



Volunteers of America (Hope Manor Joliet) has been in partnership with Operation: Job Ready Veterans (OJRV) since November 2017. OJRV provides weekly seminars and other resources to veterans, and dependents who live in our apartments, also veterans that live in the Joliet area. To date OJRV has conducted 10 seminars resulting in a 79% percent employment and a 75% retention rate.

Volunteers of America is very pleased with services OJRV representative Ms. Beverly Fitch provides, that we have given them an office to conduct business with our veterans and veteran-spouses that live in the Joliet and surrounding suburbs of Will County.

The Veterans speak highly of OJRV's seminars. Many of our Veterans are facing barriers to employment. After the seminar, veterans stated their confidence had been renewed and they are better equipped to explore career opportunities. The Operation: Job Ready Veterans Chicagoland- representative (Beverly Fitch) has escorted Veterans to Hiring Fairs that resulted in veterans getting interviews or hired directly.

Besides, helping our Veterans with job readiness and transitional barriers, Operation: Job Ready Veterans, the Chicagoland representative hosted the first "Snack and Chat", last month. A representative from the US Census came to discuss employment opportunities with our veterans as well as the Vocation Rehabilitation Counselor from Hines VA. We received positive feedback from the veterans that we are planning on hosting them once a quarter covering other areas of interest such as: "How to apply for Federal Employment", "How to apply for VA Benefits" and "Benefits of Caregivers". OJRV will also host an evening seminar for our veterans you cannot attend the daytime seminars due to professional or personal schedule conflicts.

Because of the positive outcomes from our collaborative partnership, we are continuing our partnership with OJRV in 2020 and look forward to building an even stronger partnership.

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