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RESOURCE FAIR DIRECTORY

Commercial Club of Chicago
Veterans Working Group

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COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR DIRECTORY

Code Platoon



Code Platoon transforms veterans with little to no technical background into software developers through an immersive, hands-on, and educational process and paid internship program. The accelerated curriculum is designed to teach the fundamentals of the Ruby full-stack over 20 weeks (6 weeks remote, 14 weeks in person) through instructional time and hands-on learning experiences. Professional development is supplemented with job counseling, help with interview preparation, and employer matching. Anyone currently serving

or a veteran of any branch of the Armed Forces is eligible to apply. Currently, Code Platoon is able to offer guaranteed scholarships to all incoming students of \$10,500 to be applied to the total \$13,000 tuition. Women veterans who enter the Code Platoon program receive an extra \$500 scholarship. The first Code Platoon cohort has graduated and is enjoying full time employment in the software development field.

Contact: Rod Levy, Founder/Executive Director
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Dryhootch of America



Our mission at Dryhootch is to "help the veteran and their family, who survived the war, survive the peace." Dryhootch of America Inc. is a nonprofit

501c3 organization founded by a group of Vietnam combat veterans who sought out to help other veterans avoid problems previous generations experienced, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Moral Injury, depression and other mental health illnesses, drug and alcohol addiction, family relationship issues, unemployment, and homelessness. Dryhootch was envisioned as a place where veterans could gather informally in a coffee house that would provide a safe, comfortable, drug and alcohol free environment.

Contact: Bob Curry, Executive Director
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FourBlock



FourBlock is the nation's local network for leading veteran professionals. Each year, hundreds of high-potential veterans across the nation are equipped to pursue careers right for them, thanks to the support of local FourBlock communities.

FourBlock's Career Readiness Program equips veterans with the professional development, career exploration, and network needed to obtain competitive internships and full-time positions at top companies that match their interests, experience, and skills. Employer partners gain access to a consistent pipeline of veteran talent and connect to the local community in a meaningful, sustaining way.

Contact: Michael Pett, Associate Instructor-Chicago
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Friends of Fisher House - Illinois



Friends of Fisher House-Illinois (FOFH-IL) is a completely volunteer non-profit dedicated to sustaining Hines VA Fisher House where wounded active military and veterans' families enjoy free lodging with meals and quality-of-life outings. This way they can support their loved ones during medical crises and focus on the healing process. FOFH-IL raises funds and recruits volunteers for Fisher House and grounds maintenance as well as providing all family needs. Since opening its doors in March 2010, the Fisher House has hosted 6,600 families free of charge for as long as necessary, from 3 days to 1 ½ years.

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Health & Disability Advocates



Founded in 1992 as part of a national effort to promote awareness of safety net benefits among seniors, children, and people with disabilities, Health and Disability Advocates (HDA) promotes health and economic security for at-risk populations, so that they can lead secure, dignified lives.

Contact: Laura Gallagher Watkin, Director of Veteran Programs
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Illinois Joining Forces



**ILLINOIS
JOINING
FORCES**

Illinois Joining Forces is a public/private partnership that serves as the umbrella organization for coordinating services and benefits for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families in the state of Illinois.

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Kids Rank



Kids Rank provides military children with a sense of stability through interactive group learning experiences and community service.

Each child has his or her own experience of being a military kid. Some will have never traveled and only have lived in one place, and others may have been all over the world and been enrolled in several different schools. The thing that they will have in common is that their parent is serving or has served our country in some manner. Kids Rank is a 501c(3) service-based organization developed specifically for military children. Through the formation of local clubs, Kids Rank engages children in hands-on, skill building projects and volunteer opportunities designed to encourage resilience through its core pillars of CONNECT, LEAD and SERVE.

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Phenix Legacy



Phenix Legacy's mission is to serve all those who have served through empowerment and mentorship. The organization's focus is to empower veterans, first responders, and their families by creating a legacy in which they can take pride, both personally and professionally. For the service member and their families, we provide one-on-one support with a peer mentoring foundation. Services include direct assistance in accessing resources for academic, professional, and/or personal advancement. For organizations and companies hiring service members, we provide a detailed assessment

on how to retain these communities within your workforce, consultation with key stakeholders, and create benchmarks to meet defined success criteria. Phenix Legacy is determined to empower and mentor our veteran and first responder communities to further build upon their hard work, allowing them to live their legacy.

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Rags of Honor



Last year 300,000 veterans were homeless for at least one night, and there are over 160,000 chronically homeless veterans. Rags of Honor is the only silk-screen apparel company devoted to hiring veterans who are homeless or unemployed after serving their country. All of our merchandise is designed and printed in the U.S. by them. 100% of all purchases goes to operating Rags of Honor as a sustainable business employing as many vets as possible and paying them a living wage.

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Student Veterans of America - Illinois



SVA is a 501c3 nonprofit organization with its headquarters in Washington, D.C. The organization officially incorporated in 2008, and has since become the connective tissue and the voice of the hundreds of thousands of student veterans across the country. SVA-Illinois is the statewide arm of the national Student Veterans of America. It is a separate nonprofit organization that serves student veterans throughout the state

Contact: Roman Ortega, Jr., President & CEO
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Thresholds



HOME | HEALTH | HOPE

Established in 1959, Thresholds provides healthcare, housing, and hope for thousands of persons with mental illnesses in Illinois each year. Through care, employment, advocacy, and housing, Thresholds assists and inspires people with mental illnesses to reclaim their lives. Thresholds is one of the oldest and largest providers of recovery services for persons with mental illnesses in Illinois. We reject the notion that anyone is a lost cause, utilizing evidence-based practices and a wide range of supports to treat the whole person, rather than just the disease. We offer 30 innovative programs at more than 100 locations throughout Chicago, the adjacent suburbs, and 9 surrounding counties.

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USO OF ILLINOIS



Illinois

The USO strengthens America's military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to the nation. Congressionally-chartered in 1941 at the directive of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the first USO center in Chicago was established in 1942. Today, the global USO organization operates more than 160 centers around the world, which have served more than 9 million service members and their

families. USO of Illinois is chartered by the USO to deliver programs and services that support local military and military families throughout the state of Illinois, and does so around three key pillars: USO Centers, Military Families, and Community Connections. Annually, USO of Illinois supports over 318,000 service members and their families, and is entirely funded through local donors, receiving no government funding and minimal support from USO Inc. USO of Illinois provides a 'home away from home' to nearly 245,000 service members and their families who visit five local USO Centers, and family-strengthening programs to more than 80,000 military and military family members. USO of Illinois also delivers support to: locally-based families who are geographically separated from loved ones that are deployed or stationed overseas; wounded, ill and injured service members and their caregivers; families of fallen service members, travelling through O'Hare and Midway Airports; and will soon establish programming to support service members and their dependents in transition from military to civilian life. More than 700 USO of Illinois Volunteers help deliver these programs and services, year-round. For more info visit: www.usoofillinois.org.

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Vet Center



The Vet Center is a specialty program of the US Department of Veterans Affairs that specializes in the readjustment needs of the men and women who have served in combat zones or have experienced military sexual trauma. Vet Center services include individual, family and group therapy, job search assistance, and benefit assistance and referrals. Vet Center services are unlimited and free of charge for life. Vet Centers are located in the community. There are 6 Vet Centers in the greater Chicago area.

Contact: Betsy Tolstedt, Director
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Veterans Forward at National Able Network



National Able Network is celebrating 40 years of helping people get back to work. We provide job search assistance, career coaching, connections to employers, supportive services, and subsidized training for seniors, dislocated workers, and veterans.

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