

Sharing the Journey

Fall 2015

LIVING
RESOURCES

Meeting Life's Challenges

ART TAKES COURAGE: HONORING THE ARTISTIC TALENTS OF VETERANS

The **Veterans Services Project** made its official debut on Thursday, June 25th, with the opening reception for **Art Takes Courage: Honoring the Artistic Talents of Veterans**, featuring works from participants in Living Resources' women veterans art group, and **Soldier On**, a veterans-services program based in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

The event, co-chaired by **Rhea P. Clark** of the **Clark Family** and the **Review Foundation** and **Robert W. Lazar** of **Living Resources Foundation Board**, was attended by nearly 200 guests, who experienced the work of 26 veteran artists on display in the Miller Sanders Gallery. Limited-edition prints of select pieces of artwork were available for sale, with artists on hand to sign their pieces and talk to guests.

The evening paid tribute not only to the artists and their work, but also featured participation by military personnel and veterans. "We really wanted this event to be something special, to truly thank the veterans and show our commitment to serve them," said Michael Cognetti, Director of the VSP and Brain Injury Services.

Amy Amoroso, Veterans Business Advisor at the **Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)** served as emcee for the event, which included the posting of the colors (flag ceremony), performed by the **109th Airlift Wing Base Honor Guard**, the National Anthem, sung by veteran Frederick Ingleton, and the Pledge of Allegiance, led by



Event co-chairs Rhea Clark (far left) and Robert Lazar (far right) stand with artists Cynthia Vanbergen and Penny Lee Deere of the VSP Women Artists Group.



Event emcee Amy Amoroso (right) introduces VA Director Linda Weiss. In her speech, Weiss stated, "The Albany Stratton VA Medical Center appreciates the collaboration of its community partners in the support of the Veterans of this region."

Army vet Dennis Spielman and members of VFW Post 8692. The evening also featured an invocation by Rev. Charlene Robbins, a Gold Star Mother who serves as Chaplain of the Tri-City Council of Vietnam Veterans.

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THE VETERANS SERVICES PROJECT: PROUDLY SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

Returning to civilian life after military service presents veterans with new opportunities – and new challenges, sometimes complicated by conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), brain injuries and depression. These challenges led to the creation of the

Veterans Services Project (VSP) at Living Resources.



Drawing on over 40 years of experience serving individuals

throughout the Capital/Saratoga region, the VSP is an agency-wide initiative which expands our broad range of community-based supports and specialized services to men

and women who have served in the armed forces, regardless of whether they have recently retired, or if their years of service are long behind them.

Although the program officially launched in the summer of 2015, Living Resources has been serving vets for years - in 2014 alone, more than 120 former military personnel were served. The VSP's comprehensive services include Brain Injury Services, professional home health, employment services, outreach, assessment, advocacy, and community involvement, as well as the **Arts Program**.

In 2014, an expressive arts program for female vets was started, held weekly at the **Stratton Veterans Administration Medical Center (VA) in Albany**. The program proved to be such a success that it was renewed and more classes are in the works.

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Lion Heart Residences:

Affordable Independence for Individuals with Disabilities



The Lion Heart Residences in Cohoes, opening in the fall of 2015.

For adults with disabilities, it can be a challenge to find housing where they can live independently in a safe, affordable and accessible environment. This fall, their options will expand with the opening of the newly-constructed **Lion Heart Residences** in Cohoes, NY.

Built by **Regan Development Corporation**, the Lion Heart Residences will have 75 units, 15 of which are set aside for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) supported by Living Resources.

All apartments are energy-efficient, meeting NY State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR)

building standards, and the units supported by Living Resources will have a variety of accessibility features. For wheelchair users, kitchen countertops and cabinets are lowered to enable access, and bathrooms feature roll-in showers with grab bars and seats. Additionally, for individuals with visual or auditory deficits, some units have accommodations including horn or strobe devices for intercoms, doorbells and smoke/carbon dioxide detectors.

To learn more about the Lion Heart Residences, call (518) 233-0300.