

archive.is  
webpage capture

Saved from <http://extract.suntimes.com/extract-news/illinois-midwest-compassion-center-marijuana-dispe> search

16 Jul 2017 20:07:48 UTC

Redirected from <http://extract.suntimes.com/news/10/153/19262/illinois-midwest-compassion-center-marijuana>

All snapshots from host [extract.suntimes.com](http://extract.suntimes.com)

Webpage

Screenshot

share download .zip report error or abuse

# EXTRACT



## Illinois marijuana dispensary to donate 10 percent of May proceeds to veteran amputees

Emily Gray Brosious



(Photo credit: Uriel Sinai/Getty Images)

### Midwest Compassion Center teams up with Hines VA Hospital to benefit veteran amputees.

Midwest Compassion Center in Romeoville, Illinois, is donating 10 percent of net proceeds this May to Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, where the funds will go to medical care for veteran amputees.

“Veterans are a group that pull on my heartstrings quite strongly,” dispensary co-owner Nicole van Rensburg told Extract. “Amputated limbs is on the list of qualifying conditions in Illinois, so we chose to earmark that.”

The medical marijuana dispensary that Rensburg owns with her brother, William

Hollander, opened just over a month ago at 1335 Lakeside Dr. (#4) in Romeoville.

The dispensary provides a standing 10 percent discount on all purchases to United States military veterans as well.

"We are also pushing to get PTSD on the list of qualifying conditions, which it currently is not," she said, referencing the state's list of health conditions and diseases that qualify for medical marijuana treatment.

Thirty-nine serious and debilitating conditions currently qualify for medical cannabis in Illinois.

Illinois' medical marijuana advisory board has recommended multiple times that Gov. Bruce Rauner add post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to the state's list of qualifying conditions, along with about a dozen other conditions. However, the Republican governor has repeatedly rejected the expert panel's recommendations.

Van Rensburg says about 15-20 percent of Midwest Compassion Center's patients are veterans. The dispensary employs veterans as well.

"We're looking to form closer ties with that group in the future," she said.

Veterans have recently emerged as a somewhat vocal patient advocacy group in the new national medical marijuana landscape.

Part of this stems from the fact that veterans have been deprived of medical cannabis access through the VA system due to a federal government directive prohibiting VA providers from recommending, or even discussing, medical marijuana with their patients.

Additionally, many veterans say they benefit tremendously from medical cannabis. Active duty combat veterans returning home with physical injuries, emotional trauma or both are often prescribed opiate-based prescription drugs that can be very addictive, debilitating and even deadly. Some veterans say medical cannabis is a safer, healthier and better method of treatment.

"Medical marijuana allows me to use one drug and not have to worry about going down the path of opiate addiction," Army veteran Scott Murphy, who served 15 months in Iraq in 2007, told WBUR in April.

Kenneth MacIntosh, a Navy medic who served in Afghanistan from 2010 to 2011, told WBUR that "the cocktail [of 10 prescription drugs prescribed for PTSD] was so debilitating that my GPA at school was being affected ... from the sedation.

"But with marijuana, it actually helps during the day to focus. And then at night, if you use a marijuana with more THC, it'll actually help you sleep. And there's no real negative interaction there," he said.

Midwest Compassion Center will be holding educational events about Illinois' medical cannabis program May 14 and 15 at the Lockport and Romeoville Public Libraries. More information can be found [here](#).

## See more photos from Midwest Compassion Center:





## **Trending On Extract**

## **Around The Web**

[About Our Ads](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Headlines Network](#) © 2017 Aggrego