



**McCartney Project – Transforming Veteran Lives**

**Pinal County**

**2019**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Pinal County has taken great strides over the last six years to become a county known for improving the lives of OUR Veterans. With the support of the Pinal County Board of Supervisors and several elected officials partnerships have been built that have enabled different organizations to come together to address homelessness, at-risk, unemployment, underemployed, low-income, disabilities, rural outreach, and support services for Veterans.

The HOHP Pinal County Veteran's Center – Eagles Landing has been open for two years has been able to analyze the needs of Veterans in Pinal County through the tracking of services provided by visits to the center and through partnering organizations. The issues and needs identified have made it apparent that Pinal County must address the provision of services to meet the unique needs of the Veteran population.

Outreach through Eagle One Mobile Veteran Center has also provided insight as to the pressing needs in the more rural areas of Pinal County. The Mobile Center has allowed connections to Veteran Services where there has never been a way for Veterans/families to access information and services to help them with service-connected disabilities, healthcare, mental health, employment information and support services.

HOHP has assembled a team of interested and committed Veteran and community organizations, Veteran Programs, and Veterans to design a holistic approach to meet the special needs of Veterans who are struggling and need a “hand-up” without having to leave Pinal County for services. The McCartney Project, once complete, will help transform Veteran/families lives.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Pinal County is the third largest county in the state – with the third largest Veteran population. There are times Veterans must leave the county to receive the services they need due to lack of services locally. Adequate transitional housing services, employment/training connections, mental health services, and lack of support programs/activities have caused major issues for targeted Veteran populations that requires this county to look at options to address their needs.

The McCartney Project team has identified four phases that will begin with emergent need and move on to establishing programs/activities that will benefit all Veterans and their families with life's challenges. A facility has been identified and soon to be secured that will allow the local area to address many of the needs Veterans face as they work toward self-sufficiency and a better life for them and their families.

## **McCartney Project Phases**

### **Phase 1 – Transitional At-Risk/Homeless Veterans**

Pinal County has minimal resources to address emergent needs for Veterans – homelessness and transitioning to secure housing, employment, support services and/or income to sustain housing.

The current “housing first” model provided through the SSVF funding thru a partner in Pinal County has issues with ensuring Veterans remain housed once they have been served through the program. Many Veterans entering the system through this program have issues that need to be addressed and their unique needs are not being met. Veterans fail to maintain their housing and eventually end up on the street again or must leave the area because all services from community partners have been exhausted.

Veterans who are engaged through the Pinal County Veteran’s Court and the Adult Detention Center/Housing Unit Military Veterans (HUMV) need a transitional program that will help connect them to services in their communities and help them stay on track with probation and release requirements.

### **Phase 2 – Support Programs/Activities for All Veterans**

Pinal County lacks support programs and activities that help Veterans work through PTSD. McCartney Project – with its 10 acres and residential facilities – can use the land and facility for the following types of classes/activities including, but not limited to:

- Counseling
- Community Garden
- Equine
- Art
- Woodworking
- Entrepreneur Classes/Small Business Development
- Healthcare
- Computer Based Training Resource Room
- AA/NA – Veteran Only Sessions
- Employment/Training Connections
- Mentors

Implementation of these programs/activities can bring at-risk Veterans together with Veterans searching for a place to learn, grow and heal. McCartney will be able to provide holistic services for improving Veteran’s lives.

### **Phase 3 – Veteran Based Workforce/Education Connections**

Pinal County is growing at a phenomenal pace and part of that growth includes some major employers coming to the area. HOHP is working to be at the forefront for Veteran recruitment for the positions that will be coming available. With the use of Eagle One Mobile Veteran Center as part of recruitment outreach easing a Veteran into the workforce will be much easier than ever before. The McCartney facility will provide the Veteran with the opportunity to transition into the workforce with its close connection to Central Arizona College, a major player in the stackable credentials for employment with the new employers coming to the area. The two-story facility is located on 10 acres of land that can be utilized for pre-employment preparation for Veterans as well as a training center for recruitment of Veterans from across the state of Arizona.

- Nikola Corporation
- Lucid Motors
- Attesa Motorsports
- Existing employers

The McCartney Project and the Pinal County Veterans Center has the potential to be the hub for employers to utilize for their recruitment and pre-employment preparations for Veterans.

### **Phase 4 – Strengthening Veteran Families**

Veteran families struggle with a variety of issues when a family member is dealing with PTSD. Pinal County needs to have a place where families can work together through these difficult times and a place to go to meet others facing the same issues. McCartney Project can provide different activities and services that can bring Veteran families together for healing. Many of the support programs/activities listed in Phase 3 can be utilized to help families work through their issues.

- Family Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Couples Counseling
- Bank Finance Training
- Computer classes, resume writing, interviewing skill, etc.
- Picnic Area
- Basketball
- Family Gathering Area

McCartney Project, with the facility and land, has the potential to support the large Veteran population that exists in Pinal County. Veteran recruitment will bring the communities within Pinal County together and support those that will be leaving the service in the future.

## **About Honoring/Hiring/Helping Our Heroes of Pinal County (HOHP)**

Honoring/Hiring/Helping/Our/Heroes of Pinal (HOHP) has always prided itself on the ability to provide services to Veterans over the last six years through the board members and dedicated volunteers. Opening the HOHP Pinal County Veterans Center has provided HOHP with a better opportunity to gauge the needs of Veterans in and around Pinal County. Veteran issues identified over the last two years through the Center have led to partnerships that have provided a connection to VA benefits, counseling for combat Veterans and military sexual trauma, combat Veteran group session, employment opportunities and Veteran Only AA meetings.

“Eagle One” is the HOHP Pinal County Mobile Veteran Center – a 39 ft. RV- that travels throughout Pinal County serving Veterans in each city/town once each quarter through scheduled visits to provide Veterans an opportunity to get the “hand-up” needed, connecting them to services available through the center and the network of providers ready to assist them. “Eagle One” has become a symbol to Veterans when it travels to the different areas that there is hope and help available to them.

HOHP has taken great strides to ensure no Veteran is left behind. There is more collaboration among the cities, programs and veteran organizations than ever before. The need to pull it all together is vital to show a strong united front for our Veterans. The “Eagles Landing” Veteran Center and “Eagle One” has become that "hub" to make those things happen. Veterans can make connections with providers that will assist with: access to Veteran Benefits Counselors, emergency services, housing, employment & training opportunities, legal services, healthcare and behavioral health, food boxes, etc. McCartney Project can be that extension from the Veterans Center and “Eagle One” and can provide the ability to coordinate with many of the services needed for Veterans.

## **Current Partner Organizations**

Arizona Department of Veterans Services  
Tucson Veteran Center  
Arizona@Work Pinal County  
Gila River Veteran & Family Services  
Tohono O’odham Veterans Administration  
Eloy Veteran Center  
Apache Junction Veteran Center  
Pinal County Veteran Court  
Pinal County Adult Probation  
Pinal County Adult Detention Center/HUMV Unit

Pinal Hispanic Council  
VFW District 10  
American Legion – District 4  
Warrior Brothers  
Combat Motorcycle Veterans Assn.  
NCHP – Housing for Heroes  
Pinal County Housing Authority  
Community Action Human Resource  
Point Man International  
Elks Lodge/Casa Grande