



IN MEMORY OF MANY, IN HONOR OF ALL



Primary objective: Establish an address for each homeless vet.

Arkansas Veterans Village, a 501c3, is committed to providing an address for veterans who are homeless. We rely on the Veterans Administration's case management for Homeless Veterans Program to make referrals for us. The Arkansas Veterans Village Board of Directors is an unpaid, volunteer workforce who share a passion for reversing the homeless Veteran situation.

Mission

Our mission at Arkansas Veterans Village is to create a positive, safe and accepting housing environment for the benefit of our Veterans in Benton and Washington Counties, Arkansas.

Vision

The vision of Arkansas Veterans Village is to provide transitional housing to veterans allowing the veteran to gain a permanent and stable situation.

"We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked, and homeless. [But] the poverty of being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for is the greatest poverty." -Mother Teresa

AVV Core Values

The Board of Directors for AVV is a board of volunteers who are a mixed bag of veterans, business people, educators, tradesmen, sons and daughters and grandchildren of veterans. We have a passion for, as well as compassion for, our men and women who stepped up to preserve our freedom and lost their own way, somewhere along the journey. We are willing to volunteer our time and resources in order to help our hurting veterans.

Core values we share:

Integrity: Act with high moral principle and transparency. Adhere to the highest professional standards. Maintain the trust and confidence of all with whom I engage.

Commitment: Work diligently to serve Veterans and other beneficiaries. Be driven by an earnest belief in grace, forgiveness, and recovery.

Fiscal responsibility: With the exception of postage and an occasional paper product purchase, all money collected by AVV goes to efforts to get the homeless veterans off the street. Board members use their own vehicles, buy their own gas, use their own office printers and in order to make this happen.

Advocacy: Be truly Veteran-centric by identifying, fully considering, and appropriately advancing the interests of Veterans and other beneficiaries.

Respect: Treat all those I serve and with whom I work with dignity and respect.

Excellence: Strive for the highest quality and continuous improvement. Be thoughtful and decisive in leadership, accountable for my actions, be willing to admit mistakes, and be rigorous in correcting mistakes when they occur.

How the VA looks at homelessness

The federal government classifies homelessness into one of three distinct categories:

1. Emergency shelter for those on the street. At present, Salvation Army is the only entity providing emergency shelter to homeless, on the street veterans.
2. Transitional Housing. Transitional housing is designed for the veteran who has gone through some kind of treatment program and has a case manager. Oftentimes, there is a gap between release from treatment program and placement in a residence. AVV often steps in to fill the gap in order to help the veteran avert a period of homelessness which might have invited a relapse.
3. Permanent housing with subsidy.

What we do

Arkansas Veterans Village, a 501c3, was developed in 2016 to establish an “address,” yes, an address, for our homeless vets so that they can reconnect with the VA and the services they need. Arkansas Veterans Village’s initial long range plan was to build a village of tiny homes for vets, but in the meantime we learned that there is a great need to provide temporary housing for vets facing a stint of homelessness because they are caught in the “red tape” gap between a long stay hospitalization and or treatment and being assigned to VASH (Veterans Administration Subsidized Housing) housing or another housing arrangement. The gap we are filling is approximately a 5-week period where the vet literally does not have a place to lay his/her head. We step in and provide funding for temporary housing in an effort to sustain the healing that has occurred during the recovery phase of the treatment.

Does our effort address the needs of all the homeless vets in the area? No, but it’s much like the starfish story that begins with a scene where thousands of starfish had been washed up on the shore and there among them, was a young boy carefully throwing starfish back into the sea, one at a time. He was stopped by a passerby and was told, “You’ll never make a difference. There’s too many.” The boy picked up a lone starfish, proudly held it up, and said, “It makes a difference to this one,” and threw it back into the ocean. Same with us. There’s a large population of homeless veterans out there. What we do makes a difference to the ones helped. Please join us and let’s make a difference together.

Is there a homeless veteran population in our area?

FYI: 4,300.

2,300 newly identified homeless vets hit the streets in 2018 in the triangular area marked at the southernmost tip by Ft. Smith, north to Joplin, including a few Oklahoma counties along the border, and then east to Springfield. Add to that another 2,000 newly homeless vets identified in the same region in the 2019 fiscal year ending in October and that brings us to 4,300 homeless vets added to the region. In the last two years alone, 4,300 sons and daughters who were full of hope and promise before their service to the country, are now on the streets. 4,300 Hurting. Hungry. Homeless. Vets



Locally

The next question is, “How many homeless Veterans are in Benton and Washington counties?” Though it’s difficult to determine because censuses rely on addresses to get a count, it is “guestimated” that there is anywhere between 350 and 500 homeless Veterans in the two county area. At present, we are able to meet the needs of one veteran per month. As our funding base increases, we will be able to expand our services and meet the rising tide of requests from the Veterans Administration, Anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated.

The faces of some honorably discharged veterans we have helped.



Army



Army



Army



How does a veteran get services from AVV

In the spirit of maintaining transparency of processes as well as consistency of services to potential clients (our homeless vets), the board adopted a vetting process that we rigorously follow. Because it is also important to the board that the client exhibits a genuine desire to recover and renew.

Because the VA offers a host of benefits for the vets, it is important to us that the vet has cleared the process to be identified for services. Next s/he gets linked up with the services needed, is assigned a case manager and a social worker. Then, when it is time for release from the VA identified program, his/her social worker contacts us for “gap” placement, the space between being released from the VA program and getting into his/her own apartment or house.

Our process is very narrow in its approach but the elements that are important to us are:

1. Reduce the likelihood of fraud or duplicity in soliciting our efforts.
2. Verify that reported service to the country took place.
3. Involve the VA in the vetting process.
4. Like other agencies we partner with through the NW Arkansas Veterans Coalition, our resources are limited and our offer is a one-time offer. We, as do the other agencies, make an earnest effort to put the veteran on his/her feet. We expect progress and effort on the part of the veteran.
5. Identify those who want to be helped and move forward.
 - i. If the vet is willing to get some ‘skin’ in the game and commit to a recovery program, work with the assigned case manager and social worker, meet the demands of the program s/he is in, then s/he becomes a good candidate for us.
 - ii. Our systematic plan is effective in helping us be good stewards of our donors’ contributions and is effective in assisting our homeless population.

Testimonials



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEDICAL CENTER
1100 NORTH COLLEGE AVENUE
FAYETTEVILLE, AR 72703-6995

January 10, 2020

IN REPLY REFER TO: 564/135

Mr. Marty Svoboda, Treasurer
Arkansas Veterans Village
P.O. Box 3061
Rogers, AR 72757

Dear Mr. Svoboda:

On behalf of Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks (VHSO) and Veteran patients we would like to extend our appreciation to you and your organization for the generous donation of blankets, cookware, outerwear, and a check #1045 to assist Veteran B. Bullock. Your help and support is greatly appreciated by our Veterans.

It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide our deserving Veterans. The commitment you have shown to our patients demonstrates your concern for America's Heroes. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,


James Shuffer
Chief, Voluntary Service



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Voluntary Service

VHSO
1100 N College Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72703-1944

January 29, 2020

In Reply Refer To: 564/135

Arkansas Veteran Village Corp
P.O. Box 3061
Rogers, AR 72757

Dear Friends:

On behalf of Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks (VHSO) and Veteran patients we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your generous donation of for paying the rental deposit of \$400.00 for Veteran Maddox. Your help and support is greatly appreciated by our Veterans.

It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide our deserving Veterans. The commitment you have shown to our patients demonstrates your concern for America's Heroes. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,


James Shuffer, CAVS, MBA
Chief, Voluntary Service

In accordance with VHA Directive 4721, we are required to state "The Department of Veterans Affairs did not provide you, the donor, any goods or services in consideration in whole or part for your contribution."

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From: Clay, Jennifer E. (FAV) Jennifer.Clay@va.gov
Subject: RE: Testimony from Leigh Sutherland
Date: Nov 22, 2019 at 4:43:02 PM
To: Martin Svoboda treasurer@arveteransvillage.org

To Martin, Cindy and Veterans Village Group,
Please find the following testimony from Ms. Leigh.

"Thank you all for your support and help. I am greatly appreciative for the Veterans Village. They helped me in a time of need. If it wasn't for them, I would be on the street and wouldn't be where I am today (with a job, and an apartment). A special thanks to Cindy and Martin as I had the chance to meet them personally and talk on the phone with them and they were amazing. Please let me know if I can do anything for you".

Thank you and Good Bless,
Leigh

Jennifer E. Clay, LCSW
HUD/VASH Coordinator
479-443-4301 ext: 67145
479-200-7959
She/her/hers



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks

1100 N. College Ave., SWS-122
Fayetteville, AR 72703
479-443-4301, ext 65631
Call: 479-856-6768





Thank you for assisting
 Veterans when in a
 great need. We greatly
 appreciate all your support
 this year and hope you all
 have a wonderful holiday
 and New year.

Sincerely,
 HUD/VASH Staff

From HUD/VASH Staff at Christmas 2019



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
 MEDICAL CENTER
 1100 NORTH COLLEGE AVENUE
 FAYETTEVILLE, AR 72703-6995

October 01, 2019

IN REPLY REFER TO: 564/136

Mr. Marty Svoboda, Treasurer
 Arkansas Veterans Village
 P.O. Box 3061
 Rogers, AR 72758


Dear Mr. Svoboda:

On behalf of Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks (VHCO) and Veteran patients we would like to extend our appreciation to you and your organization for the generous donation of seven tickets to the NWA Naturals baseball game. Your help and support is greatly appreciated by our Veterans.

It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide our deserving Veterans. The commitment you have shown to our patients demonstrates your concern for America's Heroes. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,


 James Shulfer
 Chief, Voluntary Service

In accordance with VHA Directive 4721, we are required to state "The Department of Veterans Affairs did not provide you, the donor, any goods or services in consideration in whole or part for your contribution."

How you can help.

We need you for it will take a **village** of volunteers to build a village of support for our veterans in need.

Join us.

Volunteer to help us with events and planning or to serve on the board.

Invoke us to speak at your civic, military, community, and church groups.

Lean in and donate your time, your money, your energy, your expertise.

Like and share on FaceBook every time you see a post from AVV.

Ante up. Pick us on FB for donations to be made on your behalf as you celebrate yet another year OR

Give just 5 bucks. Commit to a regular donation of \$5 and encourage all of your FB friends to do the same.

Every dollar makes a difference.

To make a monetary donation, go to our website and click on the paypal button.

100% of funds donated through FaceBook go directly to AVV with no transaction fee.

ARKANSAS VETERANS VILLAGE

Is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

All donations are tax deductible. All collected proceeds go to the aid of the veterans.

Tangible benefits for annual supporters of AVV.

Sponsorship level	Annual commitment	Appreciation Gifts	Participation in Annual golf tournament
Platinum	\$10,000+ *	Window decals for all employee vehicles (2,000 max) Choice of countertop AVV flag, desktop poster, break room poster, vinyl flag for flagpole Social media recognition	16-golfers (4-four person teams) Entry Banner (Sponsored by....) Hole Signage (10 holes) Recognition at luncheon Social media recognition Recognition plaque
Gold	\$5,000 *	Window decals for all employee vehicles (1,000 max) Choice of countertop AVV flag, desktop poster, break room poster, vinyl flag for flagpole Social media recognition	12-golfers (3-four person teams) Hole Signage (6 holes) Recognition at luncheon Social media recognition Recognition plaque
Silver	\$2,000 *	Window decals for all employee vehicles (600 max) Choice of countertop AVV flag, desktop poster, break room poster, vinyl flag for flagpole Social media recognition	8-golfers (2-four person teams) Hole Signage (4 holes) Recognition at luncheon Social media recognition Recognition plaque
Bronze	\$1,000 *	Window decals for all employee vehicles (400 max) Choice of countertop AVV flag, desktop poster, break room poster, vinyl flag for flagpole Social media recognition	4-golfers (1-four person team) Hole Signage (2 holes) Recognition at luncheon Social media recognition Recognition plaque
Honorary	\$600 *	Window decals for all employee vehicles (200 max) Choice of countertop AVV flag, desktop poster, break room poster, vinyl flag for flagpole Social media recognition	4-golfers (1-four member team) Hole Signage (1 hole) Recognition at luncheon Social media recognition Recognition plaque
AVV supporter	Up to \$599	Window decals for all employee vehicles (100 max) Choice of countertop AVV flag, desktop poster, break room poster, vinyl flag for flagpole Social media recognition	

* quarterly payments are an acceptable means of payment. A minimum of two quarterly payments must be received and processed thirty days prior to the golf tournament for those planning to participate.

One person can make a difference, and everyone should try.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

AVV Board of Directors

Hunter Chastain, Hunter.Chastain@cox.net	Manufacturing sales	Marine Corps	Rogers
CindyFord, cford157@gmail.com	Retired educator		Rogers
Chris Knodle, cknodle@golfusa.com	Local business owner		Fayetteville
Sean Morris, semorris719@gmail.com	Educator	Army	Rogers
Martin Svoboda, mrvoboda2@mac.com	Educator	Army	Fayetteville
Chase White, chase@nwacribs.com	Realtor	Army Nat'l Guard	Rogers Air
Scott "Rooster" Sittom, scott.airforce@gmail.com	Commercial Const	Force	Bentonville

