

## **Harbor Homes Seeking Community and Business Support for the 11th Annual Homeless Veteran Stand Down in Nashua**

On Thursday, September 28th, from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Harbor Homes will hold its 11th Annual Veteran Stand Down to assist homeless veterans in the Greater Nashua Area. The event will provide “one stop shopping” for at-risk and homeless veterans to meet with Veterans Affairs (VA) and other organizations and individuals to learn about the local resources available to them. The Stand Down will provide a wide variety of social services for homeless veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits, counseling, and referrals to needed services such as housing, employment, and substance use disorder treatment.

In addition, attendees will enjoy a hot meal (pending funding), music (seeking volunteer bands and singers and someone to sing National Anthem), and the camaraderie of fellow veterans, thanks to the generosity of the Department of Labor, Pennichuck Water Works 2016, United Way 2016, our veteran donors, grateful civilians and Nashua Area businesses 2016.

A successful Stand Down requires months of preparation, hundreds of donations and the generosity of the Greater Nashua community. Individuals, businesses and faith-based and other community organizations can become involved by volunteering to help with set up the Monday prior to the event, donating or organizing drives to collect boots, gloves, clothes, blankets, hygiene products, non-perishable food, backpacks, and gas cards, and even donating used cars to help veterans get to work. Local professionals are encouraged to contact us to offer on-site volunteer services such as legal services, haircuts, and information about obtaining apprenticeships. Large and small employers are encouraged to join us to talk about work opportunities or training programs.

The VA Medical Center, the Nashua Public Health Department and Harbor Homes’ Behavioral Health professionals will team up to provide critical assistance including suicide prevention services. According to Danielle Ocker, Acting Director of the Manchester VA Medical Center, *“Stand Downs are a significant part of the VA’s overall efforts to end veterans’ homelessness and veterans look forward to them each year. For some veterans, a Stand Down event may be the first time they are introduced to the VA, and Manchester VA staff look forward to honoring each with the services and benefits they have earned and deserve.”*

Andrea Reed, Supportive Employment Program Manager for Harbor Homes’ Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program adds, “Due to our agency’s outreach efforts and connections made at former Stand Down events, we anticipate hearing from an increasing number of homeless veterans and their families seeking housing, employment, and primary and behavior health care services. We also expect and welcome local area employers contacting us with the specific intention to hire veterans. Obtaining sustainable employment is a major factor in the road to independence and sustainability for our veteran community.” Businesses are encouraged to contact Ms. Reed regarding veteran employment opportunities by calling (603)882-3616 x1111, or [a.reed@harborhomes.org](mailto:a.reed@harborhomes.org).

*“Harbor Homes’ programs are focused on honoring veterans and assisting them with their transition from military to civilian life. It is getting increasingly difficult for veterans to make this transition, and they need and deserve all available assistance to get back on their feet. Our programs provide not only housing, but also critically needed supportive services to allow our veterans to live sustainable, independent and productive lives.”*

*- Peter Kelleher, President and CEO of Harbor Homes and the Partnership for Successful Living*

The Stand Down for Homeless Veterans will be held at Harbor Homes’ Administration Building at 45 High Street in Nashua. Please visit the Harbor Homes Facebook page for more information, and contact Andrea Reed to let her know how your business or organization would like to contribute to our upcoming Stand Down for Homeless Veterans. Thank you for your continued support.