

## HOMELESS HEROES

*“We execute our mission with the ethic, ‘We don’t leave our wounded behind.’ ”*

— William T. Malone, Executive Director, Joseph House

Joseph House opened in 1993 to offer counseling and referrals to homeless veterans forced to live on the streets. A year later, this storefront ministry expanded to provide housing and clinical services at what came to be known as the Captain Robert S. Marx Veterans Recovery Center, named after the wounded World War I captain who founded the Disabled American Veterans.

Joseph House currently treats 105 veterans. And the help you provide has been essential as more and more homeless heroes arrive at its growing inner-city campus. “During 2009 we continued to expand a resident population that is 33% larger than just two years ago,” notes Mr. Malone. “By the end of the year, we will have completed the purchase of our eighth building.”

Approximately 131,000 veterans are homeless on any given night, according to the VA. About twice that number experience homelessness during any given year. One out of four homeless Americans is a military veteran. DAV professionals and volunteers are deeply concerned that 45% suffer from psychological disabilities. With women veterans three times as likely to become homeless as women who didn’t serve, they now make up 4% of homeless veterans. The problem grew worse during the recession, forcing low-wage and some middle-income veterans into foreclosure and financial ruin.

These are not acceptable facts, but they’re facts we cannot ignore.

The problem is not limited to big cities where it’s most obvious. Many homeless veterans live in rural areas or wander in the wilderness. Distressed by this shocking situation, the DAV Charitable Service Trust continued and enhanced its ongoing activities on behalf of homeless veterans and their families during 2009.

[But you’re acting to bring change into the lives of our nation’s homeless heroes through the DAV Charitable Service Trust. Various programs are partnering with the Trust to change the lives of homeless veterans in substantial ways:](#)

- ★ The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans in Washington, D.C. supplies technical assistance and supports a toll-free Homeless Veteran Help Line.
- ★ Caritas Communities of Braintree, Mass., supplies counseling and services for homeless and low-income veterans in a 60-unit housing center.
- ★ Carriage House Community Table in Boulder, Colo., provides for the immediate needs of homeless veterans at its day shelter.
- ★ Cincinnati’s Center for Respite Care offers respite care for homeless veterans, including medical treatment and social services.
- ★ Central Oregon Veterans Outreach in Bend serves homeless veterans with emergency and transitional shelter, as well as job training.
- ★ In Jackson, Miss., a Trust-funded VA program provides transportation assistance and housing/food stipends to homeless veterans.
- ★ HVAF of Indiana in Indianapolis supports a drop-in facility for homeless veterans, providing food, clothing, and shower facilities.
- ★ Lutheran Social Services of Southern California in Orange delivers emergency assistance for veterans and their families.
- ★ Mercy House Transitional Living Services in Santa Ana, Calif., provides transitional housing for homeless veterans.
- ★ Operation Homefront in San Antonio, Texas, provides rent-free, short-term housing for indigent veterans and their families.
- ★ Pathways to Care in Casselberry, Fla., directs food, shelter, and medical care to homeless veterans.
- ★ The Northwest Division of Salvation Army in Seattle gives direct assistance of food, clothing, and shelter to disabled veterans and their families.

veterans.

- ★ The Heart of America Stand Down Foundation in Kansas City, Mo., provides food, clothing, and health screenings to indigent veterans.
- ★ The Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center in Pennsylvania provides food and clothing for homeless veterans.
- ★ The Volunteers of America Southeast in Mobile, Ala., supplies support for homeless veterans suffering PTSD and chronic mental illness in a new 36-unit transitional housing facility.
- ★ Veteran Homestead in Fitchburg, Mass., makes available food, housing and support services for veterans who are elderly, terminally ill, homeless or otherwise in need.

Myriad other homeless veteran programs that the Trust aids also include:

- ★ Alpha Omega Veterans Services, Memphis, Tenn.
- ★ Family Housing Advisory Services, Omaha, Neb.
- ★ First Marine Division Association, Oceanside, Calif.
- ★ PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) of Los Angeles, Calif.