Elena Lininger

Elena Lininger is co-founder of Source One Serenity, a non-profit for veterans, and a co-founder of HealTerra, a social enterprise worm farm that recycles food waste and manufactures natural soil amendment worm castings.

While being a part of the largest U.S. military community in Germany with her husband, Elena saw the harsh impact of combat, not only on him, but on many other soldiers and their families. These experiences made her aware of the need to treat the health issues of veterans.

Starting a non-profit and moving from Germany to the U.S. was a big professional change for her, which also became meaningful and purposeful. It was about giving hope to those who seek healing and seeing an impact on individual lives. She learned many lessons in the non-profit sector thanks to the challenges new grassroots non-profits face. Despite any obstacles, she went always in the direction of goals and visions to make her new home, Douglas County of Oregon a healthier place to live. After suspension of all recycling in Douglas County in 2018, this project of the worm farm became even more meaningful to her because of her education in Environmental Business Administration and her experience of studying at the only “Zero Emission” University in Europe. This is how she can share her knowledge and mindset of thoughtfulness and long-term sustainability after living in Germany for 15 years. Together with her husband and Source One Serenity’s Board, she introduces a food waste collection program in Douglas County.