



Altrusa SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS International Service Project



Category 3 How Altrusans Can Help our Homeless Veterans

Veterans are more likely than civilians to experience homelessness. The veteran population is at a higher risk of experiencing traumatic brain injuries and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; both of which have been found to be among the most substantial risk factors for homelessness. Veterans face the same shortage of affordable housing options and living wage jobs in countries internationally. These factors, combined with the increased likelihood that veterans will exhibit symptoms of PTSD, substance abuse or mental illness, can compound to put veterans at a greater risk of homelessness than the general population.

As an individual you can donate money or professional services to local Homeless Shelters. Contact the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, www.nchv.org, or 1-800-Vet-Help, where a donation of clothing, non-perishable food items and personal care items to the shelter are always welcome. As an organization, Altrusans can promote the local shelter at their Stand Down Events where several agencies within a community gather to provide food, clothing, and information as to how the organization can help them.

Organizations helping our Homeless Veterans in the U.S.

- **Disabled American Veterans (DAV)**
The DAV Homeless Veterans Initiative helps veterans "lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity." DAV Homeless Veterans Initiative also promotes the development of supportive housing and necessary services to assist homeless veterans in becoming productive, self-sufficient members of society.
- **The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV)**
The NCHV mission is to end homelessness among veterans. They do this by acting as the resource and technical assistance center for a national network of community-based service providers and local, state and federal agencies that provide emergency and supportive housing, food, health services, job training and placement assistance, legal aid and case management support for hundreds of thousands of homeless veterans each year.
- Since 1993, **U.S.VETS** has empowered homeless and at-risk veterans to attain their highest level of independence, with specialized assistance to post-9/11 veterans, female veterans and veteran families.
- At **Volunteers of America**, we are committed to ending homelessness for those veterans on the street and preventing others from becoming homeless by providing a wide array of well-designed and managed services to meet the specific needs of homeless veterans.

Organizations in Canada with assistance to the Homeless.

The **Royal Canadian Legion**, **Veterans Affairs Canada**, **VETs Canada** and **Soldiers helping Soldiers** are committed to helping Veterans and their families in need find homes. There are national and provincial programs that offer financial assistance through the Poppy Fund and support for homeless Veterans and those at-risk of homelessness find suitable accommodations for a long-term support and services.