

# Veteran and Military Services Community Directory

December 2010

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## **Acknowledgements**

Thank you to The Sage Colleges and the Veteran's Week Committee for hosting Veteran's Week 2010. Thank you to the Sage Graduate School Occupational Therapy Class of December 2012 for coordinating the making of this directory. A special thanks to Barbara Thompson OTD, LCSW, OTR/L, for inspiring us to work with our country's military members and veterans. Thank you to those who have served our country bravely to keep our nation strong and free.

## **Counseling & Reintegration Services**

### Conifer Park (part of Liberty Behavioral Management Corporation)

**Phone:** (800) 989-6446, Admissions/Intake (800) 926-6433

**Web Site:** [www.coniferpark.com](http://www.coniferpark.com)

**Mailing Address:**

79 Glenridge Road

Glenville, NY, 12302

**Contacts:** Joanne Egnaczyk (518) 265-1465

**Hours:** Inpatient care is provided 24/7

**Description of Services:** Conifer Park is an alcohol and substance abuse rehabilitation facility that provides diverse services to those impacted by chemical dependency. The adolescent program provides services to teens ages 12-18 and helps facilitate re-entry into school. The Men's Program provides a combination of therapeutic services to address drug and/or alcohol use. The Women's Program has specialized programming including grief and loss counseling, nutritional and fitness education, self esteem and ego strengthening. The Latino program provides patients with culturally sensitive care from bilingual professionals. Other services include a family support workshop, a detoxification program, dental services for eligible patients, pain management, and groups for people with co-occurring disorders. Transportation is available upon request by the patient.

Conifer Park has six outpatient clinics in addition to its rehabilitation location in Glenville. The outpatient clinics are located in Glens Falls, Glenville, Schenectady, Plattsburgh, Syracuse, Rochester, and Troy, NY. There are also outpatient programs throughout the metro New York region.

**Fees:** The detoxification program is \$425 per day. The rehabilitation program is \$370 per day. Medicaid and most commercial insurances are accepted.

**Services Provided For:** Services are not veteran specific. The Conifer Park facilities are available for all men, women, and adolescents who have drug and/or alcohol abuse problems.

**Area of Coverage:** The Conifer Park facilities are located throughout the state of New York.

### NAMI-NYS: National Alliance of Mental Health-NYS

**Phone:** (518) 462-2000 Ext. 209 or (800) 950-NAMI

**Fax:** (518) 462-3811

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

**E-mail:** [Kathleen@naminys.org](mailto:Kathleen@naminys.org)

**Mailing Address:**

260 Washington Ave  
Albany, NY 12210

**Contacts:** Kathleen Holbrook (Criminal Justice Director)

**Description of Services:** NAMI-NYS serves as an alliance of local mutual support, advocacy, self help groups and individual members at large, and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with serious mental illness.

**Services Provided for:** NAMI-NYS provides services for any individual suffering from a mental illness. They also provide assistance to family members that may also be affected.

**Areas of Coverage:** NAMI is a nation-wide organization; the NYS division provides service to New York State.

**Patriot Hills of New York**

*To take care of those who have sacrificed so much to defend our freedom. To provide a safe haven where our nation's Veterans and their loved ones can reconnect. To provide access to needed services for our military personnel and their families. They did their part...they gave of themselves for us... it's our turn to give back to them.*

**Web Site:** [www.patriothills.org](http://www.patriothills.org)

**E-mail:** [info@patriothills.org](mailto:info@patriothills.org)

**Mailing Address:**

PO Box 142  
Guilderland, NY 12084-0142

**Contacts:** Paula Gabris, Executive Secretary

**Description of Services:** The Patriot Hills Project is a mission to build a retreat and wellness center for veterans and their families. Services offered will include: counseling, outreach, referrals, job training and placement, education, therapeutic wellness treatments, physical fitness programs, recreational activities, as well as seminars on topics such as financial management and healthy living. The goal is to provide soldiers and their families with the support and information they need during the difficult transition following deployment.

**Services Provided For:** Returning veterans and their families

**Area of Coverage:** Upstate New York

## Samaritan Counseling Center of the Capital Region

*Helping those most at risk heal, function, and live life more fully*

**Phone:** (518) 374-3514

**Fax:** (518) 374-9193

**Web Site:** <http://samaritancounselingcenter.org/>

**E-mail:** [office@samaritancounselingcenter.org](mailto:office@samaritancounselingcenter.org)

**Mailing Address:**

220 N Ballston Ave

Scotia, NY 12302

**Contacts:** Dr. David Olsen, Executive Director

**Description of Services:** Samaritan Counseling Center is a non-profit organization that offers individuals, couples, family, and group counseling services to members of the community. The center employs licensed and certified psychotherapists, clinical social workers, marriage and family counselors, and pastoral counselors who offer a holistically based approach to therapy. Project Recovery works with men, women and children who have been affected by PTSD. The program utilizes psychotherapy to process past experiences, create support systems, and to establish healthy coping strategies. Project Pass is a community-based program that provides services to children who are at risk of academic failure and their families.

**Fees:** Covered by some medical plans; sliding scale available based on income

**Services provided for:** Children, adolescents, and adults

**Area of Coverage:** Albany, Saratoga, Rensselaer, Schenectady counties

## Soldier's Heart

*Soldier's Heart has created a unique and comprehensive model to address the emotional, moral, and spiritual needs of veterans, their families and communities. Their goal is to alleviate the symptoms of PTSD by developing a new and honorable warrior identity. In addition, they promote, train and guide community-based efforts to heal the effects of war.*

**Phone:** (518) 274-0501

**Web Site:** [www.soldiersheart.net](http://www.soldiersheart.net)

**E-mail:** [info@soldiersheart.net](mailto:info@soldiersheart.net)

**Mailing Address:**

Soldier's Heart

500 Federal St. Suite 303

Troy, NY 12180

**Contacts:** Dr. Ed Tick (Director), Kate Dahlstedt (Co-Director), and Paula Griffin (Program manager)

**Description of Services:** Soldier's Heart provides group, marriage, and family counseling for returning veterans and veterans of past wars. Services also include veteran-to-veteran mentoring, professional training, and lectures and community awareness-raising. Frequent weekend retreats are offered to veterans, their families, and healing professionals to learn healing strategies for relationships and/or practice. There are also yearly healing journeys to Vietnam where soldiers are given the opportunity to meet with Vietnamese soldiers and visit meaningful places to achieve closure, honor their service, and remember those who were lost.

**Fees:** It is a non-profit project under the International Humanities Center. Donations are welcome.

**Services provided For:** For veterans, families, communities, and anyone involved in the soldier's life.

**Area of Coverage:** There are regional contacts for: New York, New England, Colorado, Georgia, Florida, Ohio, Texas, Wyoming, Montana, Seattle, Northern Oregon, Southern Oregon, San Francisco, California, Canada, and Viet Nam.

## Disability Services

### Dogs for Deaf & Disabled Americans

*Unleashing the possibilities*

**Phone:** (978) 422-9064

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

**Email:** [info@neads.org](mailto:info@neads.org)

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 213

West Boylston, MA 01583

**Contacts:** Lee Sheldon, NY Chapter Representative (518) 466-3986

Email- [lsheldo1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lsheldo1@nycap.rr.com)

**Description of Services:** NEADS/Dogs for Deaf & Disabled is a non-profit organization that partners children and adults in need with highly trained canine assistants. Dogs are trained to assist those who are deaf or physically disabled and need assistance with daily activities. Dogs are carefully selected from shelters and breeders throughout the country and undergo an intensive two year training program. Volunteers from the community offer their time and services to help train dogs to prepare them for their new family. There is also a Prison Pup Partnership Program that is set up for inmates to help train dogs to become highly obedient. Dogs are matched with a companion based on the individual needs to enhance independence.

Canines for Combat Veterans is a program for qualifying Veterans with a DD214 discharge or who have finished rehabilitation. Veterans are matched with a dog based upon their requirements, lifestyle, family and personality, and participate in two weeks of on-site training at NEADS training facility in Massachusetts. Dogs can help Veterans with the transition to prosthetics, aid in balance when walking, retrieve and carry objects, open doors, social interaction, wheelchair assistance and respond to sounds for the hearing impaired.

**Fees:** A total sponsorship fee of \$9,500 is required. \* \$1000 is required to begin training, or \$1,500 is required before being matched, and the remaining balance must be received by NEADS within a year of receiving the dog.

**Services Provided For:** Veterans, disabled and deaf adults & children.

**Area of Coverage:** New England Area and newly expanded to a New York chapter.

## **Educational Services**

### N.Y. Army National Guard Education Services Office

**Phone:** (507) 272-4032

**Web Site:** [www.dmna.state.ny.us/eduaction](http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/eduaction)

or [www.us.army.mil/suite/535774](http://www.us.army.mil/suite/535774)

**E-mail:** [education@ny.ngb.army.mil](mailto:education@ny.ngb.army.mil)

**Hours:** 7:30 am– 4:30 pm Monday- Friday

**Description of Services:** Offers the Recruitment Incentive and Retention Program (RIRP) which pays 100% of the tuition for a CUNY or SUNY school, and up to \$2,485 per semester to other accredited schools in NYS. It also offers Federal Tuition Assistance which can be used to pursue a HS Diploma/GED, certificate/licensure, associate, baccalaureate, masters or first professional degree. In addition, the Montgomery GI Bill provides a monthly stipend while a soldier attends school.

**Fees:** none

**Services Provided For:** Individuals currently enlisted in the military, and those thinking about enlisting.

### The Sage Colleges Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program

**Phone:** (518) 292-1797

**Contacts:** Kelley Robinson

**Email:** [robink3@sage.edu](mailto:robink3@sage.edu)

**Web Site:** <http://www.sage.edu/veterans/>

**Hours:** 8:00am- 5:00pm Monday- Friday

**Description of Services:** The Sage Colleges have voluntarily entered into an agreement with the VA to fund tuition expenses for veterans attending the Sage Colleges; the Sage Colleges may contribute up to 50% of those expenses and the VA will match the same amount. The Sage Colleges provide veterans with information, advice, and assistance in processing the paperwork for the certification of the veteran's educational benefits. To view veteran qualifications, please refer to the website named above. The website provides an array of community resource links to assist veterans.

**Services Provided For:** Veterans and Children of Veterans

**Area of Coverage:** Qualifying veterans from any location may apply to the Sage Colleges, with campuses located in Troy and Albany, New York.

## Employment Services

### NYS Department of Labor Disabled Veterans Outreach Program & Veteran's Employment Representatives

**Phone:** (518) 462-7600, Ext. 108 or (518) 462-7600, Ext. 106

**Contacts:** Charles Burkes and James Frezzell

**Fax:** (518) 462-2768

**E-mail:** charles.burkes@labor.state.ny.us

**Mailing Address:**

Albany Career Central

175 Central Avenue

Albany, NY 12206

**Hours:** 8:30am– 5:00pm Monday- Friday

**Description of Services:** Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists develop job and training opportunities for veterans, with special emphasis on veterans with service-connected disabilities. DVOP specialists provide direct services to veterans enabling them to be competitive in the labor market. They provide outreach and offer assistance to disabled and other veterans by promoting community and employer support for employment and training opportunities, including apprenticeship and on-the-job training.

Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVER) conduct outreach to employers and engage in advocacy efforts with hiring executives to increase employment opportunities for veterans, encourage the hiring of disabled veterans, and generally assist veterans to gain and retain employment. LVER staff conduct seminars for employers, job search workshops for veterans seeking employment, and facilitate priority of service in regard to employment, training, and placement services furnished to veterans by all staff of the employment service delivery system.

To meet the specific needs of veterans, particularly veterans with barriers to employment, DVOP and LVER staff are thoroughly familiar with the full range of job development services and training programs available at the State Workforce Agency One-Stop Career Centers and Department of Veterans' Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program locations.

**Fees:** None

**Services Provided For:** Veterans

**Area of Coverage:** Above contact is for the Albany and Schenectady Counties. To contact a DVOP specialist, call or visit the nearest State Employment Service (sometimes known as Job Service) agency listed in the State Government section of your phone book or visit:

<http://www.labor.ny.gov/VETs/EmploySpec/VeteransEmploySpec.shtm>

## NYS Troops to Teachers

**Phone:** (800) 231-6242

**Web Site:** [www.ProudtoServeAgain.com](http://www.ProudtoServeAgain.com)

**E-mail:** [ttt@navy.mil](mailto:ttt@navy.mil)

**Mailing Address:**

Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES)

ATTN: Troops to Teachers

6490 Saufley Field Road

Pensacola, FL 32509-5243

**Contacts:** Rick Jackson (518) 474-4661

Toll Free (877) 493-2444

Fax (518) 473-0271

Email: [nysedttt@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:nysedttt@mail.nysed.gov)

New York State Education Department

89 Washington Avenue, Room 5N

Albany, NY 12234

**Description of Services:** The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) Troops to Teachers (TTT) Program is a national program designed to assist eligible military personnel to transition to a new career as public school teachers in targeted schools. Troops to Teachers is a U.S. Department of Education and Department of Defense program that helps eligible military personnel begin new careers as teachers in public schools where their skills, knowledge and experience are most needed. The Troops to Teachers program provides information, financial assistance, counseling, and employment referral through a network of state Troops to Teachers Assistance offices.

**Services Provided For:** Eligible Military Personnel. To qualify, a service member must meet ONE of the following requirements:

-retired from active duty

-active duty member with approved date of retirement with one year or less remaining before retirement

-separated for a service-determined physical disability on or after January 8, 2002 (must register within four years after separation)

-retired from the Selected Reserve

-currently serving in the Selected Reserve with 10 or more years of creditable service towards retirement and committed to serving an additional three years, or until eligible for retirement

-separated from the Selected Reserve due to a service determined physical disability on or after January 8, 2002 (must register within four years after separation)

-transitioning from active duty on or after January 8, 2002, and have served six years on active duty immediately before separation, and committed to three years with a Selected Reserve unit (must register within four years after separation).

**For more detailed eligibility requirements see:**

[http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\\_web/library/docs/ttt/EligibilityCriteria.pdf](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/ttt/EligibilityCriteria.pdf)

**Area of Coverage:** Troops to Teachers is a national program for eligible military personnel across the country.

## Family & Child Services

### New York Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

*Solid relationships. Strong families. Better marriages.*

**Phone:** National Number (AAMFT) (703) 838-9808, Local Number (518) 374-3278

**Fax:** National Fax (703) 838-9805

**Web Site:** NYAMFT.org

**Email:** clairmont@samaritancounselingcenter.org

**Contacts:** Jenness Clairmont, LCSW, LMFT, 518-374-3278 Ext. 440

**Hours:** 9:00 am- 5:00 pm Monday- Friday

**Description of Services:** The New York Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (NYAMFT), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), is the professional organization for marriage and family therapists in New York State. Marriage and Family Therapists specialize in treating mental disorders in the context of marriage and family relationships. Marriage and family therapists work with the individual, couple or family to change behavioral patterns so that problems can be resolved. NYAMFT also helps veterans with the transition back home, reconnecting with their marriages, co-parenting children, and the treatment of PTSD.

**Fees:** Covered by most insurances. NYMFT participates with EAP (Employee Assistance Program) and Military One Source.

**Services Provided For:** Veterans and their families.

**Area of Coverage:** NYAMFT is comprised of 6 regional chapters representing approximately 900 members statewide: Albany/Hudson Valley, Central New York, Genesee Valley, Long Island, Metropolitan New York City, and Westchester/Mid-Hudson. AAMFT has hundreds of locations nationwide.

### Parson's Child & Family Center

*We support children and their families as they create their futures.*

**Phone:** (518) 426-2600

**Fax:** (518) 447-5234

**Website:** www.parsoncenter.org

**Email:** development@parsoncenter.org

**Mailing Address:**

Parsons Child and Family Center

60 Academy Road

Albany, New York 12208

**Contacts:** Cheryl Brown-Merrick - family transition support, coordinator of family treatment, Drug Court, parent educator and team member  
Fran Altshuler– Associate director for student interns and volunteers

Parson’s Child & Family Center has multiple locations

**Albany**

60 Academy Road (Main Campus)  
Albany, NY 12208  
(518) 426-2600

102 Hackett Boulevard  
Albany, NY 12209  
(518) 426-2600

519 Clinton Avenue  
Albany, NY 12206  
(518) 436-4780

**Cohoes**

169 Mohawk Street  
Cohoes, NY 12047  
(518) 235-2088

**Gloversville**

73 North Main Street  
Gloversville, NY 12078-3043  
(518) 773-9889

**Hudson Falls**

2 Maple Street  
PO Box 291  
Hudson Falls, NY 12839  
(518) 747-3587

**Malta**

Malta Commons Business Park  
100 Saratoga Blvd.  
Suite 26  
Malta, NY 12020

**Hours:** 8:30am- 7:30pm Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am- 5:00 pm Friday

**Descriptions of Services:** Parsons is the largest multi-service agency in New York's Capital Region dedicated to helping families and their children. The agency provides counseling services, parenting education, child abuse/neglect prevention and treatment, family strengthening programs, early childhood family support, special education, youth development programs, and mental health services. Services related to veterans and their families include: social work and counseling services for servicemen or women and their families, as well as assistance locating prevention services (i.e.: family, economic, and mental health counseling). Parson’s Child and Family Center also works with veterans and their families via home services, where case workers work with families in their own homes. In cases of single-parent deployment, foster care and day care services are also provided or families are connected to helpful resources. In addition, Parsons works with adoption agencies in cases of family emergencies/tragedies.

**Fees:** There is no charge from Parson’s Child and Family Center for their services. Charges may exist in cases of referrals to outside resources.

**Services provided for:** Veterans, as well as their families and children

**Area of coverage:** Parson’s Child and Family Center provides services across central New York

State, with offices located in Albany, Cohoes, Gloversville, Hudson Falls, Malta, and Schenectady.

## Financial Services

### New York State Consumer Protection Board

**Phone:** (800) 697-1220

**Fax:** (518) 486-3936

**Web Site:** [www.nysconsumer.gov](http://www.nysconsumer.gov)

**E-mail:** [webmaster@consumer.state.ny.us](mailto:webmaster@consumer.state.ny.us)

**Mailing Address:**

5 Empire State Plaza, suite 2101

Albany, NY 12223-1556

**Hours:** 8:30am- 4:30pm Monday- Friday

**Description of Services:** NYS CPB provides outreach and mitigation for consumers regarding identity theft, telemarketing, credit or loan practices, product recalls, new technologies, or other complaints. The CPB has an identity theft program specific to active duty military, publicizing and mitigating the consequences of scams which target military personnel. Other units of the Board conduct research, craft legislation, hold public hearings, launch public service campaigns, and advocate against utility and other rate increases before regulatory agencies. The CPB maintains an informative website.

**Fees:** None

**Services Provided For:** Everyone

**Area of Coverage:** New York State

### Small Business Development Center

*Helping Small Businesses Achieve Big Dreams*

**Phone:** (518) 485-7647

**Fax:** (518) 485-8223

**Web Site:** [www.nyssbdc.org](http://www.nyssbdc.org)

**Email Address:** [wbrigham@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:wbrigham@uamail.albany.edu)

**Mailing Address:**

7A Harriman Campus Road

Suite 240

Albany, NY 12206

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday- Friday

**Description of Services:** The SBDC works with businesses at no cost to assist in areas such as business plan development, financial projections, small business start-up information, buy/selling a business, business expansion, marketing strategies, market research, cost analysis/financial

management, identifying sources of capital business growth strategies, and international trade. SBDC Business Advisors help veteran small business owners improve profitability, expand market share, explore expert opportunities, and provide valuable assistance in terms of establishing business on stronger organizational and financial footing.

**Fees:** None

**Services Provided For:** Potential and existing entrepreneurs and small business owners

**Area of Coverage:** Counties in NY: Albany, Batavia, Brockport, Bronx, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Brookville, Binghamton, Canton, Corning, Dobbs Ferry, Farmingdale, Jamestown, Kingston, Manhattan, Oswego, Plattsburgh, Queens, Rochester, Spring Valley, Stony Brook, Staten Island, Utica, Watertown, White Plains, and Yonkers.

## Health Care Services

### Carol Lovelee

*Energize your health: A focused approach to wellness*

**Phone:** (518) 587-1661

**Web Site:** [www.LoveEnergyWork.com](http://www.LoveEnergyWork.com)

**E-mail:** [lovec@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lovec@nycap.rr.com)

**Mailing Address:**

41 Catherine St.

Saratoga Springs, NY, 12866

**Contacts:** Carol Lovelee

**Hours:** 9:00am-6:00pm Monday-Friday

**Description of Services:** Carol Lovelee aims to empower individuals by broadening perspectives on health and healing and giving hope. Carol is certified in Matrix energetic, Eden energy medicine, and Reiki, and also performs emotional freedom techniques (EFT). Carol's services are based on the idea that flow, balance, and harmony can be restored non-invasively and maintained by energy techniques involving tapping, massaging, twisting, connecting specific energy points on the skin, tracing or swirling the hand over the skin or along specific energy pathways.

**Fees:** \$65/hour \*Discounts are available for veterans

**Services Provided For:** Anyone interested.

**Area of Coverage:** Albany County and Saratoga County

### Creative Healing Connections

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

**E-mail:** [fran@creativehealingconnections.org](mailto:fran@creativehealingconnections.org)

**Mailing Address:**

Creative Healing Connections, Inc.

P.O. Box 545,

Saranac Lake, NY 12983

**Contacts:** Fran Yardley

**Description of Services:** Creative Healing Connections, Inc., provides creative experiences to promote healing and growth, either directly through their own programs or indirectly through training and inspiring others to do the same. They host a variety of arts and healing retreats including veteran's retreats that focus on reintegration issues arising from military service. Specific retreats are:

Women's Veteran's Retreat: The Women Veterans' Arts & Reintegration Retreat takes place at Wiawaka Holiday House on Lake George. It is open to any woman who has served our country in any branch of the military at any time.

Men's Veteran's Retreat: The Adirondack Warrior Wellness Retreat for Men takes place at Paul Smith's College in the Adirondacks and is open to any man who has served our country in any branch of the military at any time.

**Fees:** Prices vary per retreat from \$299-\$349. Full and partial scholarships are available. Register and apply on their website.

**Services provided for:** Veterans

**Area of Coverage:** Veterans from any area may attend the retreats, which take place in the Adirondack region.

## **Housing Services**

### Albany Housing Coalition

**Phone:** (518) 465-5251

**Website:** www.achvets.org

**Mailing Address:**

278 Clinton Avenue

Albany, NY 12210

**Contacts:** Case Manager: John Page (518) 694-0644

Senior Case Manager: Tyrone Alexander (518) 694-0645

Veterans Employment Specialist: Freida Beatty (518) 694-0648

Director of Veterans Services: Glenn E. Read (518) 694-0640

Coordinator Veterans Services & Shelter Plus Program: Sandra Sutherland (518) 694-0637

Veteran Community Advocate: Bryan K. Blanchard (518) 694-0639

**Hours:** 9:00 am-5:00 pm Monday- Friday

**Description of Services:** Provides housing for homeless veterans so they can get back on their feet and get in touch with supportive services in their community.

### Veterans

- Transitional housing opportunities
- Permanent housing options
- Access to entitlements and subsidies
- Employment program
- Referral to recover options
- Eviction prevention
- Case management of OIF/OEF veterans
- Legal assistance and advocacy
- Single rooms (SRO'S) with meals and case management services
- VETERANS HOUSE, a supportive transitional environment
- WALTER STREET, a supportive permanent veterans' housing

### Rentals

- Rent affordable apartments and single rooms
- Publish the Affordable Rental List, the capital districts premiere rental resource for tenants and landlords in and around Albany. Landlords can list their apartments for free. Renters looking for an apartment can pick up a copy of the ARL for free at the Albany Location or at one of the 80 plus other agencies throughout Albany.

### Home Ownership

- Information on grants for home ownership

- Information on new housing programs in Arbor Hill
- Counseling and referrals for homebuyers, tenants, and landlords

### Vet Track

- Alternatives to incarceration for veterans

**Fees:** Veterans who have incomes must pay 30% of the fees but are provided with housing, meals, supports, and case management. Veterans without income are fully provided for.

**Services Provided For:** Veterans (regardless of discharge status) and below poverty community-based individuals.

**Area of Coverage:** Services aside from Vet Track are based in the Albany area only. Vet Track is based in 7 counties in the 3rd judicial district.

### VET HELP

**Phone:** (518) 885-0673

**Fax:** (518) 885-0998

**Web Site:** [www.vethome.org](http://www.vethome.org)

**Email:** [Vethomeorg@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Vethomeorg@nycap.rr.com)

**Mailing Address:**

36 Church Avenue

Ballston Spa NY, 12020

**Contacts:** A.C. Budd Mazurek, Executive Director- [RPCdirector@nycap.rr.com](mailto:RPCdirector@nycap.rr.com)

Jonathan Parsons, Employment Specialist-[hvrp3@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hvrp3@nycap.rr.com)

William Alston, Employment Specialist- [hvrp2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hvrp2@nycap.rr.com)

**Hours:** 8:30 am- 4:30 pm Monday- Friday

**Description of Services:** It is the mission of the Saratoga County Rural Preservation Company to provide housing opportunities for low income households and to serve the needs of homeless military veterans, and to advocate for all military veterans. They locate homeless veterans in need, determine their needs, and prepare them to enter the job market. Services they provide include case management, employment services, permanent housing, life skills programs, job placement, legal help, and counseling in dealing with issues such as substance abuse or homelessness.

**Fees:** None

**Services Provided For:** Veterans only, male or female. The veteran cannot have a dishonorable discharge or have committed certain crimes that are against Vet Help policies.

**Area of Coverage:** Saratoga County, Schenectady County, Washington County, Warren County, Fulton County, Montgomery County.

## Memorial Services

### Patriot Guard

*Standing for those who stood for us.*

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

**Email:** [PatriotGRiderNY@GMail.com](mailto:PatriotGRiderNY@GMail.com)

**Contact:** NYS Captain Dave Kern

**Description of Services:** “The Patriot Guard Riders is a diverse amalgamation of riders from across the nation. We have one thing in common besides motorcycles. We have an unwavering respect for those who risk their very lives for America’s freedom and security. If you share this respect, please join us. We don’t care what you ride or if you ride, what your political views are, or whether you’re a hawk or a dove. It is not a requirement that you be a veteran. It doesn’t matter where you’re from or what your income is; you don’t even have to ride. The only prerequisite is respect. Our main mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the family.

Each mission we undertake has two basic objectives:

Show our sincere respect for our fallen heroes, their families, and their communities.

Shield the mourning family and their friends from interruptions created by any protestor or group of protestors.

We accomplish the latter through strictly legal and non-violent means.

To those of you who are currently serving and fighting for the freedoms of others, at home and abroad, please know that we are backing you. We honor and support you with every mission we carry out, and we are praying for a safe return home for all.” ([www.patriotguard.org](http://www.patriotguard.org))

Please contact your state captain for request of services.

**Fees:** Call your state captain for more information

**Services provided for:** Families who have lost members in the military

**Area of coverage:** Riders are available throughout the country. The above contact is for New York State.

### Saratoga National Cemetery

**Phone:** (518) 581-9128, Burial arrangements (800) 535-1117

**Fax:** (518) 583-6975, Burial arrangements (866) 900-6417

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

**Mailing Address:**

200 Duell Road

Schuylerville, NY 12871

**Hours:** 8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday \*Closed on designated holidays.

**Description of Services:** National Cemeteries honor veterans with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to honor our nation. Saratoga National Cemetery makes burial arrangements for veterans and their eligible dependents. They provide services at no cost to the veteran that includes burial plots, headstone or marker with inscription, and care of the gravesite. If military honors are requested, the cemetery staff can assist with those arrangements. The cemetery allows for in-ground casket burials and in-ground and above-ground cremations.

**Fees:** No costs for veterans, if they are eligible for burial benefits

**Services Provided for:** Veterans and their families

**Area of Coverage:** New York and Vermont

## Recreational & Social Services

### Albany County Conventions & Visitors Bureau

**Phone:** (518) 434-1217 Ext. 106

**Fax:** (518) 434-0887

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

**E-mail:** [jtoth@albany.org](mailto:jtoth@albany.org)

**Mailing Address:**

25 Quackenbush Square

Albany, NY 12207

**Contacts:** Jeanne L. Toth, CTIS

**Hours:** 9:00am – 5:00pm Monday- Friday

**Description of Services:** The Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau provides services to individuals who would like to plan trips or reunions in the Albany area. The Sales Manager has planned many military reunions in the past and has contacts with many local military attractions within a two-hour drive of the Capital District. She can plan and organize trips with specific needs in mind.

**Fees:** None

**Services Provided For:** Veterans, and their families

**Area of Coverage:** Serves people from all over the United States, however only plans tours/reunions in the Albany area.

### Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. - Capital Region NY2

**Web Site:** [www.capitalregion2bsm.org](http://www.capitalregion2bsm.org)

**E-mail:** [capitalregion2bsm@gmail.com](mailto:capitalregion2bsm@gmail.com)

**Mailing Address:**

PO Box 243

Delmar, NY 12054

**Meeting Location:** Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520 in Colonie, NY

**Hours:** Meetings are held at 2pm on the third Sunday of each month.

**Description of Services:** The Blue Star Mothers of America is a volunteer group of mothers and step-mothers of children who are on active military duty or who have been honorably discharged from the military. They provide emotional support to each other and participate in projects that benefit both active duty military personnel and veterans. They do this by sending “Freedom Boxes” and letters to the troops, volunteering in VA hospitals, working with veterans in the community and much more. Fathers, friends, and supporters of the military can join this

organization but only as associate members. These members do not pay dues and do not have voting rights.

The Blue Star Mothers organization has been recognized by Congress since 1942. The NY2 Chapter is one of 7 chapters in New York State and is the second largest chapter in the country.

**Fees:** Membership dues are \$20 per year.

**Services Provided For:** Mothers and step-mothers of active duty and honorably discharged troops.

**Area of Coverage:** This chapter covers the Albany area and expands to as far as Glens Falls, NY and Schoharie, NY.

**NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Universal Access Program**

*Connecting people of all ages and abilities to nature through accessible recreation facilities, programs and services.*

**Phone:** (518) 402-9428

**Web Site:** [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) or <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/34035.html>

**Mailing Address:**

NYS DEC, Bureau of State Lands  
625 Broadway, 5th Floor, Albany, NY 12233-4255

**Contacts:**

Access Coordinators - Statewide by region

Nassau and Suffolk Counties

Henry Doll

(631) 444-0315 Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond Counties

Nanci Auletto

(718) 482-1136 Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester Counties

Mark Davin

(845) 256-3063 Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and Schoharie Counties

Ira Fyfe

(518) 357-2289 Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington Counties

Doug Fitzgerald  
(518) 897-1310 Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, and St. Lawrence Counties

Blanche Town  
(315) 265-3090 Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga, and  
Tompkins Counties

Dick Wojcik  
(315) 426-7448 Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca,  
Steuben, Wayne, and Yates Counties

Gretchen Cicora  
(607) 776-2165 Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara, and Wyoming Counties

Matt Perkins  
(716) 372-0645

**Hours:** Depending on location; usually dusk to dawn and overnight camping.

**Description of Services:** Universal Access means providing recreation opportunities for everyone - from the oldest adult to the youngest child and everyone in between including people with disabilities. Accessibility improvements invite families with children in strollers and people with mobility issues to our state lands. Various methods of communication are utilized to include people with hearing or sight disabilities in environmental education. Our focus is on inclusion and not separate programs.

The Department of Environmental Conservation welcomes all visitors to explore outdoor recreation on state lands and we are committed to providing an ever-increasing range of accessible opportunities. Currently, visitors to our accessible facilities can enjoy fishing, boating, hunting, canoeing, picnicking, horseback riding, hiking, visiting historic assets, wildlife observation and camping at DEC campgrounds as well as primitive areas.

Many of our sites were designed to provide people with choices about the type of recreational experience and level of personal challenge they prefer. We encourage visitors to contact DEC's access coordinators directly to discuss their individual needs and recreational pursuits with knowledgeable staff.

The DEC Universal Access Program also hosts an annual Veteran Appreciation Weekend of camping and recreation in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest. Contact program director Carole Fraser for more information at 518-402-9428.

**Fees:** There are only fees for permits for fishing, hunting, trapping, recreational marine, etc. The NYS Access Pass, which is administered by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), is accepted at DEC campgrounds and day use areas.

**Services Provided For:** Veterans and their families

**Area of Coverage:** All areas of New York State

### Stars for Our Troops

**Phone:** Germania Hall (518) 237-5008

**E-mail:** Stars4ourTroops@aol.com

**Mailing Address:**

Germania Hall

309 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (At 107<sup>th</sup> Street Entrance)

Troy NY, 12180

**Contacts:** Susan (518) 235- 1558

**Hours:** 5:00pm-9:00pm Fridays, 2:00pm-4:00pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

**Description of Services:** Stars for Our Troops is a volunteer organization that recycles old flags to support our troops and veterans. Volunteers cut embroidered stars out of worn out flags and send them to troops with the saying “I am part of our American Flag that has flown over a home in the U.S.A. I can no longer fly. The sun and winds have caused me to become tattered and torn. Please carry me as a reminder that you are not forgotten.” Any and all volunteers are welcome, including clubs and organizations, veterans, schools, families, and more.

**Fees:** None

**Services Provided For:** Veterans and Active Duty Military

**Area of Coverage:** Stars may be requested for any troop, veteran, or active duty member.

## Recruitment Services

### ROTC-Air Force

**Phone:** (518) 276.6236

**Fax:** (518) 276.4580

**Website:** www.afrotc.com

**E-mail:** afrotc@rpi.edu

**Mailing Address:**

110 8<sup>th</sup> Street

Troy, NY 12180-3590

**Hours:** 8:30am– 5:00pm Monday- Friday

**Description of Services:** Select colleges offer ROTC programs, which train students to become military officers. Students must be enrolled in a full-time bachelors or masters program and be between the ages of 17-30 to be eligible. The program provides all training, along with generous scholarships and stipends. Participants commit to 8 years of military service after graduation (at least 4 of those years must be active duty.)

**Fees:** 8 years of military service are required after graduation

**Services Provided For:** Any student, aged 17-30, enrolled in a bachelors or masters program

**Area of Coverage:** Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is the host institution for Air Force ROTC in the Capital District. To locate other programs please visit: <http://www.rpi.edu/dept/afrotc/www>

### ROTC- Army

**Phone:** (518) 783-4205

**Fax:** (518) 783-2576

**Website:** www.goarmy.com/rotc

**E-mail:** mohawkgbr@siena.edu

**Contacts:** Captain Powell

**Hours:** 8:30am – 5:00pm Monday- Friday

**Description of Services:** Select colleges offer ROTC programs, which train students to become military officers. Students must be enrolled in a full-time bachelors or masters program and be between the ages of 17-30 to be eligible. The program provides all training, along with generous scholarships and stipends. Participants commit to 8 years of military service after graduation (at least 4 of those years must be active duty.)

**Fees:** 8 years of military service are required after graduation

**Services Provided For:** Any student, aged 17-30, enrolled in a bachelors or masters program

**Area of Coverage:** Siena College is the host institution for Army ROTC in the Capital District. They also have two additional partnership programs at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and University at Albany. To locate additional programs please visit: [www.goarmy.com/rotc](http://www.goarmy.com/rotc)

### ROTC – Navy/Marine Corps

**Phone:** (518) 276.8001

**Fax:** (518) 276.4788

**Website:** <http://www.rpi.edu/dept/naval/www/index.html>

**E-mail:** [nrotc@rpi.edu](mailto:nrotc@rpi.edu)

110 8th Street

Troy, NY 12180-3590

**Hours:** 8:30am – 5:00pm Monday- Friday

**Description of Services:** Select colleges offer ROTC programs, which train students to become military officers. Students must be enrolled in a full-time bachelors or masters program and be between the ages of 17-30 to be eligible. The program provides all training, along with generous scholarships and stipends. Participants commit to 8 years of military service after graduation (at least 4 of those years must be active duty.)

**Fees:** 8 years of military service are required after graduation

**Services Provided For:** Any student, aged 17-30, enrolled in a bachelors or masters program

**Area of Coverage:** Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is the host institution for Naval ROTC in the Capital District. To locate other programs please visit: <http://www.collegeprofiles.com/rotc-navy.html#NY>

## Referral Services

### The Brain Injury Association of NYS

*Providing education, advocacy, and community support services that lead to improved outcomes for children and adults with brain injuries and their families*

**Phone:** Albany location: (518) 459-7911

Toll-Free Family Help Line: (800) 228-8201

**Fax:** (518) 482-5285

**Web Site:** [www.bianys.org](http://www.bianys.org)

**E-mail:** [info@bianys.org](mailto:info@bianys.org)

**Mailing Address:**

10 Colvin Ave.

Albany, NY 12206-1242

**Contacts:** President, BIANYS Board of Directors: Marie Cavallo. Ph.D

Military Veterans Service Project Program Director: Jodie Ference

**Description of Services:** The main goals of the Brain Injury Association of NYS include education, outreach, as well as advocacy on the subject of brain injuries. They offer technical assistance and in-service training in order to help people understand the causes of brain injuries and what it is like to live with a brain injury. They also offer presentations to schools on the importance of helmet safety in order to avoid brain injuries.

**Fees:** None

**Services Provided For:** Services are mainly provided for veterans, children, and people with traumatic brain injuries as well as their families.

**Area of Coverage:** Albany area only for New York State, however, there are specific branches for each state.

### Veterans for Peace

**Phone:** (518) 482-0262, Eastern New York Tom Paine Chapter No. 10

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

**Contacts:** Dan Wilcox, VP

**Description of Services:** This is a non-profit national organization that provides anti-war, non-violent education for people and veterans within the community. Local chapters in the capital region are located in Albany and Saratoga Springs. Veterans for Peace draws on the personal experiences and perspectives gained by veterans to raise public awareness of the true costs and consequences of militarism and war and to seek peaceful, effective alternatives. Members of this organization are involved in many outreach programs such as the Clean Water project in Iraq and

Afghanistan and advocates for Agent Orange victims. Veterans for Peace offers free services in directing veterans in need of counseling, economic or health care assistance. Meetings in Albany, NY are held at the VA hospital.

**Fees:** Membership fees are waived for those in active duty for the first year. Veterans and non-veteran dues are \$40.

## Veteran Associations

### Albany Vet Center

**Phone:** (518) 626-5130

**Fax:** (518) 458-8613

**Web Site:** <http://www.veteranprograms.com/id412.html>

**Mailing Address:**

17 Computer Dr. West  
Albany, NY 12205

**Contacts:** Please call (518) 626-5130 to make an appointment.

**Hours:** 8:30 am-5:00 pm Monday-Friday

\*Are often open until 8:30 pm Monday-Thursday.

**Description of Services:**

The Albany Vet Center offers broad readjustment counseling services to military veterans who served in combat zones, and also to their family members for military related issues. These services include: counseling at the individual and group levels, sexual trauma counseling, alcohol/drug counseling, spouse/significant other counseling, bereavement counseling, employment counseling, liaison with the VA, referral to community agencies, and benefits assistance. All information disclosed at the Vet Center is confidential.

**Fees:** Counseling services are free for veterans and family members.

**Services Provided For:**

In-country veterans from the following periods of hostilities:

Vietnam War

Korean War

World War II

American Merchant Marines

Lebanon

Grenada

Panama

Persian Gulf

Somalia

Operation Joint Endeavor/Operation Joint Guard/Operation Joint Forge

Global War on Terrorism

Services are also eligible for:

Veterans of any era who experienced sexual trauma while serving on active duty.

Bereavement counseling and assistance to parents, spouses and children of armed forces personnel who died in service to our country.

Family members of military reservists and National Guard personnel who died while on active duty.

**Area of Coverage:** The NY Vet Center offers services primarily in the Albany area, but has affiliations across the state. There are nearly 300 Vet Centers across the US and surrounding territories. Please see website for contacts at other Vet Center locations.

### New York State Division of Veterans Affairs

**Phone:** (888) VETS NYS (1-888-838-7697)

**Web Site:** <http://www.veterans.ny.gov/>

**Mailing Address:**

5 Empire State Plaza

28th Floor

Albany, NY 12223-1551

**Hours:** Vary depending on location

**Description of Services:** Education, Veteran Employment, Counseling, and state, federal, and active duty benefits. Providing quality service, advocacy and counseling for New York Veterans and their families to ensure they receive benefits granted by law for their services to New York and the nation.

**Fees:** None

**Services Provided For:** Veterans

**Area of Coverage by County:** Albany, Allegany, Bronx, Broome, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Dutchess, Erie, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Kings, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Nassau, New York, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Orange, Orleans, Oswego, Otsego, Putnam, Queens, Rensselaer, Richmond, Rockland, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Suffolk, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Westchester, Wyoming, Yates.

### Rensselaer County Veterans Services

**Phone:** (518) 270-2760

**Fax:** (518) 270-2956

**E-mail:** [BReiter@rensko.com](mailto:BReiter@rensko.com) (For Director Robert M. Reiter)

**Website:** [http://www.rensco.com/departments\\_veterans.asp](http://www.rensco.com/departments_veterans.asp)

**Mailing Address:**

1600 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Troy, NY 12180

**Contacts:** Kathleen M. Jimino-County Executive

Joseph W. Cybulski-Commissioner

Robert M. Reiter-Director

**Hours:** 9:00 am- 5:00 pm Monday-Friday

**Description of Services:** The primary objective of the Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency is to ensure that all veterans and their dependents receive the maximum benefits to which they are entitled from the Veterans Administration and other agencies. Assistance is provided with military-related benefits that include: compensations, loans, pensions, insurance, educational benefits, medal applications and burials. In addition, the Rensselaer County Veterans Services provides local veterans with complimentary transportation to and from the VA Medical Center and the Troy VA Clinic for medical appointments. The agency puts out a newsletter each month to inform veterans of resources and events in the Rensselaer County area. Please see website for more information.

**Services Provided For:** Veterans of Rensselaer County and their families

**Area of Coverage:** Rensselaer County only