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VHA National Center for Healthcare
Advancement and Partnerships

VHA Partnerships Support Veterans' Whole Health



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Learn more about the organizations featured in this newsletter:

- [East Bay VCP](#)
- [Global Liver Institute](#)
- [Paralyzed Veterans of America](#)
- [GO2 for Lung Cancer](#)
- [Pet Partners](#)
- [Mediflix](#)
- [Veteran News Network](#)

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

A Note from the Chief Officer and Nurse Executive

Veterans Health Administration's (VHA's) [National Center for Healthcare Advancement and Partnerships \(HAP\)](#) is committed to facilitating and managing partnerships that address Veterans' physical health challenges. In keeping with the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) Whole Health focus, HAP also leverages partnerships that support Veterans' values, needs, and goals beyond physical health. This note introduces our key partnerships, initiatives, and the tangible impacts they have had on the Veteran community that are highlighted in this issue of HAP's newsletter.

Strategic Partnerships for Comprehensive Support

The [Veteran Community Partnerships \(VCP\)](#) initiative, led by HAP, enables collaboration between VA medical centers (VAMCs) and community partners to increase community support and resources for Veterans. The [East Bay VCP \(EBVCP\)](#) exemplifies this mission by fostering relationships between [Martinez VAMC](#) and local organizations to provide health care, volunteering, housing, and mental health resources, among others.

In November 2023, VHA partnered with the [Global Liver Institute](#), a nonprofit organization committed to spreading global awareness about the prevalence and impact of liver illness. This partnership illustrates a shared commitment to support Veterans currently living with liver disease, and the [45.4%](#) of Veterans at risk for developing liver disease.

Innovative Solutions for Veteran Care

In partnership with [Paralyzed Veterans of America](#), VHA co-presents the annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG), an event that has supported rehabilitation through adaptive sports for more than 40 years. The 2024 NVWG will be held July 25-30 in New Orleans, LA and will include an inaugural bass fishing tournament.

VHA and [GO2 for Lung Cancer](#) renewed their partnership in October 2023. Through their collaborative efforts, VHA and GO2 enhance health care resources and lung cancer screening accessibility for the nearly [8,000 Veterans](#) diagnosed with lung cancer each year and the estimated 1 million or more currently at risk.

To support Veterans' whole health, VHA and [Pet Partners](#) collaborate to leverage the human-animal bond (HAB) and incorporate animal-assisted interventions (AAI) at VAMCs. "The Benefits of the Human-Animal Bond and Partnering with Therapy Animals," a webinar hosted by VA and Pet Partners in January, explored the benefits of the HAB and discussed how VAs can start AAI visitation programs.

Digital Platforms and Information Access

To increase Veterans' access to trusted health care providers and resources, VHA partners with [Mediflix](#), a digital platform that connects users with personalized information and health advice from reputable medical institutions. [Vetiflix](#), Mediflix's Veteran-specific channel, provides videos, resources, and a community where members can connect with both peers and experts. Mediflix and VA's [Veteran News Network \(VNN\)](#) are collaborating to stream VNN's content on the Mediflix platform.

Acknowledgments and Future Directions

In closing, HAP is pleased to acknowledge the hard work and collaborative efforts of our partners, exemplified by the highlighted partnership activity throughout 2023. VHA signed or renewed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with Pet Partners, [Parkinson's Foundation](#), and Global Liver Institute. [South Texas Veterans Health Care System \(VCP\)](#), and [Arthritis Foundation](#) each held successful events to support local Veterans. [Salesforce](#) connected more than 3,700 Veterans and spouses to free career advancement resources. And VHA's 2023 [National Community Partnership Challenge](#), themed "Accelerating VHA's Journey to High Reliability Through Partnerships," received 42 submissions, with [3 winners](#) selected for their alignment with VHA's [Health Care Priorities](#). This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the VHA National Community Partnership Challenge, and we look forward to celebrating and recognizing impactful Veteran-centric VHA partnerships throughout 2024.

To learn more about current partnerships, projects, and events, visit the [HAP website](#).

In good health,

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East Bay VCP's Commitment to Serving California Veterans

VA offers many benefits and resources, and community connections play an essential role in increasing further support for the health and well-being of all Veterans. HAP leads the [Veteran Community Partnerships \(VCP\)](#) initiative, which empowers proactive collaboration between VAMCs and community partners to provide Veterans with personalized support beyond the walls of VA.

"The VCP program supports VHA's commitment to improving Veterans' lives. VA and community collaborations reduce barriers to care and services, foster connections with other Veterans and community members, and educate the community about the unique needs of Veterans and their families," shared Brenda Jackson, East Bay VCP (EBVCP) VA co-chair.

Spotlight on the East Bay VCP

Located in Martinez, California, [EBVCP](#) fosters relationships among Martinez VAMC and local organizations such as home health and hospice, volunteer organizations, real estate and moving companies, mental health and substance use programs, and more. EBVCP meets regularly to identify new partnership opportunities that help Veterans and their families remain connected to their local communities.

Dedicated to serving those who served, EBVCP finds unique ways to connect Veterans with the education, resources, and support they need — both within and outside of VA. As part of this effort, EBVCP holds community events where Veterans can meet each other, play games, and form connections with others in the community.

"Whether it's connecting local Veterans with opportunities to participate in an Honor Flight or introducing women Veterans to the services VA provides for them, EBVCP is committed to helping Veterans in our community find the assistance, resources, and benefits they have earned and deserve," said Tim Stevens, EBVCP previous community co-chair.

EBVCP's signature event is a yearly Veteran's Benefits Panel where speakers from EBVCP, Martinez VAMC, national and regional VA programs, Veterans Service Organizations, and other VA partners provide information to Veterans and their families on benefits, updates to VA policies and procedures, and tips on navigating VA's health care and benefits systems. Previous panels included discussions on Home Based Primary Care, eligibility and burial benefits, homelessness, nursing services, and more. Through these events, Veterans learn about benefits they qualify for but have not previously accessed.

Over 40 community partners and VA staff recently attended EBVCP's 2024 kickoff event, held at Martinez VAMC. This informational meeting brought together VA staff and members of community, state, and national organizations committed to supporting Veterans and their caregivers. Organizations providing support for health care, housing, employment, and education shared their service offerings.

"The EBVCP is a great example of how VCP rises to meet the needs of their communities," said Dr. Jamie Davis, HAP health system specialist. *"Through the VCP initiative, HAP continues to shine a spotlight on the hundreds of community-level partnerships that ensure Veterans and their loved ones have what they need to lead healthy, fulfilling lives."*

VHA and Global Liver Institute Collaborate to Support Veterans

Globally, [1.5 billion people](#) live with liver disease, and recent research shows that [almost half of Veterans](#) receiving VA care are at increased risk for liver disease. VHA and the [Global Liver Institute \(GLI\)](#) signed an MOU in November 2023 to collaboratively support Veterans living with liver disease. Facilitated by [HAP](#), this partnership illustrates VHA's commitment to positively impact Veterans' lives and reduce the stigma often associated with liver disease.

GLI is a nonprofit organization committed to spreading global awareness about the prevalence and impact of liver illness. To best serve patients and advocates, GLI promotes innovative treatments and encourages collaboration across a network of healthcare workers, patients, and their families.



“VHA’s partnership with GLI is instrumental in combatting the effects of liver disease on Veterans,” said Kimberly Pugh, EdD, RN, HAP health system specialist. *“With GLI’s focus on mitigating the impact of liver disease and advocating for global awareness and treatment advancements, many new avenues for treatment and education will be available for Veterans.”*

GLI Resources

- **[Liver Health for Veterans:](#)** Web page with liver health information and YouTube playlist for Veterans.
- **[GLI Live:](#)** Weekly educational show started as a COVID-19 response program for liver patients. It provides tailored information and discussion of timely topics for patients living with liver disease.
- **[GLI Appetite:](#)** Personalized nutrition app for people living with liver disease, diabetes, and other chronic conditions impacting liver health. In partnership with NutriStyle Inc., the GLI Appetite app creates personalized meal plans to help people maintain good liver health.
- **[Liver Central:](#)** Website developed to help those with a recent liver cancer diagnosis, to help patients learn about new treatment options and clinical trials, and for clinicians interested in understanding current liver best practice guidelines.
- **[Advanced Advocacy Academy \(A3\):](#)** Advocacy program for patients, caregivers, and others interested in learning about patient-centered liver disease advocacy. A3 features training programs focused on best practices for advocating for patients, families, and caregivers; hands-on advocacy opportunities; and an annual symposium that provides comprehensive advocacy preparation.

VA Resources

- **[Alcohol-Associated Liver Disease Guide:](#)** Printable guide for patients with a variety of information, resources, and tools.
- **[Alcohol and Liver Disease Video:](#)** Public service announcement that discusses alcohol use for people who have liver disease.
- **[Educational Resources:](#)** Fact sheets, printable guides, videos, and more for clinicians and Veterans.
- **[Liver Cancer Resources:](#)** VA’s list of resources for Veterans living with liver cancer.
- **[Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease \(NAFLD\) Fact Sheet:](#)** Fact sheet that includes information about the disease, how to seek diagnosis, and disease management tips.
- **[NAFLD Resources:](#)** VA’s NAFLD information site, including background information for patients diagnosed with NAFLD and diagnosis and treatment resources for patients.

VA and Paralyzed Veterans of America Co-Present 2024 National Veterans Wheelchair Games



VA provides care to [more than 27,000 Veterans](#) with spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/Ds) each year. To increase support for Veterans with SCI/D and diseases like multiple sclerosis (MS) and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), VA partners with [Paralyzed Veterans of America \(PVA\)](#) through the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events. The recently renewed VA-PVA partnership, facilitated by [HAP](#), enables VA to address the changing needs of Veterans with SCI/D throughout their lives.

PVA is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to serve paralyzed Veterans of every age, branch, and conflict from the moment of injury and beyond. PVA is dedicated to helping Veterans with SCI/D and diseases like MS and ALS regain their freedom and independence.

Adaptive sports can positively impact the whole-health rehabilitation of Veterans living with disabilities. A [2022 study](#) showed that an adaptive sporting event can have “an acute positive influence on the quality of life of Veteran participants, with improvements observed in...perceived quality of life.”

Co-presented each year by VA and PVA, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) has supported rehabilitation through adaptive sports for more than 40 years. It is the world’s largest annual wheelchair sports and rehabilitation event and offers participants

over 20 adaptive sporting events to choose from. It is open to all U.S. Veterans with spinal cord injuries, amputations, MS, or other central neurological conditions who require a wheelchair for athletic competition.

“The NVWG is an outstanding example of VA’s and PVA’s commitment to Veterans’ rehabilitation,” said Dave Tostenrude, director, NVWG. *“This rehabilitation event empowers Veterans living with spinal cord injuries, MS, amputations, stroke, and other physical disabilities to live more healthy and independent lives through adaptive sports.”*

The 2024 NVWG will be held July 25-30 in New Orleans, LA. This year, an inaugural bass fishing tournament will be part of the competition, launching out of Bayou Sennett State Park.

“We aim to contribute positively to the communities we visit, empower adaptive athletes, and promote inclusion for individuals living with disabilities,” said Jennifer Purser, NVWG co-lead and senior associate director, PVA Sports and Recreation. *“Additionally, Veterans can learn about PVA’s more than 60 free year-round sporting and recreation opportunities beyond the NVWG.”*

“With [42,000 Veterans](#) living with chronic spinal cord injury, it is imperative to maintain and increase current health care resources,” said Georgi Bady, HAP health system specialist. *“VHA’s collaboration with PVA, and the joint effort to facilitate the NVWG each year, exemplifies VHA’s commitment to support and empower Veterans living with SCI/D.”*

VHA and GO2 for Lung Cancer Renew Commitment to Support Veterans Living with Lung Cancer

[Almost 8,000 Veterans](#) are diagnosed with lung cancer every year, and Veterans are [nearly twice as likely](#) as the general population to receive a lung cancer diagnosis. Previous estimates showed [close to 900,000 Veterans](#) are at risk of developing lung cancer due to age, smoking history, and environmental exposures. The 2021 updated screening recommendations from the United States Preventive Services Task Force increased that estimate to over 1 million at-risk Veterans.

To enhance health care resources and accessibility, VHA partners with [GO2 for Lung Cancer \(GO2\)](#), an organization that provides one-on-one assistance, supportive connections, treatment information, and help finding the best local care. Facilitated by [HAP](#), this partnership enables Veterans living with lung cancer to access a broader range of health care resources and improve their quality of life.



“The Veteran community is particularly vulnerable to lung cancer,” said Georgi Bady, HAP health system specialist. *“Partnering with GO2 provides Veterans living with lung cancer more options for treatment, disease management, research, and peer support resources.”*

VHA and GO2 renewed their partnership in October 2023, reaffirming the shared commitment to increase lung cancer screening and health care accessibility for Veterans. VHA’s goal is to provide all Veterans with [equitable access to high quality screening](#), while incorporating research to improve disease outcomes.

“Many Veterans are at risk for lung cancer and need to be reached for lung cancer screening,” said Angela Criswell, GO2’s director, quality screening and program initiatives. *“Our partnership with VHA is vital to increase Veterans’ systematic and equitable access to lung cancer screening.”*

GO2 enables Veterans to navigate their health care journey smoothly and helps community providers more effectively address Veteran-specific needs during and after a lung cancer diagnosis. GO2’s Centers of Excellence (COE) program helps increase health care providers’ awareness and understanding of detecting lung cancer for high-risk individuals.

“VA and GO2 both benefit from research and lessons learned at our organizations, enabling us to share best practices with health care providers outside VA and enhance the care for both Veterans and civilians,” said Dr. Christopher Slatore, chief consultant for the VA National Center for Lung Cancer Screening. *“The VHA-GO2 partnership helps the whole country address lung cancer more effectively.”*

GO2 for Lung Cancer Resources

- **Centers of Excellence Program:** A nationwide network of 850+ community-based medical facilities committed to best practices in lung cancer early detection, treatment, and care.
- **Centers of Excellence Summit:** An annual multi-day event for COE, non-COE, and VA lung cancer professionals across the country. Attendees learn from national and international lung cancer experts who share cutting-edge technologies, emerging therapies, and program implementation successes and challenges.
- **Global Knowledge Center for Lung Cancer:** A global healthcare provider hub committed to improving lung cancer-related health outcomes through the dissemination of knowledge, skill development, facilitation of lung cancer research and related activities, and peer-to-peer exchanges.
- **HelpLine:** A service providing one-on-one support, educational materials, guidance on screening, treatment and clinical trial information, referrals, and other resources.
- **Lung Cancer Advocacy Toolkit:** An advocacy resource with action tips, tools for social media, a full library of shareable graphics, and more.
- **Lung Cancer Living Room:** A monthly in-person and virtual meeting where patients, survivors, and caregivers discuss a variety of lung cancer education and support topics with lung cancer experts.
- **Lung Cancer Navigator Program:** A program that provides clinical and community-based lung cancer navigators -- partners on your treatment journey who provide professional support -- with comprehensive, site-specific lung cancer navigator education to drive high-quality, evidence-based care.
- **Lung Cancer Voices Summit:** An annual advocacy event uniting those impacted by lung cancer, leading to direct advocacy action with the federal government.

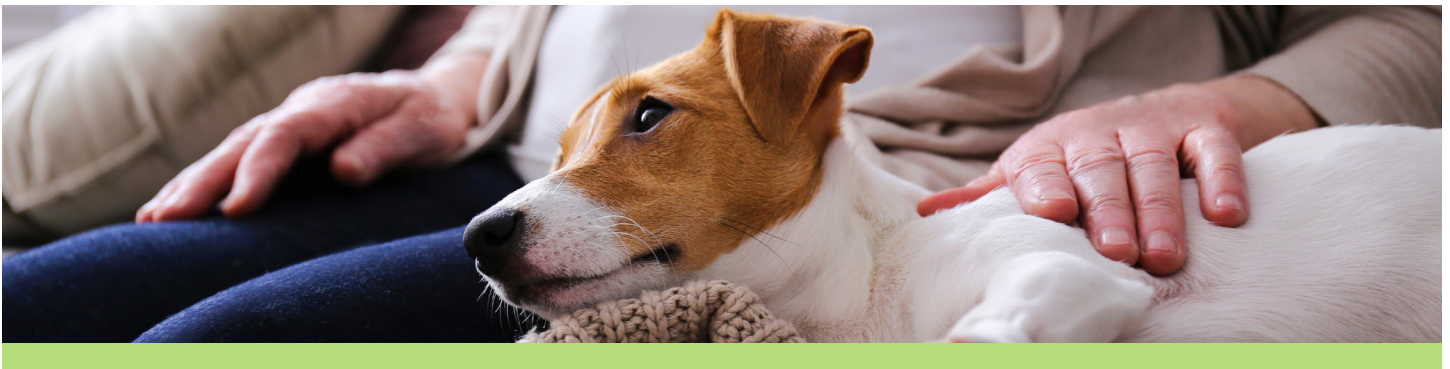
- **LungMATCH:** An on-demand treatment navigation and clinical trial matching program.
- **Phone Buddy:** A peer network of lung cancer survivors who provide information and emotional support.

VA Resources

- **Lung Cancer Screening:** VA recommends annual lung cancer screening for persons aged 50 to 80 who are current or former smokers who quit within the past 15 years. Talk with your VA health care team to find out if lung cancer screening is recommended for you.
- **National Oncology Program (NOP):** The NOP is the home for VA cancer care. Diagnosing and treating more than 56,000 Veterans annually, NOP is one of the nation's largest integrated providers of oncology services.
- **National TeleOncology Program (NTO):** The NTO connects patients and providers across great distances, providing Veterans with virtual cancer screenings, diagnoses, and treatment.
- **SmokefreeVet:** Online resources to improve Veterans' physical health and emotional well-being.
- **Stay Quit Coach:** A smartphone app designed to help Veterans stop smoking.

VHA and Pet Partners Leverage the Human-Animal Bond to Support Veterans' Whole Health

Recent studies of older Veterans show that [60%](#) do not meet physical activity recommendations, [57%](#) report feeling lonely, and [25%](#) experience social isolation. VHA supports Veterans' physical, social, and emotional well-being by leveraging the human-animal bond (HAB) and incorporating animal-assisted interventions (AAI) at VAMCs.



VHA has collaborated with [Pet Partners](#) for 5 years to expand AAI resources and develop opportunities for pet visitation and clinical interventions with therapy animals. VHA and Pet Partners are national leaders in spreading the health and wellness benefits of [animal-assisted activities and therapies](#). The VHA-Pet Partners partnership, facilitated by [HAP](#), renewed in April 2023, reaffirming VA's priority to support Veterans' whole health.

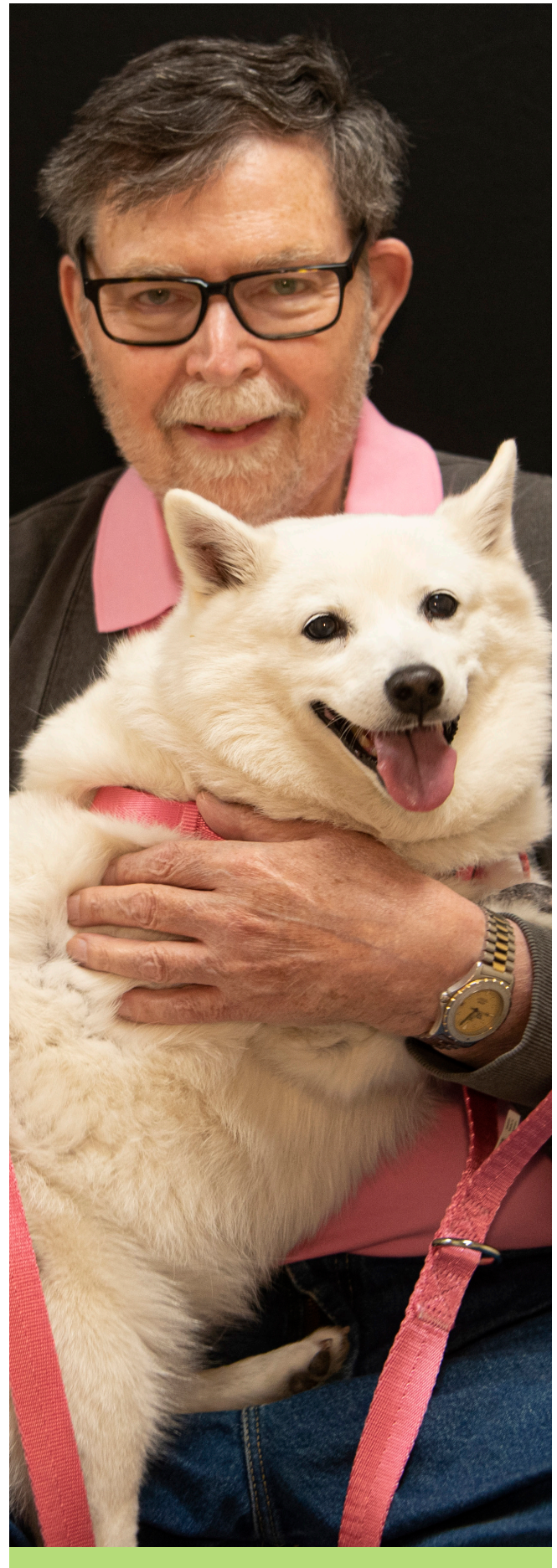
"Pet Partners is proud to support Veterans and positively impact lives through therapy animal programming at VHA facilities," said Dr. Taylor Chastain Griffin, national director of AAI Advancement at Pet Partners. *"From reducing isolation, decreasing stress, providing motivation, or even just encouraging a smile, Veterans and their families benefit from the presence of therapy animals."*

"The Benefits of the Human-Animal Bond and Partnering with Therapy Animals," a webinar hosted by VA and Pet Partners in January, offered an in-depth look at the power of the HAB. Presenters shared how clinicians can access AAIs when working with Veterans and how their VA can start an AAI visitation program. Dr. Heidi Ortmeyer, research physiologist and assistant professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, discussed a [research study](#) focused on the mental and physical health benefits of companion dogs.

During the first 3 months of the companion dog program, 15 Veteran participants at the VA Maryland Health Care System showed increased physical endurance and activity, increased social interaction, weight loss, and decreased blood pressure. Veterans maintained these improvements over the year-long study, with additional improvements in physical balance and decreases in loneliness. All Veterans in the study had officially adopted their dogs after the 3-month foster period.

"Companion dogs can have a positive life-changing impact on Veterans' lives," said Dr. Ortmeyer. *"The program showed that both the Veteran and the foster dog benefit from the HAB. The companion dog program at VA Maryland Health Care System gives rescue and shelter dogs a second chance—it's a win-win!"*

Rodney Ennis, a study participant, described the experience with his companion dog, Soldier, as life changing for himself and his family. *"I was really lonely, and [the program] kept me from being lonely,"* he said. *"I'm not the person I used to be. I'm more healthy, I'm more active, I found a fiancé—my life has changed because of Soldier. This program saved my life."*



Lenne Miller, another Veteran participant, had a similar experience with his companion dog, Piper. Miller said, *“I don’t know what I’d do without her. She’s helped me mentally and emotionally adjust to living alone. [The program] helps me be more outgoing in terms of meeting people—Piper is a great ambassador!”*

Ennis and Miller both enthusiastically agree that the program is a valuable resource for Veterans. Miller said he *“absolutely recommends the program, especially for Veterans who tend to be isolated and feel alone in the world. It’s great to have a companion that doesn’t judge.”* And Ennis believes that *“if they want a Veteran to be whole again, this program can do it.”*

“Building on VA’s Whole Health approach, HAP is committed to facilitating partnerships that center around what matters to Veterans, including their physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing,” said Dr. Jamie Davis, HAP health system specialist. *“VHA’s collaboration with Pet Partners enables Veterans to benefit from the HAB and experience the healing effects of AAI.”*

VA’s Veteran News Network and Vetiflix: News and Health Content by Veterans for Veterans

VHA is committed to increasing health care equity and accessibility for Veterans. To inform Veterans about available resources and benefits more effectively, VHA partners with [Mediflix](#), a digital platform that connects users with content that provides tailored information and health advice from reputable medical institutions and associations like Michigan Medicine, the Cleveland Clinic, and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Through Mediflix, Veterans can quickly and easily find credible, easy-to-understand resources to help them navigate their health conditions.

“VHA’s partnership with Mediflix, facilitated by HAP, enables Veterans to access an extensive selection of relevant educational content from medical experts and gain a deeper understanding of their own health,” said Joshua Patterson, HAP health system specialist.

[Vetiflix](#), Mediflix’s Veterans health channel, combines resources from VA, trusted Veteran Service Organizations, and 200 of the top medical professionals worldwide to provide Veterans, families, and caregivers free access to relevant content. Created *“by Veterans for Veterans,”* the videos and resources available through Vetiflix help Veterans and caregivers prepare for medical appointments and increase the effectiveness of conversations with providers. Veterans can also access a community of both peers and experts to find answers to specific health questions.

“Accomplished entertainment professionals and advocates have partnered with globally renowned doctors, and with many of the world’s foremost medical institutions, to empower Veterans and caregivers during their healthcare journey,” said Kevin Schmiegel, retired Marine lieutenant colonel and Mediflix/Vetiflix advisor. *“We’re able to leverage technology to make some of the best doctors in the world accessible through an easy-to-use platform.”*



In addition to Veteran-specific video content on Vetiflix, Veterans and caregivers can access VA's [Veteran News Network \(VNN\)](#), a channel streaming nonpartisan, Veteran-specific programming 24 hours a day. VNN provides a mix of entertainment and information about benefits and services and is intended to play in VAMC waiting rooms and other common areas. Currently, 100 VAMCs and almost 30 outpatient clinics stream VNN through satellite integration or Roku devices.

A collaboration between Mediflix and VNN is currently in progress and will be finalized soon, making VNN content available through Vetiflix. This partnership will enhance current content offerings, allowing VNN to reach a more widespread audience and enabling Mediflix to share Veteran-specific news alongside current health care content.

"VNN's mission is to provide Veterans with news and information about services, benefits, and health care resources — along with things they may not know they're eligible for, like free access to national parks," said Michael Hampton, VA Knowledge Network program manager. *"We're excited to work with Mediflix to continue growing VNN and increasing access for Veterans who receive care outside the VA health care network."*

A Year in Review: 2023 Highlights

HAP, in collaboration with community partners, is committed to providing the resources and tools Veterans, caregivers, and survivors need to thrive. HAP's efforts to facilitate and support community partnerships enable VHA and local organizations to provide a broader range of services, while encouraging Veterans and military families to access available VA benefits and resources. These collaborative efforts are exemplified by the highlighted partnership activity throughout 2023.



Pet Partners

VHA and [Pet Partners](#) renewed their partnership in April, continuing 5 years of successful collaboration. By leveraging the human-animal bond, VHA provides additional support for Veterans' whole health.



Parkinson's Foundation

VHA and the [Parkinson's Foundation](#) reaffirmed their partnership in August. The renewed VHA-Parkinson's Foundation MOU signifies VHA's continued dedication to providing Veterans living with Parkinson's disease with the *"best and soonest care possible."*



South Texas Veterans Health Care System

This September the [South Texas Veterans Health Care System \(STVHCS\)](#) [VCP](#) Hunger Awareness Resource Event enabled the STVHCS VCP, along with 15 community partners, to screen 175 Veterans for food insecurity, hand out 335 bags of produce and non-perishables, and help 5 Veterans complete Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program applications.



Global Liver Institute

VHA and the [Global Liver Institute \(GLI\)](#) signed an MOU in November, illustrating a shared commitment to support Veterans living with liver disease. The VHA-GLI partnership enables VHA to provide more health care resources and education for the [nearly 50% of Veterans](#) who are at risk for liver disease.



[Veteran Sponsor Partnership Network](#)

The Expiration Term of Service Sponsorship Program, a [Veteran Sponsor Partnership Network](#) partner, rebranded their national military transition support program as Onward Ops and continues to train and support Veteran and non-Veteran volunteer sponsors who want to support Veterans transitioning from military to civilian life. In November, [Onward Ops](#) assisted in conducting a sponsor training session for those interested in becoming a sponsor.



[Arthritis Foundation](#)

The VHA-[Arthritis Foundation](#) partnership provides Veterans living with arthritis access to an extensive collection of Arthritis Foundation [health and wellness resources](#). In 2023, more than 15,000 people participated in the Arthritis Foundation’s [Walk with Ease \(WWE\)](#) program.



[Salesforce](#)

[Salesforce’s](#) multi-faceted ecosystem of customers and partner companies is the driving force behind the organization’s massive growth, which is [projected to create 11.6 million new jobs worldwide between 2022 and 2028](#). The partnership has connected more than 3,700 Veterans to free career advancement resources. Salesforce also offers a [fellowship program](#) through [Hiring our Heroes](#), with a 95% job offer rate.



[National Community Partnership Challenge](#)

VHA’s 2023 [National Community Partnership Challenge \(Challenge\)](#) received 42 submissions, with [3 winners](#) selected for their alignment with VHA’s [Health Care Priorities](#). HAP leads the Challenge, and 2024 marks the 10th anniversary, themed “Bridging the Gap Through Partnerships.”

“We are proud of what our partners do for Veterans and military families in their communities,” said Chien Chen, HAP chief officer and nurse executive. “HAP is committed to prioritizing equity and accessibility, and we are excited to continue the accomplishments in 2024.”

For more information about VHA partnerships, visit va.gov/HEALTHPARTNERSHIPS/partnerships.asp



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
National Center for Healthcare
Advancement and Partnerships

To share a partnership opportunity or consult with HAP on a non-monetary partnership, please contact our office via email:

VHA_Partnerships@va.gov
va.gov/healthpartnerships