

Local Nonprofit Funds Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Veterans and First Responders



David Torres, US Army and Nick Santoro, USMC

By Denise Mercado, President Chambers for Hope, Jane Darnell, Community Relations, Chambers for Hope-PA

Chambers for Hope is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that offers financial assistance to those seeking Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy as a supplemental treatment to their existing medical protocol. The Chambers for Hope headquarters is located in Fayetteville, North Carolina and consists of quality Hyperbaric Centers in several states throughout the United States. Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center, located in Langhorne, PA is a member of the Chambers for Hope Network and serves the Bucks County and surrounding areas.

As with all members of the Chambers for Hope Network, Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center is committed to helping veterans, police, firefighters, EMTs, other adults, and children gain access to quality hyperbaric oxygen therapy for many insurance-based and internationally treated conditions. These conditions include autism, stroke rehabilitation, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress, concussion, Lyme disease, fibromyalgia, multiple

sclerosis, neuropathy, wound healing, and many others. Throughout the Chambers for Hope Network, over 25 grants have been issued to individuals in need of hyperbaric oxygen therapy with positive results. In the short time since opening its doors, Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center has treated five individuals with grants from Chambers for Hope. These patients include veterans with traumatic brain injury and other combat-related injuries.

"Since treating at Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center, located close to my home in Langhorne, I have noticed that my mind is clear. I also noticed a decrease in pain in my back. Unfortunately, I still had pain in my shoulders. I used to get depressed when my brain was foggy and I couldn't think straight and was forgetful. In addition to being depressed, I got agitated, and things would snowball from there. My girlfriend tells me my mood has been better, more stable, not as many mood swings. I sleep more soundly, can think more clearly, and am less forgetful. HBOT is the best treatment I have ever received. I have been through every type of treatment available and tried every medication the doctor prescribed for me. HBOT helped me more in two days than a years' worth of medications. Treating with

HBOT is something I love doing. It makes me feel more like myself. I'm hopeful that one day other veterans will be able to get this treatment close to their homes as well."
Nick S., USMC

Under the leadership of its owner Victoria Bliss-Calkins, Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center obtained accreditation from The Joint Commission – one of the leading accreditation bodies in the country. Patients and their families benefit knowing Oxygen Oasis has met the high standards for quality and safe patient care. Physician oversight is one of the many requirements for admission to the Chambers for Hope Network. At Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center, Medical Director Benjamin Lam, DO, FACOS, and his staff of physicians, provide quality assessment and follow-up for all hyperbaric oxygen treatments. Dr. Michael Montico is the Center's MAPS physician. He uses a functional medicine approach in evaluating all of his patients. Dr. Montico has additional training in caring for individuals with complex pediatric conditions, including Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Cerebral Palsy (CP).

Jane Darnell is the Business Development Manager for Oxygen Oasis and serves on the Chambers for Hope Community Relations Committee for

the Pennsylvania chapter. The goal of this committee is to build relationships in the community and share information about the benefits of hyperbaric medicine. As such, Jane is an active participant in the Coalition for Firefighters and Police Benefits (CFPB). The Coalition was formed to offer discounts and special services to veterans and first responders through each of the members' respective businesses. After learning about Chambers for Hope's mission to fund hyperbaric treatment for veterans and first responders, the CFPB members unanimously agreed to select Chambers for Hope - PA as its local nonprofit for their fundraising efforts. Their first event - "Bowling for Heroes and Their Families" was held last November at the Brunswick Zone in Feasterville.

With the help of local companies Parx Casino, Brian's Harley Davidson, Railway Specialties Corporation, National Penn Bank, CMI Countertops, Penn Community Bank and many others, the CFPB raised \$10,090. These funds will support two veterans who have been on the Chambers for Hope-PA waiting list. Army Veteran David Torres suffers with Post Traumatic Stress (PTS). He will start hyperbaric oxygen treatment at Oxygen Oasis in early February along with his 3-year-old daughter Gia who was diagnosed with

autism. Air Force veteran Kenneth Vann is the second recipient of the grant. He is currently being treated at the center. Both are very appreciative to receive 100% funding from Chambers for Hope-PA.

For more information about Chambers for Hope and to see patient testimonials, visit our website at www.chambersforhope.org. We are honored to have Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center in Langhorne, Pennsylvania as a member of the Chambers for Hope Network. We will continue to work closely with Victoria Bliss-Calkins and the staff at Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center to ensure that those in need of HBOT in Bucks County and surrounding areas receive this vital treatment. To donate, go to <http://www.chambersforhope.org/pennsylvania1.html>.



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