



TALLAHASSEE VETERANS LEGAL COLLABORATIVE *tvlc.legal*

providing veterans with access to legal services that protect their interests and promote justice

SUMMARY REPORT 2023

LOCATIONS: TVLC has consistently conducted weekly legal clinics hosted by the Saul's Bridges American Legion Post 13 (2017-current) and the V.A.'s Sgt. Ernest "Boots" Thomas Tallahassee Healthcare Center (2018-19) and coordinated the Legal Program at North Florida Homeless/At-Risk Veterans Stand Downs (2013-19).

VOLUNTEERS AND COLLABORATION:

- Hundreds of attorneys have volunteered at the Stand Down legal programs since 2013 and more than three hundred (500) referrals to attorneys' offices have offered advice and representation beyond the walk-in, "Advice & Referrals" legal clinics themselves.
- Part-time staff & volunteers devote additional hours alongside pro bono attorneys, more than seventy law students over the years, along with dozens of multi-disciplinary paralegals, social workers and other professionals comprising the Legal team of some twenty volunteers each week.
- TVLC's two dozen Collaborative agencies and organizations also provide reliable counselors, advocates, social workers and various other services for housing, job opportunities, benefits, and other referrals. We provide a variety of services every week, so we could say we hold a "Stand Down" every week.
- TVLC's Team coordinates regularly with the Leon County Veterans Treatment Court, as well as numerous other agencies.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND DRIVER'S LICENSES:

- Hundreds of Driver's License Reinstatements have resulted from the TVLC Clinics and Stand Down Courts (10 different proceedings 2013-2019).
- To clear many of those suspended licenses, TVLC has coordinated thousands of Veterans' community service hours at events throughout the Capital area. TVLC Teams work to ensure Veterans' success in resolving court obligations and success in individual recovery. Veterans helping Veterans do community service hours and participate in our monthly Farm Share food distribution drives at local apartment complexes supporting housing for veterans.
- In addition, TVLC has advocated to out-of-circuit & out-of-state jurisdictions to clear criminal & civil records, for job clearance or driver's license reinstatement.

- In addition, we have convinced individual Veterans, often with peer advocacy, to turn themselves in to law enforcement when necessary to satisfy outstanding warrants as a first step toward rebuilding their lives, job & family, and encourage them to seek services, including the VA, mental health treatment, PTSD counseling, substance abuse services, and job training.

- EXAMPLES of legal victories for Veterans and their families include resolution of:
 - o contempt of court proceedings;
 - o injunctions for individual veterans separated from families;
 - o landlord-tenant disputes and other help in securing housing;
 - o consumer and credit legal battles;
 - o step-parent adoptions;
 - o quashed warrants;
 - o restoration of competency;
 - o clemency, expungement and sealing petitions;
 - o voter registrations;
 - o payments from pensions, IRA's & benefits cases;
 - o birth certificates & other legal documents from around the country;
 - o divorce proceedings;
 - o wills, & powers of attorney;
 - o hardship licenses & other DMV administrative proceedings.

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