are unique in that they are not clinical staff, but instead provide counseling and advice from their own personal experiences.

**Website:** [www.charleston.va.gov](http://www.charleston.va.gov)

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**Organization Name:** VA PTSD Clinical Team

**Contact:** Dr. Ron Acierno, Director of PTSD Clinical Team

**Address:** Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401

**Phone:** 843-789-7246

**E-mail:** [acierno@musc.edu](mailto:acierno@musc.edu)

**Purpose:** The PTSD Clinical Team works with veterans and non-veterans in Charleston and beyond to confront mental health struggles with various forms of evidence-based therapeutic interventions. The

program is one of the few in the world to earn the distinguished SOARS award for its effectiveness, drawing individuals and families seeking relief and answers to the Medical University of South Carolina and the Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

**Website:** <http://www.muschealth.com/psychiatry/services/adult/PTSD/>

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**Organization Name:** VA Voluntary Service

**Contact:** Edmund (Fred) Lesinski, Chief of Voluntary Service

**Address:** Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 109 Bee Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Charleston, SC 29401

**E-mail:** [Edmund.lesinski@va.gov](mailto:Edmund.lesinski@va.gov)

**Phone:** 843-789-7488

**Purpose:** The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center relies on the generosity of the community to support its operations by giving back to our country's heroes. Volunteers may serve in a variety of ways, but no gift is too small. Find out how you can contribute to the improvement of the quality of life for more than 50,000 veterans and their family members receiving care from the Charleston VA Hospital every day.

**Website:** <http://www.charleston.va.gov/giving/>

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### **Community Resources**

**Organization Name:** Airman & Family Readiness Center-Transition Assistance Program (TAP)

**Contact:** Kevin Hawks, Community Readiness Specialist

**Address:** 104 E. Simpson Street, Building 500, Joint Base Charleston, SC 29404

**Phone:** 843-963-7231

**E-mail:** [kevin.hawks.1@us.af.mil](mailto:kevin.hawks.1@us.af.mil)

**Purpose:** The Airman & Family Readiness Center assists all Reserves, Active Duty, National Guard, retired veterans and civilian employees regardless of branch. The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) assists those associated specifically with the United States Air Force and prepares separating, retiring, and demobilizing service members and their families with skills and knowledge to facilitate a successful transition from life in the military to the civilian sector. The first step in the transition process is to complete the congressionally-mandated pre-separation counseling session, which provides detailed information on the various benefits and services available to separating members. Each Family Readiness Center is staffed to provide personalized assistance for all transition-related needs of armed services members.

**Website:** <http://www.jbcharleston.com/youth-and-family/air-base/airman-a-family-readiness>

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**Organization Name:** Blue Star Mothers & Families of the Tri-County Area

**Contact:** Alice Lang, President

**Address:** P.O. Box 342, Goose Creek, SC 29455

**E-mail:** [tricobluestars@hotmail.com](mailto:tricobluestars@hotmail.com)

**Purpose:** The Tri-County Blue Star Mothers & Families organization sponsors donation drives for food, clothing, and other supplies needed by local veteran service organizations and by troops deployed in various locations. In addition to leading charitable efforts, they visit facilities that house veterans receiving treatment for injuries and illnesses, they visit schools, they lay wreaths in honor of those who have gone before us, and much more. If you are interested in donating to their causes or interested in becoming a member of the local Blue Star Mothers chapter, please contact the current president using the information provided above.

**Website:** [www.tricobluestars.org](http://www.tricobluestars.org)

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**Organization Name:** Combat Infantryman Association, Inc.

**Contact:** Jim Brigman

**E-mail:** [warrrior\\_two\\_hawks@yahoo.com](mailto:warrrior_two_hawks@yahoo.com)

**Purpose:** To honor and support those who earned a combat badge for demonstrating bravery, valor, and honor in their defense of the American people.

**Website:** <http://cibassoc.com/>

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**Organization Name:** Communities for Liberty

**Contact:** Ken Battle

**Phone:** 843-425-6760

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**E-mail:** [kennethbattle@hotmail.com](mailto:kennethbattle@hotmail.com)

**Purpose:** To promote liberty, the Constitution, respect for all life, and individual responsibility in a society with limited government and increased opportunities for social advancement.

**Website:** <http://www.communityofliberty.org/>

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**Organization Name:** Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

**Contact, Phone, E-mail:**

- **DAV District Contact:** Charles Wood – [davdistrict\\_1 @att.net](mailto:davdistrict_1@att.net)
- **Veterans Helping Veterans Contact:** Brian Wilner – [bewilner@yahoo.com](mailto:bewilner@yahoo.com)

**Purpose:** To empower veterans to live their lives with respect and dignity, receiving the care they deserve.

**Website:** [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

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**Organization Name:** East Cooper Baptist Church & Church Mobilization Hub of Charleston

**Contact:** Craig Tuck, Membership Development

**Address:** 361 Egypt Road, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

**Phone:** 843-856-3222

**E-mail:** [craigt@eastcooperbaptist.com](mailto:craigt@eastcooperbaptist.com)

**Purpose:** To equip others to live and spread the Christian faith in addition to positively impacting our surroundings in daily life.

**Website:** <http://www.eastcooperbaptist.com/>

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**Organization Name:** Fleet & Family Support Center (FFSC)

**Contact:** Mick Mahon, Community Readiness Specialist

**Address:** 1005 Jefferson Ave., Building 755, Goose Creek, SC 29445

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**Phone:** 843-794-7427 or 843-794-7840

**E-mail:** [milton.mahon.1@us.af.mil](mailto:milton.mahon.1@us.af.mil)

**Purpose:** The Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC), Naval Weapons Station is the military community's primary resource for information and services. We are recognized by commands in the area as vital to the success of their mission. We serve with pride and distinction and are renowned for our superb performance. The Fleet and Family support Center assists all Reserves, Active Duty, National Guard, retired veterans and civilian employees regardless of service branch. The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) assists and prepares members separating, retiring, or demobilizing service members and their families with skills and knowledge to facilitate a successful transition from life in the military to the civilian sector. Each Family Readiness Center is staffed to provide personalized assistance for all transition-related needs of armed services members.

**Website:** <http://www.jbcharleston.com/youth-and-family/weapons-stations/fleet-a-family-support>

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**Organization Name:** Fleet Reserve Association Lowcountry-Branch 269

**Contact:** Fred Bolz

**Address:** 99 Wisteria Lane, Goose Creek, SC 29445

**Phone:** (843) 797 3515

**E-mail:** [htcmret@aol.com](mailto:htcmret@aol.com)

**Purpose:** To represent the interests of United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard members, retired veterans and their families to the members of the United States Congress.

**Website:** [www.fra.org](http://www.fra.org)

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**Organization Name:** Hidden Wounds, Inc.

**Contact:** Ashley McGee, Marketing and Public Relations

**Address:** 7001 St. Andrews Road #323, Columbia, SC 29212

**Phone:** 803-403-8460

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**E-mail:** [Ashley@hiddenwounds.org](mailto:Ashley@hiddenwounds.org)

**Purpose:** To provide short-term emergency counseling for military members, retired veterans, and their family members experiencing mental health struggles and/or crises.

**Website:** [www.hiddenwounds.org](http://www.hiddenwounds.org)

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**Organization Name:** Kiawah Cares

**Contact:** Tammy McAdory

**Address:** 23 Beachwalker Drive, Kiawah Island, SC 29455

**Phone:** 843-768-9194

**E-mail:** [kiawahcares@kica.us](mailto:kiawahcares@kica.us)

**Purpose:** To encourage partnerships and collaboration with the goal of increasing the overall quality of life for residents of the Sea Islands regions of the Lowcountry.

**Website:** [www.kica.us](http://www.kica.us)

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**Organization Name:** Lowcountry Leathernecks

**Contact:** Colonel Mac Radcliffe

**E-mail:** [mactgfusmc@att.net](mailto:mactgfusmc@att.net)

**Purpose:** To provide an online community for the Marine Corps and support the Semper Fi Fund.

**Website:** <http://lowcountryleatherneck.blogspot.com/>

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**Organization Name:** Marine Corps League-Detachment 803

**Contact:** Bob Mastrion

**Phone:** 843-681-7586

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**E-mail:** [rmastrion9991@att.net](mailto:rmastrion9991@att.net)

**Purpose:** To support veterans of the Marine Corps and those men and women currently serving, to promote the values of the Marine Corps and further its interests among the general population, and to encourage and empower potential future Marines.

**Website:** <http://www.mcleague.com/mdp/index.php>

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**Organization Name:** Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

**Address, Contact Name, Phone, E-mail:**

- Charleston Chapter MOAA
  - P.O. Box 70421, Charleston, SC 29415-0421
  - Col. Butch Fuller., [butchfuller@aol.com](mailto:butchfuller@aol.com)
  - 843-821-0169

**Purpose:** MOAA advocates for members belonging to all branches of the military who have held an officer rank during their career. This organization actively seeks benefits and compensation for its members and their families, participating in military personnel matters for the benefit of its officers.

**Website:** <http://www.charlestonmoaa.com/>

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**Organization Name:** The Military Order of the Purple Heart: Historic Chapter of Charleston

**Contact:** Bob Mastrion

**Phone:** 843-681-7586

**E-mail:** [rmastrion9991@att.net](mailto:rmastrion9991@att.net)

**Purpose:** To encourage camaraderie among combat veterans, to promote an increased sense of patriotism, and to provide appropriate and quality service to veterans and their family members.

**Website:** <http://www.purpleheart.org/Mission.aspx>

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**Organization Name:** Patriot Guard Riders

**Contact:** John Evans

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**E-mail:** [jevans1147@bellsouth.net](mailto:jevans1147@bellsouth.net)

**Purpose:** The Patriot Guard Riders is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to honoring our fallen military heroes, first responders, and those veterans who have been honorably discharged. While most chapters have a common theme of motorcycle riders who have served in one of the military branches, it is not a requirement to ride or to be a veteran. The only requirement is a sense of respect intended to honor the commitment and bravery of our men and women who volunteer to preserve the greater good of our society.

**Website:** [www.patriotguard.org](http://www.patriotguard.org)

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**Organization Name:** Patriots of the Lowcountry

**Contact:** BG Gil Harper

**Phone:** 843-367-8892

**E-mail:** [gs\\_harper@yahoo.com](mailto:gs_harper@yahoo.com)

**Purpose:** To emotionally and physically support our nation's veterans and their families by raising awareness and funds to provide local activities for them. By sponsoring these events for them, veterans are honored and appreciated for their sacrifices that they have made on our behalf.

**Website:** <http://www.patriotsofthelowcountry.org/index.htm>

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**Organization Name:** Pearl Harbor Survivors Association

**Contact:** Gordon Sparks

**Phone:** 803-781-5452

**E-mail:** [cargo549@bellsouth.net](mailto:cargo549@bellsouth.net)

**Purpose:** To educate present-day military members and civilians about the events of Pearl Harbor with the goal of increasing awareness and respect for those who have died and those who are still living.

**Website:** <http://www.pearlharborsurvivorsonline.org/>

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**Organization Name:** South Carolina Combat Veterans Group

**Contact:** Tommy Olds (Commander)

**E-mail:** [commanderolds09@yahoo.com](mailto:commanderolds09@yahoo.com)

**Purpose:** The SC Combat Veterans Group was organized to support those who have experienced trauma from their battle experiences in the service. The group emphasizes humor, music, and faith to navigate difficult times and personal struggles. Membership is open to soldiers, veterans, and family members who are searching for a healing experience and foundation. The group also emphasizes efforts to reach out to those in need, including homeless veterans.

**Website:** <http://www.southcarolinacombatveterangroup.org/index.html>

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**Organization Name:** Support the Fallen

**Contact:** Christopher Freshman, Founder and President

**Phone:** 843-847-1001

**E-mail:** [ruck4wounded@yahoo.com](mailto:ruck4wounded@yahoo.com)

**Purpose:** A non-profit organization designed to support and raise awareness for those wounded while serving in the military or as a first responder. All donations help pay medical bills, feed and clothe their family members, and meet any other emergency need presented.

**Website:** <http://www.supportthefallen.org/>

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**Organization Name:** USMC Wounded Warrior Regiment

**Contact:** Charlie Hall

**E-mail:** [charlie.hall1@usmc.mil](mailto:charlie.hall1@usmc.mil)

**Purpose:** Provides support to injured, ill, and wounded Marines, sailors attached to the Marine Corps, and their family members in need of support during the transitioning process for their soldier. This assistance can include communication facilitation between a Marine and their loved ones through the command headquarters, educating the family and Marine about local resources, assisting Marines and their family with relocation, and specialized support for WWII Marines, regardless of if they are assigned to a Regiment.

**Website:** <http://www.woundedwarriorregiment.org/>

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**Organization Name:** USSVI-Charleston Base

**Contact:** Ed Stank

**Phone:** 843-569-6012

**E-mail:** [basecommander@ussvicb.org](mailto:basecommander@ussvicb.org)

**Purpose:** To honor and remember those who gave their lives in pursuit of loyalty and dedication to their country and in support of the Constitution.

**Website:** <http://www.ussvicb.org/>

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**Organization Name:** Veterans, Families & Friends Military PTSD Support Group

**Contact:** Frank Ruse

**Address:** Fellowship of Oakbrook, 1400 Trolley Road, Summerville, SC 29483

**Phone:** 843-637-6463

**E-mail:** [ruseter84@yahoo.com](mailto:ruseter84@yahoo.com)

**Purpose:** To provide support for the military member, friends, and families experiencing struggles with PTSD and Combat Stress Injury (CSI). Members come together to offer experience, strength, hope, and support to face and overcome their struggles every Monday night at 7pm.

**Website:** <http://www.youarestrong.org/veterans-combat-stressptsd-self-help-and-support-group/>

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**Organization Name:** Veterans on Deck

**Contact:** Jessica Zserai, AmeriCorps VISTA member

**Address:** P.O. Box 21673, Charleston, SC, 29413

**Phone:** 843-580-4041

**E-mail:** [jess@veteransondeck.org](mailto:jess@veteransondeck.org)

**Purpose:** Veterans on Deck is a 501(c)(3) non-profit for Veterans with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), past experience Military Sexual Trauma, or Severe Mental Illness. VoD uses the forum of sailing to foster experiences of empowerment, successful social interaction, and develop maritime skills. VoD cultivates community pathways for Veterans to achieve reconnection, community reintegration,

socialization, develop relationships, create opportunities for personal growth, and to learn how to have fun again. Veterans are able to come together and work as a team in often challenging and stressful conditions to make the boat go. Our objective is to offer programs that are not just therapeutic, but also address the deeper vocational and social recalibration needs of returning veterans.

**Website:** <http://www.veteransondeck.org/>

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**Organization Name:** Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

**Contact, Address, Phone, E-mail, Website:**

- VFW of the U.S.
  - Website: <http://www.vfw.org/home/>
  - Department of SC: [www.vfwsc.org](http://www.vfwsc.org)
    - For a complete list of current officers, please visit this website
- VFW District 1-Berkeley, Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, and Jasper Counties
  - Contact: Commander Robert “Bobby” Holsclaw
  - Phone: 843-364-6160
  - E-mail: [bobbyclaw@att.net](mailto:bobbyclaw@att.net)
  - Website: <http://www.vfwsc.org/Districts/District01.html>
- VFW Post 445, J.J. Raby Post
  - Contact: Captain Nimrod DeMers
  - Address: 1639 Camp Road, James Island, SC 29412
  - Phone: 843-795-9419
  - E-mail: [cpt\\_nim\\_445@hush.com](mailto:cpt_nim_445@hush.com)
  - Website: <http://www.vfw445.org/>
- VFW Post 3147
  - Contact: John Bauer, Vice Commander
  - Address: 1004 ½ Ocean Blvd., Isle of Palms, SC 29451
  - Phone: 843-886-6840

**Purpose:** The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) organization was founded in 1899 to fight for and secure the rights and benefits afforded to men and women of the armed forces for their uniformed service. There are numerous VFW posts located across the country, strengthening the momentum to provide services for veterans through the Veterans Administration, the Department of Education through the Montgomery GI Bill, and appropriate compensation for all veterans involved in various international conflicts.

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**Organization Name:** VFW Ladies Auxiliary

**Contact:** Kathy Thomas

**E-mail:** [mary.thomas291fd8@va.gov](mailto:mary.thomas291fd8@va.gov)

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**Purpose:** Established in 1914 to serve the men and women who bravely wore a uniform in service to our country.

**Website:** <http://www.ladiesauxvfw.org/>

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**Organization Name:** Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)-Charleston Chapter #780

**Contact:** James Gregory

**Address:** 520 Folly Road, #282, Charleston, SC 29412

**Phone:** 843-762-7546

**E-mail:** [bikergunny@msn.com](mailto:bikergunny@msn.com)

**Purpose:** Founded in 1978 on the principle that “no generation of veterans will abandon another.” Vietnam Veterans of America is the only group focused on providing services and education for and about the men and women who served in southeast Asia during the conflict in Vietnam between 1965 and 1973. Major campaigns of VVA include advocating for healthcare, changing the perception of Vietnam veterans among the general public, searching to provide full accountability for MIA’s and POW’s, and much more.

**Website:** [www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org)

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## **Rehabilitative & Recreational Therapy**

**Organization Name:** Charleston Area Therapeutic Riding, Inc. (CATR)

**Contact:** Colleen Kimener-Veterans Lead, Horses for Heroes Program

**Address:** 2669 Hamilton Rd., Johns Island, SC 29455

**Phone:** 843-559-6060

**E-mail:** [horsesforheroes@catrfarms.org](mailto:horsesforheroes@catrfarms.org)

**Purpose:** CATR's mission is to improve the lives of children and adults with disabilities using therapeutic riding and equine related activities. CATR is a PATH International Premier Accredited Center and has been in operation for 22 years. CATR currently works with over 140 individuals with a variety of disabilities each year. We have been working with veterans from the Charleston VA Medical Center as well as other groups. We have WWP scholarships available for veterans who served post 9/11/01.

Therapeutic horseback riding uses the horse as a therapeutic modality that provides physical, psychological, and social benefits to veterans who are healing from injury or illness. The horse's movement gives multi-sensory input which can improve the veteran's strength, balance, circulation, posture, endurance, coordination, and agility. Therapeutic riding and equine related activities additionally help to build self-confidence and emotional well-being.

**Website:** [www.catrfarms.org](http://www.catrfarms.org)

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**Organization Name:** The Independence Fund

**Contact:** Karen Huling

**Phone:** 704-267-4450

**E-mail:** [igo2xs@msn.com](mailto:igo2xs@msn.com)

**Purpose:** The Independence Fund exists to help others recognize that a cooperative effort between governmental, corporate and private organizations is needed to ensure the ultimate health and wellness for our veterans. Through events such as the Lt. Dan Band concert fundraiser, The Independence Fund is able to provide a higher quality of life and restore mobility to wounded veterans by donating track chairs and modifying their homes to accommodate their needs.

**Website:** <http://www.independencefund.org/>

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**Organization Name:** Project HERO

**Contact:** Sue Davis

**Phone:** 843-810-0100

**E-mail:** [project.hero.charleston@gmail.com](mailto:project.hero.charleston@gmail.com)

**Purpose:** Project HERO (Healing Exercise Rehabilitation Opportunity) provides opportunities for servicemen and women to participate in cycling therapy across the country in military hospitals, Army Warrior Transition Units, Marine Wounded Warrior Units, and VA Hospitals. The training is individually paced and supervised at all locations, including organized events like Ride 2 Recovery races.

**Website:** [www.ride2recovery.com](http://www.ride2recovery.com)

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## Notes

For the benefit of veterans and caregivers, please see the federal and national resources provided below.

### **Charlotte Bridge Home**

- <http://www.charlottebridgehome.org/>
- 704-332-8802 (office)

### **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Office of Servicemember Affairs**

- <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/servicemembers>
- 855-411-2372

### **eBenefits**

- <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>
- 1-800-983-0937 (eBenefits General Questions & Technical Issues)
- 1-800-827-1000 (Veterans Affairs Benefits & Services)

### **Hire Heroes**

- <https://www.hireheroesusa.org/>
- 1-866-915-4376 (office)

### **Military Crisis Line**

- <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/ActiveDuty.aspx>
- 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

### **Military OneSource**

- <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>
- 1-800-342-9647

### **National Call Center for Homeless Veterans**

- <http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCallCenter.asp>
- 1-877-4AID-VET (424-3838)

### **National Resource Directory**

- <https://www.nrd.gov/>

### **Warrior Gateway**

- <http://wariorgateway.org/>
- 202-455-4062

## **VA Caregiver Support**

- <http://www.caregiver.va.gov/>
- 1-855-260-3274

## **Veterans Crisis Line**

- <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>
- 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

**Please direct any questions or concerns to:**

Tim Taylor, US Vet Corps Resources

(843) 276-2840 (p)

(843) 416-2333 (f)

[tim@usvetcorps.org](mailto:tim@usvetcorps.org)