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DELAWARE COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND PATHWAYS PA ANNOUNCE HEROESPATH, A NEW VETERANS ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

DELAWARE COUNTY -Delaware County state legislators were joined by PathWays PA and other Delaware County local elected officials and business leaders to announce HeroesPath, a new southeastern Pennsylvania regional veterans engagement program that was funded in the recently passed FY2013-14 state budget.

"The veterans in our community are true American heroes. We know their transition from active duty back to civilian life can be very challenging. HeroesPath will help make that transition a little easier by helping veterans match their training and experience to jobs and employers in this region," said Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware).

"We look forward to serving veterans and their families as they return from their service," said Carol Goertzel, President/CEO of PathWays PA. "HeroesPath will rely on proven sectoral strategies to bring together employers, educators, veterans, nonprofits, and others to help veterans gain the skills, financial strategies, and support needed to find and retain employment."

HeroesPath will be funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry's Industry Partnerships program and will help unemployed and underemployed veterans navigate and connect to resources including workforce training, employment prospects, skills development, financial strategies, and supportive services.

"We owe our veterans a great deal for the many sacrifices they have made," said Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi (R-9). "I'm proud to support the HeroesPath program, which will help local veterans connect with local job opportunities. It's going to be a tremendous program, and PathWays PA is the right organization to make sure it works as intended."

"It was an honor to advocate for this program in my role as a legislator. Veterans and their families sacrificed so much for us, we must be equally dedicated to helping them with their transition back to civilian life," said Rep. Joe Hackett (R-Delaware).

Active Army National Guard member and State Rep. Nick Miccarelli (R-Delaware) added, "Our military trains soldiers to hit a target at 3000 meters with a mortar. While an important skill in the military, it does not translate to a career upon returning to Pennsylvania. HeroesPath will provide them the opportunity to receive training and education to sustain a successful civilian career. The lack of employment opportunities for returning veterans has only served to compound their struggle transitioning back into civilian life. I am glad that a program like HeroesPath exists to connect them with a meaningful career and to get them back on their feet."

"For our military veterans, rejoining civilian life is not without challenges, but finding a job doesn't have to be one of them," said Rep. Thomas Killion (R-Delaware/Chester). "Military personnel are well-trained, disciplined and possess skills that would be of great value to employers in our region. The HeroesPath program will help them put their training and expertise to work."

Rep. Steve Barrar (R-Delaware) also added, "We have a large number of veterans living in southeastern Pennsylvania. Their bravery and dedication make our communities a much better place. We need to do all we can to make sure we are helping them get back into the community and their normal routines they had before putting their lives on the line to serve our country."

Rep. Nick Micozzie (R-Delaware) said, "This is a great program and I am glad this assistance will be available for veterans and their families in our region."

HeroesPath will be administered by the Delaware County Workforce Investment Board and PathWays PA. PathWays PA will direct daily operations through Veterans Placement Specialists who will serve as a career coach, working individually to make appropriate assessments and to guide veterans towards opportunities that promote employment, education, and training, and to provide follow-up after employment placement to ensure retention. Veterans and employers interested in learning more about the program should call PathWays PA at 610-543-5022.

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PathWays PA was founded in 1978 as the Women's Association for Women's Alternatives. It served as one of Pennsylvania's first residential programs to keep low-income, vulnerable women together with their children and has grown to become one of the Greater Philadelphia Region's foremost providers of residential and community-based services for women, children and families. Each year over 6,000 women, children and families benefit from our full complement of social services; job training and employment assistance; as well as outreach and residential programs as they move along the path to self-sufficiency.