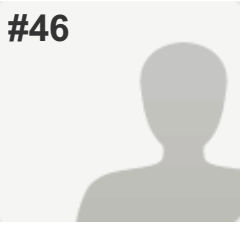


#46



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Collector: Web Link (Web Link)

Started: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 5:06:37 AM

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Time Spent: 03:17:10

IP Address: 152.131.8.131

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Q1: Has the program been in existence for at least one year (since September 1, 2013)? Yes

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Q2: Staff person submitting this nomination.

Name: William R. Browning
Title: Chief, Volunteer and Community Relations
Hospital/System: Detroit VA Healthcare System
Address: 4646 John R (00CO-VCR)
City: Detroit
State: MI
ZIP Code: 48201
Email Address: william.browning@va.gov
Telephone Number: 313-576-3332

Q3: Name of Volunteer Program you are nominating. Victory Band

Q4: Program Category: Select one of the four program categories. In-Service Hospital Volunteer - programs that designed and implemented innovative services to address needs or challenges within the health care organization.

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Q5: Provide a brief description of the program, including its goals and outcomes. (600 words max)

Since June of 2012, the collaborative effort between Voluntary Service and the Jams-For-Vets Project has been music to the ears of Veterans receiving care at the Detroit VA Medical Center. The partnership uses a number of music-centered programs to help influence therapy and enhance the quality of life of patients in our Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC). Working collaboratively, Jams-For-Vets volunteers and PRRC therapists have taken a group of diverse individuals with varying levels of musical talent and, under the tutelage, transformed them into a skilled band, a Victory Band.

The PRRC is a program for Veterans with chronic and severe mental illness focused on helping Veterans live personally fulfilling lives and facilitate community integration. The Jams-For-Vets mission involves teaching Veterans how to use music to enhance their quality of life. The Jams-For-Vets volunteers and PRRC staff members work together to facilitate twice weekly band practices for a total of 3 hours per week. There is no requirement for the band members to have prior music experience or have their own equipment to participate in the band. Many of the Veterans in our program have limited financial resources and would not be able to purchase their own equipment to participate in the band, if this was a requirement.

The skills taught, go far beyond the simple playing and performing of music. The Veterans within the Victory Band have truly blossomed since beginning in the band. The band has provided therapeutic value in many ways. The Victory Band members have learned to work as a team and demonstrate improved social skills, including leadership skills. They also present with increased confidence in themselves and their abilities with many members using this newfound confidence to expand their community integration activities outside of their work with the band. They have learned to use music as a coping skill to manage their emotions/symptoms. The success of the program is demonstrated the first Monday of every month in the medical center's main Atrium as the Victory Band performs a one-hour song list of pop favorites for patients awaiting their appointments.

The Victory Band serves as a living model of recovery for other Veterans. This exposure has also allowed family and friends to experience a sense of pride in their loved one's accomplishments and has served as a catalyst to break down the stigma often associated with mental illness. As members of the band, the Veterans are no longer defined by their mental illness, but rather view themselves and are viewed by others as a group of talented musicians.

PAGE 5: Details of Nominated Program

Q6: Describe the role of volunteers in planning, developing, implementing and maintaining the program. (400 words max)

The mission of The Jam-for-Vets (JFV) Project is to enrich the lives of Veteran patients through comprehensive music services. Founded by Veterans, the group serves as a magnet for professional musicians who enlist their talents to help better the lives of America's heroes. The VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) program at the Detroit VAMC recruited JFV as part of the hospital's music initiative that sees volunteer musicians perform for patients in our hospice unit, chemo therapy, hemodialysis and outpatient waiting areas. A mutual interest between VAVS and the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC) to use volunteers in a music-therapy program led to the collaboration with Jam-For-Vets and the creation of Detroit VAMC's all Veteran 'Victory Band'. By bringing JFV and PRRC together, the Detroit VAMC was able to build a music therapy element using volunteers.

In addition to teaching and mentoring patients in their musical skills, JFV volunteers integrate as the Victory Band's maestros, engineers, guitarists and singers. The Jam-For-Vets volunteers not only provide the music expertise to facilitate the band, but have teamed with another non-profit called Charity Music in securing donations for musical instruments. To date, the groups have donated more than \$25,000 in equipment and time to the Victory Band program.

Q7: Describe how this program is unique and/or innovative.(400 words max)

The Victory Band program is the first of its kind in the Veterans Healthcare Administration (VHA). The program seeks to expand the Veteran patient's support network by improving social skills, learning team building, fostering leadership skills, and teaching music as a coping skill to aide in managing emotions and stress. There is a growing body of evidence indicating that the addition of music therapy can improve symptoms of psychosis and enhance interpersonal communications for patients with severe mental illness.

The collaboration has also provided Jam-For-Vets musician volunteers a venue for their talents and allows them to practice their craft as they show their appreciation to Veterans. By sharing their gift, these musicians have provided an invaluable service to help heal or entertain hospitalized patients.

Q8: Describe how the program benefits the service recipients, the health care organization and/or the community. (400 words max)

The Victory Band has directly impacted the 10-12 band members that have participated in the band throughout the 2+ years that the band has been in place. One of these Veterans was struggling with low self-esteem and a lack of motivation. He had difficulty identifying his strengths and was uncertain about his future plans. The Veteran had interest in returning to school but had been wavering for months due to a lack of confidence in his abilities. This Veteran presented to his first band practice with the same uncertainty and lack of confidence. He had a beautiful singing voice, but did not believe in his ability or the compliments that he received from those around him. His ability to identify his strengths and confidence grew through participating in the band. After a few months of working with the band, the Veteran demonstrated newfound motivation, belief in himself, and a determination to return to school. The Veteran is currently enrolled in school full time and hopes to one day return to the VA as employee and help other Veterans.

The Victory Band has also helped with Detroit VAMC community outreach efforts, performing at numerous events and providing evidence of the Detroit VAMC's therapeutic value to the community.

PAGE 6: Contacts

Q9: Chief Executive Officer of the nominated hospital/system.

Name	Pamela Reeves, M.D.
Title	Director, Detroit VA Medical Center
Email Address	Pamela.Reeves@va.gov
Telephone Number	313-576-1000, x63234

Q10: CEO Support.

Checked box confirms that your CEO supports the submission of the nominated program.

Q11: Administrative Assistant to the CEO.

Name	Darcel Lockhart-Henderson
Title	HEALTH SYSTEMS SPECIALIST
Email Address	Darcel.Lockhart-Henderson@va.gov
Telephone Number	313-576-1000, x63314

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Q12: Name of the volunteer or auxilian who will be representing the program at the AHA Annual Meeting, May 4, 2015.

Name	Matt Thomas
Title	Executive Director, Jam For Vets Project
Home Address	138 Magnolia Creek Walk
City	Ponte Vedra
State	FL
ZIP Code	32081
Email Address	matt_thomas@jamforvets.org
Telephone Number	904-540-5561

Q13: Volunteer Service Professional/Manager.

Name	William R. Browning
Title	Chief, Volunteer and Community Relations
Email	william.browning@va.gov
Telephone	313-576-3332

Q14: In submitting this application, we give the American Hospital Association permission to use and disseminate the information herein.

Agree