

VETERANS AND THE JOB MARKET

“A successful entrepreneur does not take unnecessary risks in starting a business. You have assured that as I continue down the road of small business, my risks are mitigated by unparalleled support...”

— David S. Rapaport, former combat soldier and graduate of “Boot Camp”

The DAV Charitable Service Trust’s support of the “Entrepreneurship Boot Camp for Veterans with Disabilities,” developed by Syracuse University in New York State and conducted at other universities across the country, offers disabled veterans courses in entrepreneurship and small business leadership. The program is one of many investments that make the difference in cultivating our veterans’ future opportunities for rapid advancement.

The Boot Camp offers lessons in everything from running a restaurant to starting a franchise. “The knowledge base of each of our instructors and my fellow classmates” made the program an excellent experience, observes Mr. Rapaport, who deployed as a combat soldier in Iraq and also served in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

No issue is more important to troops returning to civilian life today than finding a good job. That’s been a problem all along for our youngest veterans, who consistently suffer higher unemployment rates than non-veterans of the same age. Military disabilities only complicate the issue, and the economic downturn that continued in 2009 slammed our young disabled veterans to the ground.

Lifelines such as these steadfast support groups – that you assist through the DAV Charitable Service Trust – make a difference for our unemployed, disabled veterans:

- ★ A Trust grant to Bobby Dodd Institute in Atlanta, Ga., brings career services, employment training, and follow-up assistance to disabled veterans. This organization specializes in the employability of seriously disabled people.
- ★ The Business and Professional Women’s Foundation in Washington, D.C., uses Trust funding to address the employment and career advancement needs of women veterans.
- ★ Catholic Charities and Community Services of the Archdiocese of Denver provides education and job training as well as employment and referrals to outside services to veterans.
- ★ The Trust helps the Dayton, Ohio, VA to provide needy veterans with meal vouchers, work clothes, job searches, and transportation to work sites.
- ★ The VA in Washington, D.C., gets Trust assistance to support the annual WinterHaven StandDown, which provides outreach, healthcare service, and employment services.
- ★ Mental Health Systems in San Diego, Calif., runs Club Vet, an employment and training program for homeless veterans.
- ★ Randlin Adult Family Care Homes in Wausau, Wis., provides education and training, transportation, job training and development for disabled veterans.

- ★ The Cincinnati VA Medical Center uses a Trust grant to offer at-risk veterans clothing, shoes, personal care and other items that may be necessary to obtain gainful employment.
- ★ Applied Behavioral Rehabilitation Institute in Bridgeport, Conn., supplies food for homeless veterans, as well as life skills and vocational training.
- ★ Crisis Ministries in Charleston, S.C., provides transitional housing and employment services for homeless veterans.
- ★ VetGroup in Forked River, N.J., provides homeless veterans with medical services, emergency housing and employment counseling/job search assistance.