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Veteran & Family Resource Update..

October 2019

Impact Report

Update on the impact of our work at Qualified Listeners:

Through September 2019

- 279 Listening Sessions
 - 414 hours
 - 14,853 miles
 - 78% are Veterans
 - 10% are female
 - 15% are spouses
 - 58% served in combat
 - 517 total Listening Sessions since we started the program in May 2017
- We're currently working on 4 active projects for Veterans & families
- 5,500 Veteran & Family Resource Directories distributed since we started the program in April 2018
- We're proud to directly serve over 120 Veterans or family members each month

We know we save lives...

Another Major Milestone

Last week we reached a milestone we didn't think possible this soon. We just surpassed 500 listening sessions with Veterans and their family members! We projected reaching this goal by the end of our 5th year, but we did it in 2.6 years. Please see the performance report in this newsletter for more details, we take great pride in who all we have the honor to serve.

We have more requests for our time than we have available hours. To resolve this challenge, we approved three new Qualified Listeners in September who will assist us in catching up to the current need. The more people who hear about us, the more they wish to connect to us.

Listening is fundamental in the communication process of people. There is nothing more honorable than sitting quietly and just listening. Most people, even outside the Veteran arena, have never felt the honor of being listened to. We do this for our Veterans and their families.

We don't just have Qualified "Veteran" Listeners, we also have spouses, children, widows and other people who are passionate about assisting Veterans.

Qualified Listeners is a "needs-based" organization which means we are not following any specific person's agenda; we provide services and resources based on the needs of those we serve. This concept comes from being a small business owner for 50 years where you must provide a service or product of value to make any money. We listen to our Veterans and let them drive what we do and how we do it.

It is a deep honor for us to meet any Veteran or family member for the opportunity to listen to them. We don't fill out check boxes, we listen to human beings with the utmost empathy and compassion.

Greg Goettsch, Founder and Executive Director
Qualified Listeners

Qualified Listeners Rallies Community to Help Paraplegic Korean War Veteran

Andy Short, 83-year-old Korean War Veteran in Frederick, contracted the Cocksackie B-4 virus October 2014 attacking the casing around his spinal cord leaving him completely paralyzed to the point he couldn't open his eyes. Through years of physical therapy and personal determination

body strength.

Andy needed his old wooden backyard wheelchair ramps replaced, they were falling apart and becoming dangerous. Since his only route from inside the home to the front driveway is down the back ramps, through the patio gate, and across the lawn, he also needed a new sidewalk poured to make it easier to get to the driveway to access a wheelchair accessible vehicle for transportation.

He reached out to Qualified Listeners for assistance who contacted Firestone Home Depot. Partnering with the Sterling VFW, Qualified Listeners received a grant from the Home Depot Foundation and, with the help of 25 Team Depot volunteers, not only were all the immediate needs addressed but front step handrails were installed; trees, shrubs, and debris were removed; new sod laid; the patio was completely refurbished and landscaped; and a new vacuum breaker installed for the sprinkler system.

For a project this size, many players were involved. The front handrails were donated and installed by Capital Lumber; concrete was donated and poured by CTS Cement Manufacturing; Frederick Public Works coordinated the trash removal; Waste Connections of Colorado donated the roll off dumpster; American Legion Post 1985 Auxiliary in Firestone provided lunch for the volunteers the first day; Bella Rosa Golf Course Restaurant provided lunch on the second day; and Eldorado Springs Water donated bottled water.

"We are so grateful to Qualified Listeners for making this project happen and for all the wonderful volunteers – it's totally overwhelming to us", says Libby Short, wife of Veteran. "Andy has never been able to drive his wheelchair outside like he does now and because of the new handrails this is the first time in five years he's been able to set on the front porch."

"This is the third project we've partnered with Home Depot for home improvements for Veterans", comments Greg Goettsch, Founder and Executive Director of Qualified Listeners, "and the completion of each project has been a life changing experience for them and their family. We listen to their needs then take action to meet those needs."

Click here for a link to Channel 31 clip of the project <https://kdvr.com/2019/09/05/frederick-veteran-gets-new-landscaping-thanks-to-local-nonprofit/>

What you will see in this newsletter

- **Veteran Comments**
- **Events**
- **Other Stuff**
- **Sign Up for Newsletters**
- **Corporate Sponsors**



Veteran Service Officers

Every state provides a county Veteran Service Officer (VSO). Their job is to assist Veterans and their families in answering questions, advising, and educating individuals on what benefits are available from Federal, State, County, and Local Resources, and assisting eligible persons in filing the necessary claims. When you need this service you should utilize the assistance of a VSO. They are trained and accredited by the VA to provide assistance to Veterans, their dependents, and survivors. These services are provided at no charge.

Following is a listing of VSOs in northern Colorado and southeast Wyoming:

Colorado:

Adams County 720-523-2773
Broomfield County 720-877-2263
Boulder & SW Weld Counties 720-864-6663
Larimer County 970-498-7390
Logan County 970-520-5876
Morgan County 970-542-3552
Weld County 970-400-3444
Colorado Division of Military & Veteran Affairs 303-284-6077

Wyoming:

Albany & Goshen Counties 307-256-1778
Carbon & Platte Counties 307-274-7747
Laramie County 307-274-7747 or 307-256-1778
Natrona, Converse, & Niobrara Counties 307-258-1100 or 307-315-4187

To find more of our highly vetted Resources click [here](#)

"I wanted to pass along some positive feedback I got back from the Suits for Vets program. Peter used the arc card to get some interview attire and was hired on for a position he loves!!! He's also working with the VA CWT program and getting some solid interview clothes really helped his self esteem which directly lead (in my opinion) to a better interview performance."

Trevor Wilson

DVOP/Veteran's Employment Specialist

Larimer County

Events

- Veteran Breakfast Club - **PAMVET** Breakfast
 - Loveland, CO every Saturday morning at 7:30 AM
 - Golden Corral
 - Englewood, CO, first Saturday of every month at 7:30 AM
 - Golden Corral
 - [Click to learn more](#)
- October 1
 - Vet Chat - Come Learn What You've Earned!
 - 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
 - Prairie Greens Clubhouse
 - 7781 Mountain View Drive, Frederick
- November 5
 - Vet Chat - Come Learn What You've Earned!
 - 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
 - Prairie Greens Clubhouse
 - 7781 Mountain View Drive, Frederick
- November 9
 - Veteran Support Day - Come See Us at the Ferris Wheel
 - 9:00 am - 9:00 pm
 - Scheels All Sports, Johnstown
- November 10
 - Tribute to Veterans - Come See Us!
 - 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
 - Embassy Suites, Loveland
- December 3
 - Vet Chat - Come Learn What You've Earned!

- 7781 Mountain View Drive, Frederick
- March 14, 2020 - Save the Date!
 - 2nd Annual Vet Connect Event
 - Embassy Suites, Loveland

Cheyenne VA Event Calendar www.cheyenne.va.gov/calendar.asp

Other Stuff

- **NEWS FLASH!** BMW Trike & Sports Trailer Touring System For Sale as a Tax-Deductible Donation! [Read more...](#)
 - Qualified Listeners has partnered with King Soopers on a Community Rewards Program to support Veterans and their families. [Click for details](#)
 - Veteran Discounts www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/military-veteran-discounts
 - If you know a Veteran who needs clothes, [click here](#) to learn about our Suits for Veterans program. Any Veteran, any era.
 - Helping Veterans and family members takes money and this is where you can help [click here](#) to donate to Qualified Listeners. Every dollar goes toward food, gas, utility bills, advocacy visits, Listening Sessions, home improvements, and other necessities.
 - Guest Speaker
 - We are happy to come speak to your group, company or organization and share information about Veterans. Just [send us an email](#) to arrange a time and place for this 20 minute program. Groups enjoy learning about Veterans.
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Sign Up For Newsletters

Do you know someone who would like to sign up for our Veteran & Family newsletters? You can use the FORWARD button at the bottom of this newsletter or send them [this link](#). All it takes is first name, last name, email address, city, state, county and the preferences for the information they have the most interest in.

A Round of Applause to our Corporate Sponsors:

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[Veterans Administration - Northern Colorado & Wyoming](#)

[Centennial Area Health Education Center \(CAHEC\)](#)

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 Forward

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