



Serving our nations homeless veterans

Saving our nations heroes

"A nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten."

MICHIGAN VETERANS FOUNDATION
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Our nation, again at war, must fight another war and release our Former Heroes from the indignity and despair of homelessness.

July 2, 2010

Dear Friends and Supporters:

The Michigan Veterans Foundation will be conducting its Sixth annual Veterans Stand Down. The event will take place on July 23rd through July 24th at the Detroit Veterans Center, located at 2770 Park Avenue in the city of Detroit. The event will start at approximately 9:00am on July 23rd and will end at approximately 4:00pm on July 24th.

TARGET POPULATION:

HOMELESS VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES/SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

WHAT IS STAND DOWN?

In times of war, exhausted combat soldiers requiring brief periods to rest and recover are removed from the field of combat to a place of relative safety and security. The military term Stand Down is used for such an action.

Homeless veterans in this country are not unlike soldiers in combat, living in the frequently hostile streets and surviving by their wits. Life on the street is both dangerous and debilitating.

Every day the homeless veteran must continue to "do battle." Adversaries of the homeless include lack of shelter, unemployment, physical and emotional disabilities, legal difficulties, substance abuse, and hopelessness. These adversaries create a self-destructive cycle leading to complete withdrawal from mainstream American society.

WHY HOMELESS VETERANS NEED A STAND DOWN

The urban streets of America are crowded with homeless people in search of shelter, food and work. The exact number of homeless people in this country is difficult to assess, but general consensus indicates that at least half a million people are without shelter nightly. While the proportion of woman and families who are homeless increases, several surveys have indicated that military veterans comprise anywhere from 25% - 40% of those who are homeless. Stand Down enables the community to express concern for homeless veterans in a tangible and positive way. Many community organizations and individuals are looking for ways to help the homeless, and Stand Down offers a focal point for the community's attention, resources, and commitment to help homeless veterans. The theme for this years' Stand Down is "DUST OFF 2010".

