



Jericho Project Veterans Initiative

A recent study by the National Alliance to End Homelessness concluded that **1 out of 4** homeless individuals in the U.S. is a veteran and that a growing number of veterans are severely rent burdened, with 500,000 paying more than 50% of the income on rent.

While there is no official number of homeless veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs believes there are an alarming number of these young veterans who are “doubled up” living with family members, are unemployed, have emerging substance abuse problems, and are at high risk of becoming homeless. In fact, over 100 veterans have already sought assistance from the Veterans Affairs homeless program in New York City since the end of its fiscal year in October, 2007— more than double from its last fiscal year.

A direct response to this national crisis, Jericho’s Veterans Initiative includes the creation of new supportive housing residences for veterans in New York City; the expansion of Jericho’s proven acclaimed model to address the unique needs of veterans; and strategic efforts to stimulate the further development of supportive housing initiatives for veterans nationwide.

On any given night in New York City more than 3,500 veterans reside in City shelters and on the streets. The cornerstone our Veterans Initiative is the development of two new supportive housing residences for homeless and low-income veterans.

Jericho has purchased two vacant lots in the Bronx for our veterans’ residences. Vets Residence I, located on East 194th Street, will provide homes to 56 men and women. Vets Residence II, located 2701 Kingsbridge Terrace, will provide homes for an additional 75 veterans. Construction of Vets I will begin this fall, with the construction of Vets II beginning the following year. The residences are scheduled to open their doors in 2010 and 2011 respectively.

Jericho will develop state-of-the-art, “green” facilities that will feature small studio apartments, staff offices, community rooms, computer labs, and gardens. At both residences, 60% of units will be set aside for veterans who have a history of homelessness and substance abuse, and 40% will be for low-income veterans from the community, with priority given to veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We are adapting our acclaimed program model to provide the specialized services veterans need, including recent vets whose needs are often different from vets of other eras due to an increase in traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorders.

Jericho has also helped raise awareness of the critical need for veteran’s housing through outreach to the media, presentations at conferences nationwide, and our recent 25th Anniversary Gala, where we unveiled our Veterans Initiative to the public.

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