

Dreams Do Come True

On May 20, 2009, Mental Health America of San Diego County contacted MSCCN with a job posting for a Community Outreach Specialist. Their goal was to hire a Veteran, military spouse, war wounded, or caregiver of a war wounded to educate the community about mental health programs available for veterans and their families.

MSCCN spread the word through a large number of channels and received over 40 resumes from interested and qualified candidates in a matter of days.

Matthew C. contacted the MSCCN on May 22nd to express his interest in the position. Matthew graduated from high school in 2003, worked as a lot attendant for an automotive dealer for a year, spent another year as a tile setter helper and enlisted in the Marines in 2005. Matthew was a Combat Radio Field Operator/Heavy Machine Gunner in the Marine Corps, serving tours of duty in both Iraq and Africa. His Marine training included Infantry Training, Combat Field Radio Operators training, M2 50 Caliber Heavy Machinegun Instructors Course, Non-Infantry Marine Gunners Course, Combat Lifesavers Course, and Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Instructors Course. Matthew was trained to be a warrior, but he needed assistance to help him with his latest challenge – obtaining a position in the civilian community.

When we spoke to Matthew we learned that he suffers from PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder), clinical depression, and anxiety. He was assigned to a medical unit at Camp Pendleton, awaiting a medical discharge from the Marines. Matthew told us his personal mission was to help other warriors and their family members on their journey to recovery. He said the Community Outreach position was the answer to his prayers, knowing it would change his life and give him the opportunity to continue to serve his fellow Marines.

The MSCCN team realized that Matthew needed assistance in achieving his dream. He needed to make his resume “less Marine” and more civilian, stressing his strengths and skills instead of his combat experience. Matthew worked with an MSCCN resume expert who also counseled him on making his email address and cell phone message more professional. Another team member worked with Matthew to help perfect his cover letter and provided interview tips and suggestions.

Matthew C. was hired as a Community Outreach Specialist several weeks ago. He beat the odds and some stellar competition in getting this position. His new boss told us that Matthew is an exemplary employee and that Mental Health America has learned as much from Matthew as he has learned from them. They are very excited to have this wonderful young man on their team and look forward to watching him flourish within their organization.



Matthew C. (left) and his new boss Scott (right).

MSCCN and Vet Connect Jobs realize there are many more “Matthews” who need assistance. We work diligently to locate employment opportunities for these warriors. Our continual goal is to assist our applicants to make their employment dreams come true.