

## 3.09 “Partnering with Veteran Service Organizations to End Veterans’ Homelessness”

<sup>\*</sup>  
Charles L. Kissel, Team AMVETS California Charities, Inc.; 27 July 2016

- **Strategy: Collaborative Work Efforts with Veterans Service Organizations (“VSO”)**
- **Tactics: Emphasis on Veterans’ Oriented Transitional Programs/Services**



# Typical VSO Infrastructure

- **Membership Based Organizations as 501c(3)'s, c(4)'s and c(19)'s at the National, State, and Local Entities**
- **Foundations and Charities as 501c(3)'s, c(4)'s, and c(19)'s at the National and State Entities**
- **Revenue Basis, e.g., dues, including some Thrift Store Operations**
- **Methods of Tracking and Reporting**



# Transitional Programmatic Examples

- **Service Officer Programs for Claims Processing**
- **Veterans Administration Voluntary Services**
- **Legal (e.g., Veterans Courts)**
- **Medical and Rehabilitation**
- **Scholarships and Education**
- **Transportation**
- **Business Mentoring**
- **Career Centers**
- **Outreach and Stand Downs**
- **Third Party Relationships**
- **Home Furnishings and Household Items**



# Serving Homeless Veterans by Providing Home Furnishings and Household Items

**Mission: To provide home furnishings and household items to homeless Veterans free of charge as the Team AMVETS Welcome Home Program, starting in November 2012.**

- **Internal beginnings through Outreaches and Stand Downs using: Internal Thrift Store Infrastructure (solicitation, pick-ups, sorting, storage, and delivery)**
- **Veterans Administration's Support using an MOU: service officer vetting of homeless Veterans under HUD-VASH and data-sharing from the SD, LB, WLA and Fr facilities.**



# AMVETS' Process used to Provide Homeless Veterans with Furnishings and Household Items

- Names, addresses, and selected items are provided by the VA; both parties arrange the scheduling of the items.
- Thrift Stores and the designated warehouses set aside the items, load delivery trucks with the items designated as per the scheduling, then deliver the items to the veteran's address. If not donated, some items must be purchased (e.g., bedding, food gift cards).
- AMVETS notifies local AMVETS companies of the scheduling. AMVETS representatives are on hand during the delivery.
- Monthly delivery stats are produced and reported.



# Team AMVETS Welcome Home Program Cumulative Values over 42 Months

<u>Item</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Number of Veterans Served	2,770
Current Backlog of Veterans Waiting	202
Number of Items Provided	35,752
Items Provided (Fair Market)	\$ 1,396,581.90
Program Hours	27,424
Mileage	66,096



# Team AMVETS Welcome Home Program Cumulative Values over 42 Months

Breakdown of Items Furnished:  
Geographic Areas Served

<u>Category</u>	<u>SD (\$)</u>	<u>LB (\$)</u>	<u>WLA (\$)</u>	<u>FR (\$)</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>
Family Room	72,431.38	43,928.00	171,696.00	41,372.00	329,427.38
Kitchen	42,470.12	35,948.96	95,631.00	23,278.00	197,328.08
Bedroom	127,500.57	69,837.52	244,546.00	83,207.75	525,091.84
Gift Cards	66,850.00	41,445.00	151,525.00	43,750.00	303,570.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>317,522.67</b>	<b>199,166.48</b>	<b>687,532.00</b>	<b>192,360.75</b>	<b>1,396,581.90</b>



# Collaborative Efforts

- **Veterans Administration, Los Alamitos JFTB**
- **Various City Governmental Agencies: San Diego**
- **Corporate Donors: CORT Furniture, Gateway Mattresses, Veterans First, Olive Garden, Neotrope Fund, West Care, Home Depot Good360, San Diego Padres, Courtyard Marriot, Best Western, Guggenheim Partners, San Diego Hotel-Motel Assoc., Manchester Grand Hyatt, Integrated Media Solutions (Clearchannel), CEVA Logistics, Furniture Bank of Central Ohio, Shared Comfort, Wal-Mart, Buffalo Wild Wings, Creative Smiles, First United Reform Church, LCB & Associates, Los Angeles Dodgers, Mor Furniture, Ralphs 30-30 Volunteers, Activision, Southern Cal Edison**
- **Wills, Estates and Trusts: Eileen Thibault Estate**
- **Related Organizations: PATHFinders Veteran Employment Service, Veterans Village of San Diego, affiliated AMVETS organizations**





# Team AMVETS Welcome Home Program Congressional Support

- Congressional Bills: S.223 and H.R. 2029 (2015)
- Other Notices: Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 73 (2015) and the Homeless Veterans Welcome Home Act of 2015
- Purpose: To make available \$5,000,000 to the Secretary of the Veterans Affairs for a pilot program on awarding grants to provide furniture, household items, and other assistance to formerly homeless veterans moving into permanent housing.



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### Washington State Serving Veterans & Their Families

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs

Andrea Talmadge, Program Specialist

# Washington State Serving Veterans & their Families

Building 9  
VA Grant Per Diem (GPD)  
Program



**DOC**

**Incarcerated Veterans  
Initiative**

**Vet Pods**



*"Serving Those Who Served"*

## Homeless Programs

Homeless Veteran  
Reintegration Project  
(HVRP)

Grant funded by US  
Department of Labor -  
VETS

- SOAR is a National program focused on expediting access to SSI/SSDI
- Funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)



# Washington State Serving Veterans & their Families

Vet Corps



Washington State



Veterans Innovations Program (VIP)

## Washington State Military Transition Council (WSMTC)



## Employment & Education

WSMTC



*"Serving Those Who Served"*

# Washington State Serving Veterans & their Families

## Vet Bikes



## Behavioral Health



## Veterans Benefits Enhancement Program

# Other Programs

### VSO

- WDVA contracts with 7 Nationally Recognized Veteran Service Organizations to provide claims services to veterans throughout the state
- There are also 4 counties with County Service Officer accredited by WDVA



## Service Dogs



## Comp & Pen

# **Questions?**

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