

# Volunteer of the Month

## January 2018

*Ryan Kenerson*



Ryan Kenerson is the Buddy-to-Buddy January 2018 Volunteer of the Month! Feeling a void and lack of purpose after leaving the military, Ryan was looking for a way to help others when he found out about Buddy-to-Buddy and decided to apply to become a Volunteer. Since training into B2B in April 2017, Ryan has been a very thorough and proactive Volunteer, going out of his way to make sure the Veterans he assists are connected to all of the resources they need.

Ryan was an Army Ranger from 2007-2013. He deployed a total of five times—four tours in Afghanistan and one in Iraq. He completed an Associate's degree while serving and then earned a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science from Kennesaw State University in Georgia after he'd separated from the Army. Ryan now works as an Emergency Department Medical Scribe at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac and is looking forward to beginning medical school at Michigan State University this June.

Ryan says he enjoys being able to interact with other Veterans and offer help where he can through B2B. Just recently, he met up for coffee with a Veteran who was struggling with housing instability, relationship problems, and depression. By sitting, listening to the Veteran share his story, and sharing his own experience with the Veteran, Ryan felt that he was making a difference in that Veteran's life just by being there for him. He was also able to help the Veteran get into the VA's Vocational Rehab and Employment program. The Veteran is now in stable housing, taking advantage of his educational benefits, and figuring out what he wants to do for a new career, in no small part due to Ryan's help.

Ryan enjoys spending his free time with his wife and 5-month-old daughter as well as playing sports and staying active.

**We commend you for your commitment to helping other Veterans, Ryan!**