

# Palmetto Pathfinder NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2022



## New Upstate Regional Integration Officer: Paulette Dunn



Paulette was officially onboarded on 3 October. Paulette is a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She has served as Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer in non-profit organizations focused on issues of poverty, homelessness, addiction, housing affordability and food insecurity for more than 25 years. She has been integral in developing coalitions and developing collaborations which exist throughout the sector. She most recently worked as the COO for United Housing Connections, the lead agency for the Upstate Continuum of Care, which actively provides assistance to homeless Veterans through the Effective Zero Program. She is the proud daughter of a 20 year Air Force & Navy Veteran.

## Upcoming Palmetto Pathfinder Courses:



In Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.  
Occupancy for this course is full.



In Aiken, South Carolina.  
Actively recruiting for this course.

## Is someone you know interested in becoming a Pathfinder?

Using SYNC MD,  
The SCDVA has updated the signup process to streamline registering. To access the registration page, you can scan the QR code to the right or visit [scdva.sc.gov](http://scdva.sc.gov)



# PALMETTO PATHFINDER OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS



## Landon Pitts

### *Midlands Pathfinder, York County*

At Winthrop University, Landon Pitts is the Vice President of Student Veterans of America (SVA). Landon, and members of the SVA, participated in the Military Makeover by Montel Williams in Lancaster, South Carolina. The team cleaned, painted, and assembled furniture for a Veteran and his family.

## Melissa Dion

### *PeeDee Pathfinder, Horry County*

Melissa Dion is active in attending Veterans' events and connecting Veterans to resources in her community. Highlighting a few of her engagements, she has packed care packages for deployed troops, volunteered her time with Wreaths Across America, as well as sharing information about the Palmetto Pathfinder Program at various Veterans' events.



## Phil Palmer

### *Lowcountry Pathfinder, Charleston County*

Phil Palmer has hosted a quarterly series called the Valor Series to promote physical fitness and peer support as solutions to overcoming PTSD. Phil has used his event to promote Palmetto Pathfinders and the SC Veteran Coalition.

## New Resources in the SC Veteran Coalition



Service area: Statewide



Service area: Spartanburg



Service area: Statewide

Offers relationship support through online programs for both couples and individuals.



Service area: Statewide

Provides a platform for survivors of domestic abuse to share their experience as well as training to promote awareness and prevention.

## ***Fast Forward***

Service area: Richland, Lexington,  
Fairfield

Providing technology education and computer access to those who have been under-served through traditional programs in the Midlands.

## SCDVA Awarded Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant



In late September, the SCDVA was awarded the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant (SSG Fox SPGP). The SSG Fox SPGP enables VA to provide resources toward community-based suicide prevention efforts to meet the needs of Veterans and their families through outreach, suicide prevention services, and connection to VA and community resources. In alignment with VA's National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide (2018), this grant program assists in further implementing a public health approach through community-based prevention and evidence-based strategies. The SCDVA, in partnership with Vantage Point Foundation, will be utilizing funding from this grant to continue expanding the Palmetto Pathfinder Program to best support transitioning Veterans in South Carolina.