

NEWSLETTER CHARLOTTE HALL VETERANS HOME

LET US ALL WELCOME

Brandi Tanner and Corey Dyson
SNF Activity Director & Human Resources Director



Brandi (Dye) Tanner is our SNF Activities Director and a Certified Dementia Practitioner with six and a half years of experience working in a geriatric care setting. She is a southern Maryland native. After spending fifteen years working in the hospitality business, she was invited to work at CHVH. She nervously accepted the offer and her journey began! Shortly after starting her new job, she realized that she had found her calling! She enrolled in the Modular Education Program for Activity Professionals (MEPAP) to embark on my path of becoming a Certified Activity Professional. The program is a two-year journey of learning professional standards of practice to lead and direct activities and life enrichment department. "I am grateful to my mentors Jane Anderson and my practicum supervisor Bonnie Pelletier for helping me along the way!" Her heart has a tender spot for working with those with a dementia diagnosis. There is something so pure about making a genuine connection and creating moments of joy!

She recently married Troy Tanner, a Navy Veteran originally from Northern California. Brandi has two stepsons, Christian and Zachary. Zachary is serving in the Navy as a helicopter mechanic. Brandi is a big movie buff and loves her dog, Frankie, and her cat, Bubby. Welcome!

Corey Dyson is our new Human Resources Director. Bringing over 20 years of healthcare experience, he came on board with a mission to serve others. As a US Army veteran with Maryland roots, Corey is right at home at CHVH. In 1989 he enlisted in the Army and served on active duty until 1994. He has been honorably serving in the MD Army National Guard for the past 20 years with a current rank of Staff Sergeant. Volunteerism and community support are fundamental aspects of Corey's mission of serving others. He is a recipient of the Volunteer Service Medal, has volunteered with the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad as a crew chief and executive board Chaplain, pastored the Body of Christ Temple, was on the leadership team at Dominion Apostolic church, coached youth basketball for Parks and Recreation teams, and currently serves as Elder of St. Matthew Pentecostal Church. Corey views life as a call to serve others and to be a willing vessel to praise God and aid his people. Corey believes that God is first in everything we do, then family, and last in his community. Family values, quality time, and a tight fist concept are where Corey believes we achieve unity. Corey is blessed and filled with the joy of life and family. Corey states, "any day that I live, has to be a great day." Corey has been married to his childhood sweetheart for over 21 years of a 35-year relationship. They enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren. Welcome aboard!




FEATURED DEPARTMENT

CAM Physical Therapy and Wellness Services, LLC.

Welcome to our Rehab Department! You can find our team providing services five days a week in our gym and all over the building! Our team of highly credentialed therapists and therapist assistants provide physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. You may be asking yourself, "what does this all mean?" The services provided to our residents assist with more than just ambulation and mobility. Our team works to enhance an individual's ability to do daily life activities, including transferring in and out of wheelchairs, dressing, bathing, cooking, feeding oneself, problem-solving, and so many other elements.



The Rehab Department's on-site gym is packed with equipment and resources! We have everything from walkers and canes to a Solo Step OmniCycle, diathermy devices, and other modalities. Are you curious about our equipment? Please stop by the gym, and we will show you around! Our Rehab Director, Kelly Knode, reflects on her 29-year career, "I have not encountered a need from a resident that we have not been able to provide for. We work with a mission of high quality of life for each resident."

CAM Physical Therapy and Wellness Services, LLC. is a contracted service at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home and has been here almost three years.



VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



Lorraine Cogan
US Navy Yeoman

My name is Lorraine Cogan. I was born in Manchester, Connecticut. I grew up helping my father run a restaurant and I would sneak ice cream from the freezer. I love sharing my memories of my father with my friends. When I was about 19 years old, I enlisted in the Navy and became a Yeoman. As a Yeoman and Petty Officer 1st Class, I preformed secretarial and clerical work. "I loved the Navy and enjoyed it very much. I stayed in the Navy for 20 years and my family gave me a wonderful party when I retired. I love music. My favorite song is *Under The Boardwalk* [by The Drifters] and *Anchors Aweigh*." Anchors Aweigh is the unofficial and popular song for the U.S. Navy.

"Until we meet once more: Here's wishing you a happy voyage home."

Last month yielded many regulatory changes that impacted the Home. I am pleased to announce that Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is now offering unscheduled visitation. This new development comes as a result of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recent revision to visitation guidelines. While the CHVH team gladly welcomes all visitors back into the Home, we must emphasize the importance of adhering to our infection prevention guidelines to protect our residents and our dedicated team. CMS also published a COVID-19 staff vaccination mandate that will be implemented in two phases. Throughout this pandemic, the CHVH team has continued to provide exceptional care to our resident heroes, and it is our belief that vaccination against COVID-19 is the best way to ensure we keep protecting the vulnerable population we are privileged to serve. We continue to work tirelessly on our staff vaccination rate and we are confident that we will meet the compliance criteria with minimal staffing impacts. As always, stay safe.



-Zenae Merchant, MHA, LNHA

PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY

John Curran, Elks National Veterans Service Commission

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission (ENVSC) was developed in 1917 as the War Relief Fund. The Elks identified the need for supporting the sick and wounded on the battlefields during the war crisis of the time. The program evolved over the years to what it is today. Their motto is, "as long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

John Curran has a colorful history with the Elks. He is a lifetime member (which requires a minimum of 30 years of membership) and has over 55 years under his belt! He is a past District Department Grand Exhausted Ruler and held all other positions except for State President during his time. John is currently a member of the Calvert Elks Lodge Veterans Committee and the past Chairman and current member of the ENVSC for the MD-DE and D.C. Elks Association.

He began volunteering with CHVH in 2002 when his mentor, Charles "Popeye" Moore, introduced him to the facility. He can recall a feeling of connection with the residents. As a US Air Force veteran, he feels he fits right in with the community and can talk and listen well with those he meets. After delivering flowers and visiting with residents weekly, John was ready for more. He began organizing a computer club, a program designed to provide computer access and training to the residents of CHVH. The program took off! John recalls serving as many as 80 resident members at the height of the program. The club evolved to the computer and camera club. John organized for equipment, software, and instructor donations. He has collected numerous monetary contributions from the ENVSC, volunteered in the gift shop, facilitated electric razors and personal care items, and items for the Commander's Closet. John can coordinate annual appearances by Santa Clause and the Easter Bunny too!

John is the longest-serving volunteer at CHVH. His service receives consistent support from his wife, Carol. In John's words, "I am a veteran, serving veterans."



This monthly newsletter is a joint effort of the MDVA & HMR Maryland for the whole CHVH community. For articles ideas and contributions, email Ashley Radano at aradano@charhall.org.



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