

Dallas' Homeless Stand Down

11/18/2008 1:30pm-5:30pm

**The BRIDGE Homeless Assistance Center
1818 Corsicana St., Dallas, Texas 75236**

Mission Statement: VA North Texas coordinates a grassroots effort for a community-based homeless intervention program designed to help the city's estimated thousands of homeless veterans/civilians to "combat" life on the streets. This is a "hand-up not a hand-out" philosophy and is carried through the work of hundreds of volunteers and organizations throughout the Dallas Metroplex.

Event Overview: The Homeless Stand Down is an event to assist individuals with accessing health care, job assistance, and housing information while providing awareness of the services for the homeless in the Dallas area. This annual event is a collaboration effort between VA North Texas Health Care System and Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas, Inc., in partnership with the City of Dallas and Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance. Hundreds of homeless are provided with a broad range of necessities including food, clothing, medical to include flu shots, legal, and mental health assistance, job counseling and referral, and most importantly, companionship and camaraderie. It is a time for the community to connect with the homeless population and address this crisis that affects each and every town, city, and state in this country. So hundreds of caring volunteers and professionals give of their time and expertise to address the unique needs of the homeless population.

This years annual event was held on Tuesday, 11/18/2008 from 1:30pm-5:30pm with opening ceremonies at 1:00pm located at the BRIDGE Homeless Assistance Center, 1818 Corsicana Street, Dallas, TX 75236. With our community partnerships, we together served over 650 homeless at the Homeless Stand Down event this year. We sincerely thank all of our participating agencies, partners, and volunteers.

Participating Agencies:

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
Texas Veterans Commission- Employment Services
Work Force Center
American GI Forum
VA North Texas' Veteran's Industries
Veteran's Benefit Administration-Vocational Rehab
Urban League- Project 4 Victory
Cannon Institute
Citizen's Development Center
City of Dallas
Housing and Urban Development
Dallas Housing Authority
Family Gateway
Housing Crisis Center
Central Dallas Ministries
Easter Seals
Parkland Health Care
Metrocare Services

ADAPT Community Solutions
Transicare
ABC Behavioral Health
LifeNet Inc.
VA North Texas Health Care System- Comprehensive Homeless Center
VA North Texas Health Care System- Suicide Prevention Program
Mental Health of America
Dallas County Health and Human Services
Child and Family Guidance Center
Administration for Children and Families
Vet Centers of Dallas and Ft. Worth
Texas Mental Health Consumers- Peer Support
Association of Persons Afflicted by Addiction- Peer Support
VA North Texas Health Care System- Peer Support & Veterans'
Advocacy Council
Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance
Second Chance Café (First Presbyterian Church)
Homeless Veteran's Services of Dallas, Inc.
Downtown Safety Patrol
Dallas Police Department
Union Gospel Mission
Beth-Eden Baptist Church
Soldier's Angels
St. Luke's Methodist Church
Aetrex World Wide Inc.
Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)

VA North Texas Health Care System would like to send a special "Thank You" to all of our dedicated volunteers, the Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas, Inc., and the Homeless Stand Down Planning committee that has worked to plan this event over the last year. Without these caring people this event could not have been possible.

Thank You,
Tammy Wood, MSSW, LCSW
HCHV Program Manager & Community Liaison
VA North Texas Health Care System