

# M1 Newsletter

MADISON COUNTY  
VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY

SEPT-OCT 2025



## Welcome

Welcome to our M1 - Mission First newsletter! We are thrilled to share with you the latest developments in our mission to empower veterans and their dependents.

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our volunteers who have continued to support us during these challenging times. Your generosity and dedication have allowed us to keep our programs running smoothly and effectively.

We are also excited to announce that we will be continuing to host our bi-monthly pancake breakfast at Theodores Restaurant in Canastota. Check out our County website or Facebook page for all the dates!

Finally, we want to remind everyone that our dedicated team of accredited professionals provides professional and confidential guidance to help veterans, their dependents, and authorized parties to navigate and obtain the benefits from the Department of Veteran Affairs, other federal agencies as well as state and local entities.

Enjoy this month's newsletter!

*MCVSA Team*

In this newsletter  
you can expect:

Updates

Upcoming  
Events

Story of Impact

Volunteer  
Spotlight

Joseph P. Dwyer  
Program

Help Needed



## Here's what has happened in the last month!

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our attendees and volunteers who came to our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Veteran Family BBQ held on July 12<sup>th</sup> at Delphi Falls.

We were truly blessed with beautiful weather, and the feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive.

A special thank you goes out to A Heart Song - Event Planning and Ray Brothers BBQ for helping make this event so special and enjoyable for everyone.

The day was filled with great food, delicious sweets, popcorn, fun games for all ages, face painting, and an incredible door prize—a Blackstone Portable Grill! Congratulations again to the lucky winner!

We hope to see more in attendance next year!



### Volunteer Spotlight

This month's volunteer spotlight is for those that dedicated their time to our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Veteran Family BBQ.

It's wonderful to recognize these individuals for their volunteer work this month. Their selflessness and dedication to helping others is truly inspiring.

Let's take a moment to appreciate their efforts and encourage others to follow in their footsteps.



October 11<sup>th</sup> 2025

### Veteran Pancake Breakfast

We welcome all veterans, active military members, and their families to come together for a morning of delicious food and great company. It's a chance to connect, share stories, and enjoy a hearty breakfast with fellow service members and their loved ones.

Here are the details

- Date: October 11<sup>th</sup> 2025
- Time: 9am - 11am
- Location: 3231 Seneca Turnpike  
Canastota, NY



## Help Our Veterans Get Moving: Volunteer Drivers Needed!

Transportation is a significant challenge for many veterans in our community. Whether it's getting to medical appointments, attending social events, or simply running errands, reliable transportation can make a world of difference.

We are seeking dedicated volunteers to help provide this essential service. If you have a few hours to spare and a desire to support our veterans, we need you! Your assistance can greatly improve the quality of life for those who have served our country.

If you're interested in volunteering or want to learn more about how you can help, please reach out to our office.

Together, we can ensure our veterans have the support they need to stay connected and active in our community.



## Karma's Kompanions: Bringing Canines Back to the Office!

We are thrilled to announce that Karma's Kompanions, in collaboration with Wanderers' Rest Humane Association, is bringing canines back to the office for adoption!

While our feline friends have been a regular delight every Friday, we now need volunteers to help care for our canine companions.

If you have a few hours to spare between 10 AM and 2 PM, we would love your help!

Volunteers will be responsible for entertaining the dogs and taking them for potty breaks as needed. Your time and care can make a significant difference in the lives of these animals and help them find their forever homes.

If you're interested in volunteering or want to learn more about how you can support this initiative, please contact us. Let's work together to give these wonderful dogs the love and attention they deserve!



## Joseph P. Dwyer Program: Supporting Our Veterans

We are excited to announce the further development of the Joseph P. Dwyer Program in our county, a vital initiative dedicated to supporting our veterans.

Named in honor of an Iraq War veteran, this program offers peer-to-peer support, helping veterans navigate the challenges of reintegration into civilian life.

Through group meetings, social activities, and one-on-one mentoring, the Dwyer Program fosters a sense of community and provides essential resources for mental health and well-being.

Join us in spreading the word and supporting our heroes as they transition back to civilian life.

Together, we can make a difference!

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## Story of impact:

A veteran came to us for assistance with a large hospital bill that was unmanageable given their low income. The hospital initially offered an unaffordable payment plan.

After researching options for financial hardship, we discovered that all hospitals are legally required to provide the standardized New York State Uniform Financial Assistance Application to individuals in this situation.

We guided the veteran through the process of obtaining and completing the necessary paperwork, including gathering all relevant financial information.

Our efforts resulted in the veteran's bill being reduced to less than \$50!

*Thank you for reading!*

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