



PECKHAM INC. COMMITTED TO HIRING VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES

LANSING, MI – Peckham, Inc., a leading community vocational rehabilitation organization serving individuals with significant disabilities, recognizes the unique needs of veterans living with disabilities who are looking to re-enter the workforce.

Peckham was named 2013 Veteran Friendly Workplace by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and launched its Veteran Services program to demonstrate its commitment to providing a supportive and welcoming environment for qualified veterans through mentoring, advocacy and support. Since launching, the organization has served hundreds of veterans each year.

“Peckham’s demonstrated expertise in earning federal military contracts, allow veterans to re-enter the workforce with great pride in continuing our service to our country. Whether veterans have a physical disability, like the loss of a limb, or a mental disability, like PTSD, the supportive programs and flexible work environment, allow us to re-acclimate to work with passion and excitement,” said Tyler Riddle, Peckham Veteran Peer Specialist.

Riddle is an Afghanistan Veteran, who leads the Veterans Services Peer Group, a group to support veterans in understanding their unique needs as they adjust to civilian life, employment and overcoming barriers.

“Socially responsible—and smart—organizations utilize specific strong practices to identify, recruit and sustain a dynamic Veteran workforce. Such practices include staffing meetings and discussion groups where Veteran employees support each other. This is an identified best practice in the transition from military and reintegration into civilian life,” said Jay Cohen, PhD, Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health, Battle Creek VA Medical Center.

Peckham Veteran Services has created various events and activities to raise awareness and provide veteran education. The group installed military branch flags at several Peckham locations, coordinate an annual car and bike show, backpack giveaway for military families, sensitivity trainings and more.

“One of the most common questions asked in social situations is, “where do you work?” It is incredibly challenging for people who are unemployed to have an experience of meaningful and valued roles when employment is such an important part of our collective and individual identities,” added Cohen. “Employment is often an important element of experiencing a meaningful role and great companies recognize the value of providing employment opportunities for Veterans living with disabilities, including mental health conditions.”

Peckham Veteran Services enables veterans with disabilities successful acclimation to the civilian workforce. Peckham offers competitive wages and benefits, and veterans can gain new expertise. Peckham values a diverse workforce that includes and values the contributions of veterans.

