



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18, 2016

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We Can Help Homeless Veterans Keep Warm this Winter

It's that time of year when people get out their sweaters, put on their wool socks, and families gather around a warm fireplace to escape the dropping temperatures. But it is also important during this time of year to remember our veterans who may be left out in the cold.

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, through our Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program, helps ensure that homeless and chronically homeless veterans have access to stable housing, connect them to proper treatment, and follow-up to ensure that the treatment is continual and effective. We have specialists in 49 northern Wisconsin counties working as case-managers to meet these needs.

It is our goal through outreach, partnerships and programs to help eliminate veterans' homelessness in Wisconsin. These efforts are paying off.

For instance, we helped a 39-year-old Army veteran in Dunn County who was homeless and living in his truck in a big box store parking lot. This veteran was deployed to Iraq and suffers from PTSD. We were able to obtain funding to get the veteran into a motel until stable housing could be established. We then enrolled him in our housing program in Chippewa Falls. This veteran is currently receiving counseling for his PTSD and working with the Department of Workforce Development, we were able to help the veteran obtain employment in a management position for an IT company.

In Marinette County we helped a 46-year-old homeless Marine veteran who suffers from tuberculosis and various psychiatric conditions. This veteran was going through a divorce with three children involved. He had been unable to see his children due to being homeless and not receiving treatment for his mental health conditions. Through our program he now receives weekly counseling, psychiatric care, and management of medications. We secured affordable housing for him and the Red Cross assisted with the security deposit and first month's rent. This has now opened the door for him to begin to visit with his children.

These are just two of the hundreds of homeless veterans who we have helped in the last year.

If you know of a veteran who is homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, we can help. We can start the case management of the veteran in order to get them treatment for mental health and/or substance abuse, including paying for private treatment. We can coordinate their appointments and also pay for the transportation to those appointments. In addition, we work with our many partners to provide any wrap around services that a veteran may need: housing, food, clothing, furniture, and education and employment.

With the weather getting colder, we must act even more urgently to find and reach out to these veterans. Call us at 1-800-WIS-VETS or visit www.WisVets.com and click on Homelessness to find a specialist in your region who can help.