



The Soldiers Project

Free, Confidential Psychological Counseling for Soldiers and Their Families

Newsletter

We would like to start the June Newsletter with continued **THANK YOUs** to all of The Soldiers Project Volunteers, and a note from Dr. Judith Broder:

“My husband and I spent time on Memorial Day working at Arlington West in Santa Monica. This is a memorial that Veterans for Peace sets up every Sunday (and Memorial Day) at the pier in Santa Monica.

It consists of crosses, stars and crescents for each of our service members who died in Iraq or Afghanistan. Each one bears the name of a service member who died. Tragically, the numbers of our dead now exceed the allotted area on the sand, but even so there are now over 2500 crosses, stars and crescents. For Memorial Day, someone donated 3500 red roses and volunteers attached them to each of the crosses. It was heart wrenching to see.

The beach was crowded with thousands of families celebrating the glorious weather and many paused to see the memorial and talk to volunteers.



Photo by Debra Ruby Photography

[Click here for larger image](#)

I was especially struck by the families and veterans who sat in the sand at the crosses of their loved ones and cried and cried.

The Veterans for Peace know us well, greet me with open arms (and sometimes tears) and hand out our cards and brochures to those who come there to remember and mourn.

It is a vivid reminder of how important our work is and the extraordinary gift you are all giving through your volunteering."

*Judith Broder, M.D.
Founder and Director
The Soldiers Project
jbroder@thesoldiersproject.org*

In the months of April & May The Soldiers Project has had:

- 25 referrals in Southern California
- 6 in Northwest
- 1 in Sacramento

Thank you for your support!

Workshops & Events

June 10 – Elizabeth Rona L.M.F.T., S.E.P. A case conference with an integration of Somatic Experiencing model. 7:30pm-9pm, LAISPS, 12011 San Vicente Blvd. B3, Basement Level, Los Angeles, 90049. RSVP to lynn@thesoldiersproject.org

June 21 - **RESTREPO** www.restrepothemovie.com. 7:30pm Laemmle's MONICA 4-PLEX. 1332 2nd Street, Santa Monica, 90401. Q&A with Tim Hetherington. RSVP required, seats are limited. lynn@thesoldiersproject.org

Please visit our event calendar at www.thesoldiersproject.org for all upcoming events

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

Last month we sent out a report for the Southern California volunteers to track their referrals, the Therapists Report Form. We have worked out some of the kinks and will be sending it to the other offices very soon. It is very important for you to fill out and return this report to us. **It is of vital importance that you keep the patient referral number as that will be the only way to identify your patients.**

We are very excited to bring Jenna-lee Garrett on board to manage the phone line in Los Angeles. She will be responsible for the referrals and will be working very closely with you. Welcome Jenna-lee!

Other good work around the Country.....

In Sacramento... The Soldiers Project Sacramento had an amazing night with The River Cats on Military Appreciation Day! We were stationed right inside the main gates and handed out over 2000 business cards with information on what we do and how to contact us. We were assisted in this process by the veterans of Sierra College, a group that we do regular outreach with, and it was a nice way to interact with them outside of the Veteran Service Room. Out of the 80 tickets sold, 40 were donated to veterans, and 15 parking passes were donated! It was an exciting evening and we are looking forward to seeing the calls and emails roll in from this huge outreach accomplishment!



In the Northwest... Due to illness, Trisha Pearce, our Director has been on sabbatical since mid April and will be minimally involved in the workings of TSP-NW this summer. Our administrative assistant, Megan Selvage, has finished her work with us. We

are happy to bring on board Randi Jensen as our newly hired Associate Director. Randi jumped into working at the Hidden Wounds of War conference April 23rd and did a wonderful job of coordinating the event. She will be working hard on developing our non clinical volunteer network as we continue to expand. She has been attending a variety of local events including the Ed Tick Summit at Evergreen College and a symposium at Lake Washington Technical College. The need here is great and we are preparing for the return of over 10,000 troops to Joint Base Lewis-McChord this summer. We will continue to focus on our mission of serving these men and women and their loved ones.

Monthly Book Recommendations

1. **The Good Soldiers**, by David Finkel. It is often difficult for us as therapists to find books that describe what it is like to be in danger and in combat. This is an extraordinary "inside" view of a platoon in combat in Iraq.
 2. **The Lonely Soldier: The Private War of Women Serving in Iraq**, by Helen Benedict. The stories of four women who served in Iraq. Well worth reading!
-
-

Peer Consultation Groups

All volunteers who have completed their training are welcome to join our peer consultation groups. These groups meet monthly in Southern California and all volunteers are welcome to attend. Below are the names and email addresses of the therapists facilitating the groups.

Los Angeles - Bonnie Engdahl - bengdahlphd@verizon.net
Valley - Joy Schary - schary1@sbcglobal.net
Orange County - Susen Kay - susenkay@cox.net

Any **announcements** or **articles of interest** please submit to lynn@thesoldiersproject.org