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'I'm not going through it alone' How helping Navy vet was a team effort

After graduating from high school, Vincent decided he wanted to fight for our country, and he joined the United States Navy.

"I wanted to do something better with my life," he said.

From 2007-2011, Vincent was in active duty. But due to missing his child's birth, his first and second birthday, and other important milestones, he decided to go into four years of inactive reserve.

"That's when everything got difficult for me."

For several years after his time in active duty, Vincent experienced divorce, mental health, and homelessness. Although he was going to school through the G.I. Bill he was sending that money to his ex-wife and child, which led him to becoming homeless and struggling to find places to sleep at night.

After several years of facing tough times, Vincent said his mom prayed about it, and she was led to think of Indiana as a place for him to live. They found out Indiana has a great Veterans Affairs system, and decided it would be an ideal place for Vincent to move to— making him not too far away from his family in Michigan. He arrived in Indianapolis in 2015, and the Veterans Affairs Benefits administration pointed him to HVAF.

"My mental health is a lot better," Vincent said. "My emotions, physically— the physical is still tough but it's a lot better thanks to the resources HVAF provides."

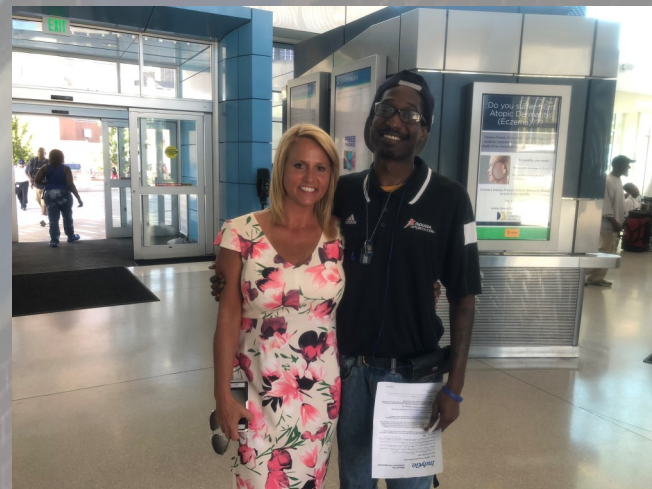
Today, Vincent lives in one of HVAF's properties and receives case management. He said he appreciates how not only his one case manager, Tisha, helps him; but everyone on staff is there for him. Everyone— from the case managers to the front desk receptionists to the maintenance workers— care about him, he said.

They keep telling me- you don't have to go through this alone," Vincent said.

While staying in our properties and receiving help through our programs and services, Vincent is also able to work for a security company. He has worked there off and on since switching to inactive reserve.

Every veteran Vincent comes into contact with, he makes sure to tell them about the services HVAF provides.

"I've realized my own self -potential, through the resources and the guidance and the mentorship," Vincent said. "I really can't thank HVAF enough."



In July, Vincent was able to receive a free IndyGo bus pass, through IndyGo's free Veterans Fare Cards. He also got to meet State Representative Karlee Macer!



Volunteers Needed



**Veterans
Community
Center**

As we work on opening up a Community Center for Indy's veterans, we are in need of volunteers to create a relaxed atmosphere where veterans may obtain single serve drinks/food options and participate in self-directed recreational activities, such as watching television, reading or playing board games.

Interested? Contact our
Volunteer Coordinator
Audrey Hopkins:
AHopkins@hvaf.org or
317-951-0688 ext. 2116

VETERAN STAND DOWN



Thursday, September 6, 2018

11:00 am: Opening Ceremony

11:15 am—2:00 PM: Veteran Services, Community Resources

Event Site: Indiana National Guard Armory
3912 West Minnesota Street, Indianapolis, IN

Transportation will be provided from:
HVAF, Lincoln Apartments, Volunteers of America,
and The Wheeler Mission to Event Site on rotating basis

All Veterans with a VA Card or DD214 are invited



Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation



STAND WITH THOSE WHO STOOD FOR US

Suit up: staffing firm donates suits to HVAF's vets

One barrier for a homeless veteran gaining a career? A suit or dress for the interview and job.

Thankfully, staffing firm Robert Half just held their 16th annual suit drive and donated lots of professional clothing to us!

"It makes a huge impact on the veterans that we serve," said Aaron Carmichael, HVAF's VP Advancement. "It gives them confidence as they go out to do job interviews or go into the workplace."

Check out
the full
story on
Fox59 or
CBS4's
website!

{Search
"HVAF"}



HVAF Highlights {August}



AUSA donated lots
of food items to
add to our pantry!



Blacksheep's
annual
Air Show
that
benefits
HVAF



CharityChug
chose HVAF as
the beneficiary
for their annual
pub crawl in
Broad Ripple



Borshoff painted canvases for
decorations in our houses

Connect with us!

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@HVAFofIndiana

HVAF Needs:

- ~Underwear (all sizes)
- ~Hygiene items
- ~Canned meats
- ~Canned fruit
- ~Granola bars
- ~Ramen noodles
- ~Hamburger Helper
- ~Canned veggies

Drop off your donations to HVAF
Headquarters today!