

PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

November 2022

Promoting Your Abilities



Hamilton (Steele) Oliver is a Marine Corps Veteran with a spinal cord injury and 80% service-connected disability rating. He first reached out to the Veterans Career Program (VCP) in October of 2022 with a desire to work in the firearms training industry.

Steele shared his background in firearms training and passion for firearms; but has been faced with self-reported discrimination due to being wheelchair bound. While he attended over 20 interviews over the past year, employers would ultimately “go with someone else”. Seeking advice and assistance from VCP, our Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Alex Spangler, assisted Steele with different ways to address his disability with employers, and helped the client prepare for interviews in a more creative manner.

Many PVA members regularly participate in competitive shooting tournaments; so, our counselor encouraged Steele to promote his ability to attract new customers (including disabled Veterans) who may otherwise have shied away from this activity.

In less than 2 months, after implementing the assistance provided, the Steele received a job offer from a Richmond, VA gun shop and has since accepted the position. Alex and Steele are now working together to ensure the client’s success.

IMPACT + OPPORTUNITIES

22 Client Placements

- 19 Paid Employment
- 3 Education/Training
- 0 Volunteer
 - 21 Veterans
 - 1 Active Duty
 - 6 PVA Members
 - 2 PVA Member-Eligible
- The average salary for the 13 clients placed in full-time employment was \$70,940; and the average income for the 6 clients in part-time employment was \$21,333.



Help Heal Veterans



Arts and crafts are a time-tested healing tool for PTSD, depression, anxiety and other conditions. They can help relieve pain, and improve mobility and fine motor skills. And in some cases can help launch small businesses. Help Heal Veterans (founded in 1971) offers a variety of therapeutic craft kits free of charge to our veterans,

both in-home and at treatment centers across the country. The kits use recycled and sustainable materials, promote healing and show our veterans that we remember and care about them.

Treatment centers and patients pay nothing for this service, made possible by thousands of caring contributors wanting to express their love and appreciation to America’s veterans. These kits are produced from the ground up by veterans and family members at their production facility in Winchester, CA. To find out how to receive Help Heal Veterans therapeutic craft kits, please visit their website www.healvets.org.