



## *Veterans' Outreach, Inc.*

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### Veterans' Outreach "Heroes' Passage" Update

Veterans' Outreach was donated a large piece of Kentucky wilderness by Roger Hanshaw, a local volunteer from the Grayson Office. Roger donated the property so that it could be used for hurting veterans. Roger is a kind, generous, and amazing man. He has also pledged his help with the project with no end date.

That act of kindness is having a ground swell of activity and development. According to Veterans' Outreach President, plans are being made for a special retreat for veterans called, "Heroes' Passage", a place where veterans can get help with transitioning from military life to civilian life. The project was first announced at the Veterans' Expo in Ashland by Regional Director Tammy Black. Finally, this February, the charity took possession of the property.

The conceptual development and planning has begun. Meetings are important and Mr. Ely wanted to start at the TOP, Kentucky Veterans' Affairs Department. "I couldn't believe the reception that they gave us! They all were very supportive and inspirational and made us feel at home. That kind of support just makes you more driven to tackle the numerous tasks to complete the project", Mr. Ely finished.

The ensuing meetings with Elliot County Executive Judge and several other local veterans' advocates were just as rewarding. "Everyone was so excited and hopeful of this project's success", Mr. Ely said.

So far, plans are being made, but are subject to change according to many unknown variables.

- The CORE Complex to house Counseling, Offices, Recreation, and Eats. This would be the main hub of the project.
- Private quarters for veterans totaling 40-60 (could be done in phases) similar in size of a motel room, but stand alone with plenty of outdoor space.
- A complete working FARM (residents will be assigned tasks according to their abilities) built where the original one was located with livestock and agricultural functions.
- A stable for at least 6 horses where we can introduce and offer the Riding Therapy Program to our guests.
- A Tribute Garden for veterans to be named after the donor's father, a WWII veteran, located where the waterfall and pond is situated.
- An Iron Man Course built to accommodate physically healthy and disabled veterans, to be challenging to all.
- A Fitness Center to be available 24/7.
- A Church that we can name "Spiritual Awakenings", that will welcome guest clergy.

- Job Training to be sponsored by corporations, educational facilities, etc. that could enhance skills from military training or develop new areas of interest that have employment potential.
- Health and Wellness Center to be manned by nurses and aides for emergency type care.

After the meetings, a group from Veterans' Outreach walked the property for 3 hours and was stunned that it literally was a Passage! Ely said, "You look to the right you see a high ridge, you looked to the left, you see a high ridge! Wow, we are in a Passage! The terrain will be a challenge to implement the development, but it will be worth it! When I named it I had no idea that the terrain would fit!"

The survey of the work will begin soon. Once that is complete, Gilmore Designs has agreed to donate the architectural renderings and conceptual design. In the meantime, the vision will continue to evolve with many meetings and the Oversight Committee.

**We will offer major donors naming rights on the various buildings to be erected.**

This project, when funded, will be a tremendous resource for veterans. This project's impact will be felt nationwide! If you are interested in showing your support for veterans, contact us. We are in need of talent, materials, funds, volunteers, and so on.

Please send your inquiries to: [jely@veteransoutreach.org](mailto:jely@veteransoutreach.org) or online at [veteransoutreach.org](http://veteransoutreach.org). Donations can be made through the website or by mail to Veterans' Outreach, 512 East Main St., Grayson, KY 41143 or Veterans' Outreach's National Headquarters, 7 Belgrade Ave., Liberty, Ohio 44505. Call us at 606-475-0216 or 888-2VET NET.