



“SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED”

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January 5, 2012

Dear Community Partner:

The mission of United States Veterans Initiative (U.S.VETS) is the successful transition of military veterans and their families through the provision of housing, counseling, career development and comprehensive support. Founded in 1992, U.S.VETS is the largest non-profit organization of its kind in the United States, providing an array of support services to at-risk veterans. U.S.VETS operates programs at 11 sites in six states and the District of Columbia, serving more than 2,500 veterans every day. U.S.VETS has been the non-profit sponsor of the Veterans Stand Down since the event's inception in Las Vegas in 2004.

The Stand Down is an event that is held in cities all over the nation to provide food, clothing, services and referrals to homeless veterans. The name “Stand Down” comes from a term used in times of war. Exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover were removed from the battlefields to a place of relative security and safety. Today, Stand Down refers to a grassroots, community-based intervention program designed to help the nation's estimated 67,000 homeless veterans “combat” life on the streets. The hand up, not a handout philosophy of Stand Down is carried out through the work of hundreds of volunteers and organizations throughout the nation.

On March 23 & 24, 2011, the 8th annual Veterans Stand Down in Las Vegas was held at the East Las Vegas Senior Community Center. The event was carried out with support from Nellis Air Force Base and over 70 local non-profit agencies, veteran service organizations, and other providers. The event was also supported by the offices of the Nevada Congressional Delegation, as well as the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System. Over 500 volunteers served during the event, and the event was supported by several generous sponsors, donors and grantors. Without these contributions of volunteer time and financial and in-kind support, the event would not have been possible.

A total of 574 homeless and at-risk veterans were served at the Stand Down – 549 males and 25 females. More than 55 veterans were connected to housing resources and emergency shelter during the event, plus many others after the event. In addition to housing, the Stand Down provided veterans with free and comprehensive services such as VA enrollment, legal assistance, medical and dental checks, clothing, hygiene products, haircuts, showers, and much more.

The next Stand Down will be held on March 21 & 22, 2012. The Stand Down brings the community into the solution, gives hope to veterans still living on the streets of Las Vegas, offers them a temporary respite, and provides information and services that can help end their nightmare on the streets. Please consider assisting with this most important event. It is the work of over 75 community agencies, and over 500 volunteers that make this event successful each year. I can be reached for more information or with any questions at (702) 429-7294.

Sincerely,

Shalimar T. Cabrera, MSW
Veterans Stand Down Chair
U.S. VETS – Las Vegas

U.S. VETS – Las Vegas

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