

ABOUT THE CO-SPONSORING AGENCIES



Headway of WNY, an affiliate of People Inc., is a non-profit support and advocacy agency whose mission is to ensure that individuals in Western New York with brain injuries, other disabilities and seniors have access to advocacy, resources and support systems to enable them to live as independently as possible. Headway is the local Regional Resource Development Center/Single Point of Entry for the Department of Health's Nursing Home Transition (NHTD) Waiver and the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver. Headway is committed to providing services for veterans and their families, particularly those with traumatic brain injuries. For more information, call 716.408.3100.

**2635 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14216
headwayofwny.org**



People Inc. provides programs and services to more than 12,500 people with special needs, their families and seniors throughout Western New York and Rochester. Since 1970, People Inc. has assisted individuals to achieve greater degrees of independence and productivity. For more information, call 716.817.7400.

**1219 North Forest Road
Williamsville, NY 14221
people-inc.org**



Catholic Charities Vision Military program offers supports and services to veterans and military families through direct services and collaboration with local agencies throughout Western New York. Current or former military members, veterans and their families can present a need at any community-based office of Catholic Charities. Services are tailored to meet the identified needs. In addition, Catholic Charities is a Network provider with NYServes Upstate. For more information, call 716.877.8822.

**Catholic Charities Vision Military Program
Kenmore-Tonawanda Office
3370 Delaware Avenue
Kenmore, NY 14217
ccwny.org**



Wednesday, June 13, 2018 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Buffalo History Museum,
One Museum Court, Buffalo, NY 14216



WELCOME TO THE 3RD ANNUAL VETERANS SYMPOSIUM

This symposium has been designed to encourage feedback and discussion about alternative therapeutic approaches for successful reintegration for current and former service members. Support, honor and respect are given to service men and women who are with us here today.

This year's motto - Be There, Be Proud – Helping Current and Former Service Members and their Families Find Peace – was developed by an active planning committee, made up of representatives from all three co-sponsoring agencies, as well as local service and community members.

We are pleased to have the distinguished speakers with us today to offer their professional insight and knowledge. Our hope is to further these discussions and address current community needs.

SCHEDULE

10 – 10:30 a.m.	State Court - Welcome/Registration - coffee/tea available upon check-in
10:30 a.m. – noon	Auditorium - Keynote and Panelists
Noon – 1 p.m.	State Court - Lunch provided by Chef's Restaurant
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Mezzanine - Holistic themed fair featuring: Yoga, Massage, Essential Oils, Reiki, Drumming, Benefits of Art in Reintegration, EFT, and EMDR

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Stephen McCloskey served eight years in the United States Army. He proudly represented his unit with three tours in Iraq. Stephen obtained many skills and honorary positions offered by the U.S. Army. He was awarded and decorated for his service with Combat Action, Drivers, Sharp Shooter Marksman, Airborne and Air Assault Badges as well as five Army Commendation Medals, two Good Conduct Medals, five Iraq Campaign Stars, Army NCO Professional Development Ribbon and several Combat Stripes. He has earned an Associate's degree in Paralegal Studies. Stephen was unanimously chosen to lead as President of the Alpha & Omega Retreat, Inc. Board of Directors. His goal is to remove barriers and assist Veterans with transitioning into civilian life.

PANELISTS

Colonel James Becker studied Military Science at the Reserve Officer Training Corp while at SUNY Fredonia. He earned his Airborne wings and a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Infantry. After earning his BFA he attended Infantry Officers Basic Course. He earned his MFA from SUNY at Albany and went on to teach art as an adjunct in several schools around WNY. In 1996, he developed an art program for Horizon Village, a residential treatment program. He left in 2000 to teach at the University of Edinboro Pennsylvania. After September 11th 2001, Captain Becker joined the 402nd Civil Affairs unit where he deployed as a team leader for the invasion of Iraq. He deployed again to Iraq in 2006 as a Civil Affairs Company Commander. He entered his first art show in 2015, having been unable to paint until then. COL Becker was deployed in 2016, to October 2017. He continues to work with combat veterans at the Buffalo Vet Center.

Wendy Guyker, PhD, is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling, School and Educational Psychology at the University at Buffalo and is also a Registered Yoga Teacher. Wendy's research interests are in veteran mental health as well as in the areas of mindfulness and self-care. Wendy is also a board member for Yogis in Service and brings yoga and its many tools to veterans at the Buffalo VA. In addition, she maintains a private practice, specializing in mindfulness-based interventions.

Annette M. Romeo, Certified EFT Practitioner specializes in trauma relief. She has a 25 year background in biomedical research, and for the last eight years has had a private EFT Practice in Amherst, NY. She has been active in the local veteran community since 2011, is a member of JCF-Joining Community Forces and the Veteran's Stress Project. EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique) is an evidence-based, self-help technique proven effective in relieving a wide range of stress-related symptoms. Through the Veteran's Stress Project, Annette has donated many hours of her time giving free sessions to Veterans and also working towards making the method available on a larger scale.

Kimberly Warner, LMSW, EMDR Trained, is a United States Marine Corps Gulf War Veteran widow, who has gained invaluable experience from life with her, now deceased, PTSD diagnosed spouse. After his death in 2006, Kimberly was diagnosed and treated for secondary trauma. She worked through her own therapy and emerged with a desire to "pay it forward." She completed schooling to become a Social Worker and now works with families, veterans, civilians, and other populations as an Addictions Counselor. She is an advocate and Peer Group Mentor for TAPS, an organization that helps the one's left behind after a military death. She also offers grief/loss counseling if needed and is there whenever a loved one referred to her needs to talk.