



No one who has served this country should have to fight for food, shelter, or the care they need upon their return!

Celebrating 15 years of Service



Applied Behavioral Rehabilitation Institute, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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A Founding Board Member's Story

Anthony (Tony) Cinquanta, MSW, LCSW, BCD, is a United States Army Veteran, recipient of several awards and honors, and co-founder of *Homes for the Brave*. In forming the organization, he was awarded a grant for Grant Per Diem housing but knew our Veterans needed help with education, vocation, treatment and other services. Together with Dr. Laurie Harkness, PhD, Jim Boland, Marine Corps Veteran, and Roz Liss, the group launched the Applied Behavioral Rehabilitation Institute, Inc. dba *Homes for the Brave*.

"Most other housing programs of this nature were short-term and had limited services. We offered a transitional housing program with comprehensive development services," said Tony. "It's important for our nation to realize and appreciate what Veterans have done. If we extend a helping hand they can become a productive part of the community again. We've seen it happen here."

Tony continues to serve as an active member of the *Homes for the Brave* Board of Directors. We are deeply grateful for his sustained support.

Mission Statement

With an emphasis on Veterans, we provide the housing and services necessary to help homeless individuals return to a productive and meaningful life.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to provide a model to enable homeless men, women and their families, especially those who have served our country, to attain safe, affordable housing, meaningful life activity and a livable income so that they may return to a productive and meaningful life.

DEAR FRIENDS,



ABRI/*Homes for the Brave* is privileged to be in our **15th year of serving homeless men and women, primarily Veterans**, and helping them overcome their obstacles and achieve positive housing and employment outcomes. Because of your extraordinary support, we have helped more than 1,100 men and women face their most formidable struggles and take strides towards self-sufficient and rewarding lives.

2017 was a remarkable year and we'd like to highlight a few of the accomplishments of our residents. As in past years, many of our residents continue to be successful in pursuing and obtaining employment - allowing them greater independence. A highlight this spring was when sixteen current and former residents collaborated with The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts at Fairfield University to create a production titled "War Stories". This compelling dramatic piece was performed at the Quick Center as well as the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM). We are grateful to Quick Center Executive Director Peter Van Heerden who worked with Nina Bentley and Sonya Huber to bring "War Stories" to life. Our men and women who participated exhibited courageous storytelling to relate their experiences and every performance received a standing ovation from the deeply moved audiences.



We continue to be supported by an outstanding Board augmented by our many dedicated, loyal and growing base of supporters. Building new relationships is critical as this support enables us to fulfill our Mission.

Our terrific staff works incredibly hard to provide guidance, case management, vocational services, and life skills coaching to our residents. They routinely arrive at work with the mindset to "do something amazing every day." Our staff embraces their challenges and creatively finds ways to put our men and women on the path to independence and success - we could not be prouder of them.

As we enter into our next year, we extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers, donors, and supporters who have helped us at *ABRI/Homes for the Brave*. We hope that you enjoy our 2017 Annual Report - and respond by supporting our critical and necessary work with a tax-deductible contribution using the attached envelope. We thank you in advance for providing much needed assistance to our men and women who have sacrificed so much, for all of us, serving our nation.

Very Truly Yours,

Rose Ogrinc
Chairperson, Board of Directors


Vincent Santilli
Chief Executive Officer

OUR ORGANIZATION




Applied Behavioral Rehabilitation Institute, Inc.

Applied Behavioral Rehabilitation Institute, Inc. (ABRI), doing business as *Homes for the Brave*, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit agency based in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Our staff members work with clients to create personalized goals to help them achieve stable income and housing, and increase their self-determination. Working with Case Managers, residents create goals to address housing, vocational, educational, and personal needs. Our staff works with each individual to help them secure a job, find safe and affordable housing, and make meaningful contributions to the community. **To date over 1,100 individuals have been served.**



825 residents secured permanent housing



350 residents received computer training


Homes for the Brave (HFTB)

Homes for the Brave (HFTB) is a 42-bed service-intensive transitional living program for homeless male Veterans and up to five non-Veterans. **To date, HFTB has provided housing and services to over 968 homeless individuals.**

Female Soldiers: Forgotten Heroes (FS:FH)

The **PFC Nicholas A. Madaras Home** houses our *Female Soldiers: Forgotten Heroes (FS:FH)* program, a 15-bed service-intensive transitional housing program serving homeless female Veterans and their young children. The only dedicated transitional housing program for women Veterans in Connecticut, *FS:FH* refers residents to services that address the unique needs of female Veterans. **Since its founding in 2011, FS:FH has served 102 women and 9 children.**

The house is named for PFC Nicholas A. Madaras, a young soldier from Wilton, Connecticut who sacrificed his life for our country and whose family was instrumental in the creation of the program.



150 residents received occupational skills training

OUR ORGANIZATION

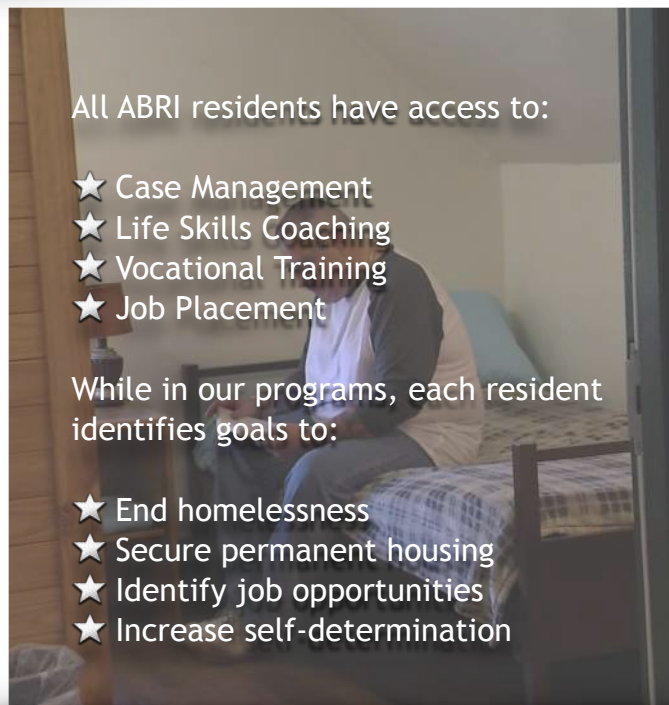


Waldorf House

The *Waldorf Permanent Supportive Housing Program* provides 9 units of permanent supportive housing with case management services to independent, formerly homeless male Veterans and non-Veterans. **Since 2005, 45 men have called Waldorf House home.**

Veterans Service Center

The *Homes for the Brave Veterans Service Center* provides immediate basic needs and resources to Veterans. Our staff assists individuals by offering referrals to emergency and permanent housing resources, vocational counseling, assistance with benefits, and other supportive services.



To deliver the best service possible to our residents, we work closely with many other agencies and organizations, and we are grateful for their partnership.

Bridge House

Bridgeport American Job Center
Bridgeport Re-entry Collaborative
buildOn

CCAR Bridgeport Recovery Community Center
Cardinal Shehan Center

Center for Family Justice

Chemical Abuse Services Agency (CASA)

Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness

Connecticut Department of Labor

Connecticut Veterans Legal Center

CT Patriot Guard

Dignity U Wear

Errera Center

Fairfield University

Helping Hands

LifeBridge



National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

Opening Doors Fairfield County

Sacred Heart University

Southwest Community Health Center

State of Connecticut Department of Mental
Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)

State of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs

Supportive Services for Veteran Families

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

US Department of Labor

US Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Connecticut Healthcare System (VA CT)

VA New England Healthcare System

Westport Arts Center

The WorkPlace



OUR EVENTS



You golfed, you laughed, you climbed...YOU made a DIFFERENCE!

Annual Homes for the Brave Golf Classic

This year *Homes for the Brave* held both the 12th and 13th *Annual Homes for the Brave Golf Classic*. The two events were a tremendous success. In addition to playing challenging rounds of golf, attendees enjoyed a variety of contests and prizes, and competed for exciting auction items.



Annual Step Up For The Brave Stadium Stair Climb

On September 24, 2016, approximately 150 Veterans, fitness enthusiasts, and supporters laced up their sneakers and ascended stadium stairs to raise funds for *Homes for the Brave*. A course of 1,000 steps was created at the Ballpark at Harbor Yard in Bridgeport, Connecticut, where participants set goals and challenged themselves to climb as many stairs as they could within two hours. "There's no competition here, it's about personal best; just as we want our Veterans to do their personal best to overcome obstacles," said Board Member Bernadette Baldino.



Mini Golf Tournament

Held Veterans Day weekend, over 90 'golfers' celebrated the men and women who have served us all at the *Homes for the Brave Mini-Golf Tournament*. Players enjoyed 18-holes of indoor miniature golf along with a cocktail reception, awards dinner, and chances to win exciting prizes and auction items.

Homes for the Brave Comedy Night

January 20, 2017 marked the first-ever *Homes for the Brave Comedy Night*. The evening, hosted at Vazzano's Four Seasons in Stratford, Connecticut, drew over 280 guests and featured a hilarious lineup of Treehouse Comedy pros, including two U.S. military Veterans. Attendees enjoyed dinner, prizes, and sharing company with those who enjoy a good laugh and giving back.

Annual Homes for the Brave Comedy Night
Annual Golf Classic
Annual Step Up For The Brave Stair Climb

January 19, 2018
May, 2018
September, 2018



STORIES OF SUCCESS



WAR STORIES: A VETERANS PROJECT

On March 31, 2017, the curtain rose on WAR STORIES: A Veterans Project. This collaboration between Fairfield University's Quick Center for the Arts and *Homes for the Brave* resulted in an educational, emotional, and therapeutic experience for its actors and audience members alike.

In WAR STORIES, sixteen past and current residents of our programs bravely shared their personal narratives about the wars they have fought. For many, the battles began before they reported for duty, while others met their demons during and after their service to our country. Two of the participants had not served in the military, but poignantly brought light to the societal factors that lead to the inner-wars many of us face. All performances were touching, genuine, and flawless.

We thank creators Peter Van Heerden, Nina Bentley, and Sonya Huber for giving our residents the gifts of expression, healing, and growth. We also extend our gratitude to Fairfield University, the CT Office of the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts for supporting the actors' salaries, thereby furthering their vocational goals. And of course, we want the performers to know how very proud we are of their generous and courageous storytelling.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is our duty as citizens and people to reach out and lift up and help those in need, those less fortunate than ourselves. The men and women in this project may have lost their way at some point, but they have now found their path, and are some of the most courageous, brave and powerful people I have met. Their stories are WAR STORIES of life, THEIR LIVES, told in THEIR voices. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with these Veterans and share in their lives and stories.

- Peter Van Heerden



STORIES OF SUCCESS



“SEAN’S” STORY



“Sean” came to *Homes for the Brave* with numerous challenges after his successful career in the US Army. He needed assistance in preparing for a career change and help discovering his new horizon. “Sean” was motivated and enthusiastic, learning independent life skills and working with his Vocational Specialist to identify a new path and complete necessary trainings. They worked together on his resume and helped “Sean” develop confidence for interviewing. With his newfound skillset and determination to establish employment and permanent housing, “Sean” landed his dream job and now happily lives an independent life, often visiting *Homes for the Brave* to inspire other residents.

“MARIA’S” STORY



After a successful career in the US Air Force with a solid background in Information Technology, “Maria” relocated to Connecticut where she saw more employment opportunity and to be closer to her family when her post-service employment ended.

She enthusiastically engaged in the *Female Soldiers: Forgotten Heroes* program, taking decisive action to acquire employment. Her strong interpersonal skills served her well as she researched and targeted specific companies where she felt she could add value, landing several job offers.

Since becoming gainfully employed and securing permanent housing, “Maria” married and started a family. She is a mentor to Veterans and works with girls who are on probation or going in the wrong direction, offering problem solving and a support system. “Maria” shared, “I love my job! The work is tiring but rewarding. One girl just graduated high school. The successes outweigh the negatives.”

“Maria” is a role model of what can be accomplished when a Veteran engages on a mission.

We make a living by what we get

We make a life by what we give

Winston Churchill

DID YOU KNOW?



YOUR DONATIONS HAVE...



Provided
250,449 safe bed
nights for residents



Served
175,000
hot meals



Equipped **1,110**
residents with
invaluable life skills



Helped **825**
residents secure
permanent housing

WE SERVE...

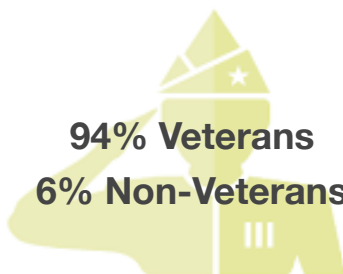
GENDER



81% Male

19% Female

VETERAN STATUS



94% Veterans

6% Non-Veterans

AGE

Under 18	1%
18-25	2%
26-35	9%
36-45	16%
46-59	55%
60+	17%

RACE / ETHNICITY

Black Non-Hispanic	45%
White Non-Hispanic	41%
White Hispanic	10%
Other	4%

OUR RESIDENTS GIVE BACK!

Easter Egg Hunt at Roosevelt School

Residents and staff worked together to provide children with a fun Easter Egg Hunt at Roosevelt School on April 7th. Candy-filled eggs were distributed around the playground where over 100 children then gathered to find the eggs and receive special treats.

Neighborhood Clean-Up

On Saturday morning, June 17, 2017, *Homes for the Brave* teamed up with the City of Bridgeport and the South End Neighborhood Revitalization Zone to host a Park City Pickin' It Up event in the City's South End. This is a city-wide and community initiative, in conjunction with the City's "War on Blight," that focuses on the beautification of the city and overall quality of life for our residents and our entire community.

OUR RESIDENTS TRAIN FOR SUCCESS

The **ABRI Training for Success** program provides educational and training opportunities. Types of training include: Commercial Drivers License Training, OSHA 10 & 30 Training, Microsoft Office/Excel Training, Security Guard Training, Advanced Manufacturing, Medical Billing & Coding, Asbestos Worker Training, Lead Worker Training, Deconstruction Training and Certified Nurse's Assistant Training.

Our residents participate in a series of job fairs, yielding excellent opportunities to network and pave the way for future careers.

DID YOU KNOW?



FINANCIALS

Revenue & Support

Federal Grants	\$846,486
State Grants	\$440,594
Special Events	\$241,927
(less direct costs)	(\$129,418)
Contributions & Small Grants	\$312,414
Client Fees	\$56,095
Other Income	\$10,572
In-Kind Revenue	\$117,788

Total Revenue **\$1,896,458**

Expenses

Program	\$1,524,154
Management & General	\$397,240

Total Expenses **\$1,921,394**

Assets

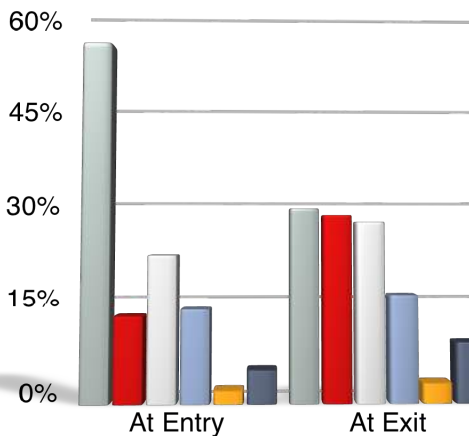
Total Assets **\$4,199,704**

Summary of Housing and Employment Outcomes for FY 2017

Total number served: Out of the 157 individuals served this years, 104 were discharged and 53 remained in the three ABRI programs beyond June 30, 2017.

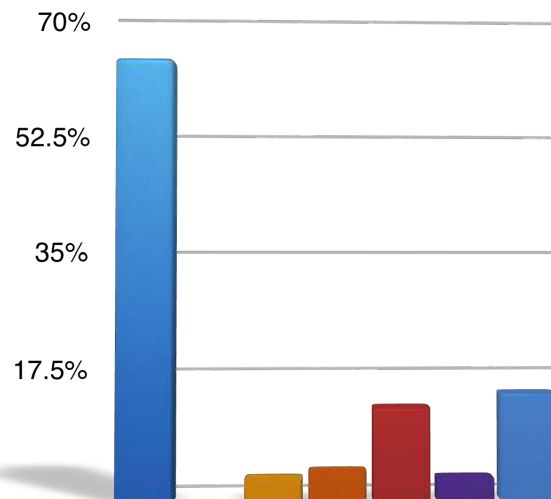
INCOME SOURCE*

- No Financial Resources
- Employed or Supported Employment
- VA Disability
- Social Security Disability
- SS Retirement / Other Pension
- Other



HOUSING STATUS AT DISCHARGE

- Permanent Housing
- Emergency Shelter
- Temporarily Living with Others
- Transitional Housing
- Higher Level of Care
- Other
- Unknown



Year over Year:

107% increase in residents who were employed between entry and exit
46% decrease in residents who had no income between entry and exit

*Percentages do not equal 100 as some individuals had multiple income sources

WAYS YOU CAN HELP



“Somewhere along the way, we must learn that there is nothing greater than to do something for others”
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

GIVE

- ★ Visit www.homesforthebrave.org to make a safe & secure donation.
- ★ Checks can be mailed to: *Homes for the Brave*
655 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604
- ★ Donate a vehicle
- ★ Remember Homes for the Brave in your estate plans

VOLUNTEER

- ★ Prepare & serve meals
- ★ Host a supply drive
- ★ Participate in a special event
- ★ Provide expertise

PUT YOUR TALENTS TO WORK!

DONATE

- ★ New Clothing
- ★ New Bedding
- ★ Food
- ★ Toiletries

Please see our Wish List on our website at www.homesforthebrave.org

HIRE A VET

We can connect you with prospective employees who have a proven capacity to excel.



THANK YOU JOHN!

It is with gratitude and appreciation that ABRI staff, board, residents, and friends celebrate the retirement of John Porto.

As the doors to the agency opened on July 15, 2002, John was there, and he remained loyally involved in its development and operation for 19 years. July 1, 2017 marked the end of his journey as Chief Operating Officer and Clinical Director, but the beginning of a new chapter, his Floridian retirement.

“I’m looking forward to retirement, but I have been here since its inception, so it’s an emotional departure,” said John. “It has been a pleasure and an honor to be involved with over 1,100 residents who have passed through these doors. I am leaving the company in good hands that will continue the great work we have been doing since 2002.”





www.facebook.com/homesforthebravect



@ABRI_HFTB



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dba Homes for the Brave

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HOMES FOR THE BRAVE

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