2018 A SAFE HAVEN MILITARY VETERAN STAND DOWN

IMPACT REPORT

MAY 19, 2018

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Dear Friends,

I want to thank everyone who contributed to the meaningful 5th Annual Veteran Stand Down, where we came together to celebrate Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. The group of enthusiastic attendees was comprised of nearly 500 veterans; 75 Veteran Service Organizations and exhibitors; nearly 150 generous volunteers, including corporate sponsors and donors; several respected government officials, the A Safe Haven executive leadership team, board members and over 30 staff members. It truly takes teamwork.

I really can't thank everyone enough for bringing this event to life. There's hardly a way to truly give back and thank our veterans after all they've gone through for us, but we do what we can, when we can, to show them that we care and that we're here. A recent McCormick Foundation study found that over 40% of Chicago veterans who "come home" from service have no stable home to go to. At A Safe Haven Foundation, we want every person at-risk or in crisis to know that they are not alone; they have a place to turn to for help, where the end goal is getting them back on their feet with stable housing and employment, health services, and a restored sense of pride and purpose.
Many veterans find themselves struggling with co-occurring disorders like post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, and substance use disorders, in addition to major challenges like homelessness, unemployment, poverty and disenfranchisement. We believe every one of them should have a place to turn to, like A Safe Haven Foundation, to give them a chance to find a place to fit in, reach their full potential and contribute positively to society.

The Stand Down allowed Veterans the chance to connect with services to meet their immediate needs and provided resources to support their needs for sustained wellness over the long-term. The crowds flowed evenly, the pacing was relaxed, and individuals, couples, and families seemed to truly enjoy the camaraderie. People from various walks of life co-mingled, conversations and networking ensued among people with like-minded interests, and the kids especially enjoyed petting the comfort dogs. Special thanks to Boeing Global Engagement, Oberweiler Foundation, McCormick Foundation and Disabled Veterans National Foundation for sponsoring the event, and to the many individuals who contributed their time and resources.

I spent the past week in Springfield on the legislative floor advocating to get more behavioral health services covered for people struggling with disorders related to substance abuse and mental health. We passed the first section of our bill with a unanimous vote, so in the very near future all Illinoisans will have insurance coverage that supports a seamless transition from hospital care to a behavioral health continuum of care, like A Safe Haven. Also, we’ve expanded our Veteran housing to include A Safe Haven Veteran Park View Studios. We know that we couldn’t meet our goals without all your contributions. We’re so excited to continue branching out to extend our reach to more people in need, and we look forward to seeing many of you at the 8th Annual 5K RUN! To End Homelessness.

God Bless America,

Neli Vazquez Rowland, President and Co-Founder
PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Sunday, May 20, 2018, marks the 5th Annual Homeless Veteran STAND DOWN, hosted by A Safe Haven; and,

WHEREAS, as one of the largest veteran service organizations in the State of Illinois, A Safe Haven has provided emergency, transitional, supportive, and permanent housing to more than 10,000 homeless veterans since its founding in 1994, aiming to break the cycle of poverty and end homelessness among veterans; and,

WHEREAS, for the 5th year, A Safe Haven staff, community leaders, and other veteran service organizations will partner for the Homeless Veteran STAND DOWN to provide a wide range of services including academics, workforce development, human services, housing, and health care to veterans in need; and,

WHEREAS, the A Safe Haven STAND DOWN provides veterans with the tools to overcome the root causes of homelessness through a holistic, scalable model by helping veterans overcome barriers, access services, and gain sustainable stability; and,

WHEREAS, since the A Safe Haven STAND DOWN began in 2014, nearly 2,000 homeless veterans have received services, including medical and dental screenings; homeless prevention counseling and financial assistance; veteran benefit assistance; employment and job counseling services; recovery and mental health counseling; supportive, emergency, and affordable housing; legal services; veteran adult education; clothing; hygiene needs; and chaplain services; and,

WHEREAS, the A Safe Haven 5th Annual Veteran STAND DOWN is proud to welcome nearly 100 veteran service organizations, many elected officials, and honorary guests from across Illinois, all gathered to serve, honor, and offer respect to homeless and at-risk veterans;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim, Sunday, May 20, 2018, as A SAFE HAVEN 5TH ANNUAL VETERAN STAND DOWN DAY in Illinois, and urge all Illinoisans to join me in thanking veterans for their service.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield, this EIGHTEENTH day of MAY, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and EIGHTEEN, and of the State of Illinois, two hundredth.

[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE

[Signature]
GOVERNOR
VETERANS SERVED

TOTAL SERVED: 479

MALE | 439
FEMALE | 40

BRANCH OF SERVICE (AS REPORTED)

ARMY | 269
NAVY | 73
MARINES | 95
AIR FORCE | 42
A Safe Haven Veterans Stand Down is supported solely through grants, fundraising, in-kind contributions, and the work of hundreds of volunteers. This year, we are very grateful for the supporters of the event, which includes U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Labor, Jesse Brown Veterans Administration Medical Center; Edward Hines Jr. Veterans Administration Hospital, Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, VA Community Resource and Referral Center, and as important, the various event sponsors: Boeing Global Engagement, Oberweiler Foundation, Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Disabled Veterans National Foundation and in-kind contributions from Helping The Vets, Operation Support Our Troops:
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Brian Rowland, Event Chair, Co-Founder and CEO of A Safe Haven LLC

Neli Vazquez Rowland, Co-Founder and President of A Safe Haven Foundation

Mark G. Mulroe, Executive Vice President, A Safe Haven

Erika Jeffries, Director, Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs

Alderman Gilbert Villegas, City of Chicago

Bill Browne, Director, Cook County Veteran Affairs

Donna Gaines, Founder, Donna M. Gaines, Ltd.

Dr. Neelam Aggarwal, Rush University Medical Center, Neurologist and Clinical Researcher

Maria Tails, Supervisor, Illinois Department of Employment Security

John Mack, Illinois State Police

Samuel Mulroe, University of Chicago Medicine, Process Transformation Specialist
VOLUNTEERS | CORPORATE

Boeing
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The Mission Continues
Chase
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The success of A Safe Haven’s Annual Military Veteran Stand Down relies heavily on the contribution of volunteers. With over $850,000 worth of in-kind contributions, volunteers are needed to sort, assemble, and distribute goods (primarily clothing, blankets, hygiene kits, shoes, and duffel bags) to homeless Veterans.

**Volunteers**

- **Total Volunteers:** 246
- **Volunteer Hours:** 2,202 @ $26.02*/Hour
- **Value:** $57,296.04

**In-Kind Support:**

- **Estimated In-Kind Impact:** $850,000.00

1 Independent sector: Illinois Hourly rate: $26.02
In January 2018 ASHF launched the Veteran’s R.I.S.E. initiative—a new program designed to fill a gap in services for military Veterans with behavioral health needs—and those in particular with an elevated risk for suicide. Research has shown that psychological interventions are significant factors in reducing suicide. Through the Veteran’s R.I.S.E. program, ASHF is providing outreach, education, and engagement services to high-risk Veterans in the Chicagoland area. Participants have access to social events to help build social connections, as well as individual and group therapy sessions. ASHF encourages Veterans to include family members and spouses in the therapeutic process. Given that feelings of isolation and depression are create some of the biggest risk factors for suicide, ASHF’s goal is to help Veterans build connections and relationships to reestablish a sense of belonging while also working through past trauma.

The Veteran’s R.I.S.E. program is open to all military veterans and their families within the community. The Stand Down offered a perfect opportunity to screen and engage new program participants. In order to assess the special needs of Veterans attending the Stand Down, ASHF distributed a short questionnaire asking veterans to self-identify experience with the following behavioral health issues: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Suicidal Thoughts, and Substance Use. The chart below provides a breakdown of the experiences self-reported by Veterans. Nearly half of respondents indicated no special needs. Of those who self-reported experience with behavioral health issues, PTSD and substance use were the most commonly cited issues.

Additionally, Veterans were asked to rank their overall sense of well-being on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest level of satisfaction. With a total of 185 Veterans responding to the questionnaire, the average response provided by Veterans was 7.
FROM THE FRONT LINES …

“The Stand down was well organized and went off very smoothly. I enjoyed the comradery with many of the veterans as they came by my table. The vets appear to be very appreciative of the program and the “clothes”. Thanks for being a part of the Stand Down.” ~Bill Browne, Director, Cook County Veterans Affairs

“This is our 5th year at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center providing health screening services to the Veterans in attendance at the Safe Haven Stand Down. It is always so humbling, and such a privilege to serve those who have served – it reminds me why I am a nurse.” Lisa B. Murphy, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center

"I was overwhelmed by the passion, empathy and sheer effort evident during the stand down. A Safe Haven is clearly a beacon of hope and empowerment in the Veterans community of Chicago and will be for years to come.” Bianca, John and I were truly awed by the amazing work of A Safe Haven and the affect your work has on the veterans you help. Thank you again for letting us be a part of your amazing stand down! - Lauren Hellendall, Health and Comfort Program Coordinator DVNF

“There were so many great quotes from the Veterans we served. However, here is one that stands out; when we met the 94-year-old WWII Veteran with the Kare 9 Comfort Dogs, his face lit up and he said, “You have just made my day.” I replied, “No sir, meeting you has made our day.” Thank you all for your wonderful work with “the least of these” and the honor of being a part of the Stand Down.” His Peace, Jim Morrison – Kare 9 Military Ministry, Lutheran Church Charities

“I was in charge of the Veteran Women’s section and we must have seen 40 veteran women. The items that were given away were new and useful. The women loved them and there was more than plenty of everything. I believe that these stand downs are more organized and getting better every year. The word is out there and the women know that they can go through the giveaways without their male peers over them. They each got personal assistance, they were helped when looking for their sizes, and specific items that they were in need of. We packaged them up for them and helped them haul it away. The personal service in a female setting makes a world of difference for these ladies, who have never been catered to in other events. Great Job ASH!” ~Maria Talis, Chicago Workforce Center at Pilsen

“I think the Stand Down was a great opportunity to interact with a wealth of current and potential Illinois Joining Forces resources. Although I was unable to walk around to the various tables and network with the numerous providers. Also, it was a great chance to advertise the IJF program to veterans in need.” ~William E. Bryant, Illinois Joining Forces
“On behalf of my organization Guardian Corps of America, I would like to offer a very special Thank You to A Safe Haven Foundation, for the Great Job done organizing the veterans stand down. This was my organization's second year attending A Safe Haven's Foundation veterans stand down, and all I can say is it was Great! I recommend every community organization to participate, thanks a million.”  ~Tony LaPiana, AEL-GCA

“The Stand Down was a success for East West University (EWU). Five Veterans completed EWU perspective student inquiry cards. On a personal note as a Veteran I was able to reduce my monthly Verizon bill from $350 to $100 dollars. All in all, the day seem to be a big success for many Veterans including me.” ~Ronald Carter Jr., Captain U.S. Army Retired.

“Over 20 veterans applied to drive school buses. They never stop serving their community.”  
~Marilyn Scharko, First Group.

“The STAND DOWN was a wonderful experience, it was great to be able come out and fellowship and network with veterans. As a Veterans Services Specialist I came out to support the Veterans attending the STAND DOWN but I was personally blessed to have been able to attend. It was my pleasure to represent Olive-Harvey College. I brought my Veterans Club President along with me, he is also a veteran, he said it was “awesome event and everything went well, the Resource Fair & the speakers. Logistically speaking, SAFE HAVEN got it right. You had support staff & volunteers everywhere, because it was set up so well, everyone was happy and all Veteran attendees received services. JOB WELL DONE.” Derek Tyson, City Colleges of Chicago.

“What you’re doing for vets is amazing! We enjoyed being a part of it and look forward to future events!”  ~Nate Wilson, Oral Health America / Midway Dental

“We had several veterans with breakthroughs at my locations and was able to direct them to vendor's that were able to help them.”  ~Bishop Carroll Abiathar

“Saturday's Veteran Stand Down was the day to serve those who have served us. ... Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth”~ [Muhammad Ali] ~ Debra Bracey, A Safe Haven Foundation, Education.

“It was well organized and the flow was easy for the attendees to navigate through. I am delighted that there was time to meet the other Exhibitors and learn about their Organizations. Every year it is getting much better.”  ~ Michael J. Smith, Illinois Joining Forces
Honoring Armed Forces Day, ASHF Celebrates U.S. Service Members

May 19, 2018 was Armed Forces Day, a holiday observed in some areas of the United States to honor all branches of the Armed Forces. Illinois State Representative La Shawn K. Ford; Judith Frydland, Chicago Department of Buildings Commissioner; Joseph Galvan, Midwest Regional Administrator at U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, accompanied by his uncle, Al Galvan, a 94 year-old World War II Veteran; Bill Browne, Director of Cook County Veteran Affairs; John Paruch, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Disabled Veterans National Foundation; Ken Monro, A Safe Haven Board Member, and Chicago Scene President; and Mark G. Mulroe, A Safe Haven Executive Vice President, joined Neli Vazquez Rowland, A Safe Haven President, and Brian M. Rowland, A Safe Haven’s CEO in supporting the state’s homeless Veterans on Armed Forces Day as we commandeered an entire block of West Taylor Street for the 5th Annual Homeless Veteran Stand Down.
OUTREACH

Department of Veterans Affairs

RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

OHA
ORAL HEALTH AMERICA
Call for Exhibitors, Volunteers, & Sponsors

5TH ANNUAL HOMELESS VETERAN STAND DOWN
HOSTED BY A SAFE HAVEN

SATURDAY May 19, 2018
10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
A Safe Haven Warehouse
2501 West Taylor Street, Chicago, IL 60608
Accessible by the #12 Roosevelt or #49 Western Routes

Surplus Gear From:
U.S. Department of Defense,
Foundation for America Veterans
Help The Vets and
Disabled Veterans National Foundation

FREE SERVICES
• Healthcare Screenings
• Homeless Prevention Assistance
• Veterans Benefits, Employment, and Job Counseling
• Recovery and Mental Health Providers
• Permanent Housing and Emergency Shelter Services
• Legal Services
• Financial Services
• Educational Opportunities
• FREE Haircuts
• Massage Therapists
• Free HIV/ HepC Testing / Immunizations
• Chaplain Services
• Hygiene Kits! Food! Beverages! Snacks!

“A Safe Haven’s Stand Down hands down has the best services for Chicago Veterans. –Bernard, U.S. Army Veteran

To download and print our STAND DOWN FLYER, sign up to VOLUNTEER, or become a SPONSOR, please visit our website at: www.ASafeHaven.org/Veteran-Stand-Down/

We Stand With Women Veterans
Expanded private area dedicated specifically for female veterans. Services to include: New Clothing, Boutique, Female Healthcare Providers, Health Education, Gift Bags, and More!!

VOLUNTEERS CALL: 773.435.8386

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