

NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND 1515 W Fort St Suite 1429 Lincoln PK, MI 48146 veteranrescue@gmx.com

# NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND

## Mission Statement

**NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND** is dedicated to assist the men and women who served in the armed forces, and their families, to assure that they assimilate seamlessly back into civilian life and are aware of all of the services available to military veterans and their families.

NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND  
1515 W FORT STREET SUITE 1429  
LINCOLN PARK, MICHIGAN 48146

NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND is a non-profit organization founded in 2014 to help combat some of the ills of returning military veterans. Mental health issues, unemployment and homelessness just to name a few are plaguing the returning soldier.

### Homeless Military Veterans

The number of homeless female veterans is on the rise: in 2006, there were 150 homeless female veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars; in 2011, there were 1,700. That same year, 18% of homeless veterans assisted by the VA were women. The comparison studies conducted by HUD show that female veterans are two to three times more likely to be homeless than any other group in the US adult population.

Veterans between the ages of 18 and 30 are twice as likely as adults in the general population to be homeless, and the risk of homelessness increases significantly among young veterans who are poor.

Roughly 56% of all homeless veterans are African-American or Hispanic, despite only accounting for 12.8% and 15.4% of the U.S. population respectively.

About 53% of individual homeless veterans have disabilities, compared with 41% of homeless non-veteran individuals. Half suffer from mental illness; two-thirds suffer from substance abuse problems; and many from dual diagnosis (which is defined as a person struggling with both mental illness and a substance abuse

problem).

Homeless veterans tend to experience homelessness longer than their non-veteran peers: Veterans spend an average of nearly six years homeless, compared to four years reported among non-veterans. While only 8% of Americans can claim veteran status, 17% of our homeless population is made up of veterans. In 2010, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) estimated that on any given night there were 76,000 homeless veterans sleeping on American streets.

Armed with that information NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND was formed.

There are many challenges facing our returning soldiers, eradicating military veteran homelessness although our main focus is not our only focus. NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND also has a team of social workers, mental health and substance abuse prevention professionals available to assist the military veteran.

#### PTSD in Military Veterans

When you are in the military, you may see combat. You may have been on missions that exposed you to horrible and life-threatening experiences. You may have been shot at, seen a buddy get shot, or seen death. These types of events can lead to PTSD.

The number of Veterans with PTSD varies by service era:

Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Enduring Freedom (OEF): About 11-20 out of every 100 Veterans (or between 11-20%) who served in OIF or OEF have PTSD in a given year.

Gulf War (Desert Storm): About 12 out of every 100 Gulf War Veterans (or 12%) have PTSD in a given year.

Vietnam War: About 15 out of every 100 Vietnam Veterans (or 15%) were currently diagnosed with PTSD at the time of the most recent study in the late 1980s, the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study (NVVRS). It is estimated that about 30 out of every 100 (or 30%) of Vietnam Veterans have had PTSD in their lifetime.

Other factors in a combat situation can add more stress to an already stressful situation. This may contribute to PTSD and other mental health problems. These factors include what you do in the war, the politics around the war, where the war is fought, and the type of enemy you face.

Another cause of PTSD in the military can be military sexual trauma (MST). This is any sexual harassment or sexual assault that occurs while you are in the military. MST can happen to both men and women and can occur during peacetime, training, or war. Our team at NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND is poised to not only utilize current treatments yet stay abreast of any/all new developments.

#### Legal assistance and Veterans Court

NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND has access to a myriad of attorney's versed in military and civilian law.

NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND can also provide assistance with DD214 military discharge upgrades, disability filings and liaison with Veterans' Court Judges.

#### Substance Abuse and Military Veterans

Although PTSD is a common mental health issue for veterans and the experiences of combat haunt military personnel — some develop the flashbacks, panic attacks, nightmares and other symptoms that characterize PTSD. Many turn to drugs or alcohol as a form of self-medication. Nearly a quarter of veterans with PTSD will also develop a substance abuse problem, and one-third of those seeking treatment for substance abuse also have PTSD.

Use of illicit drugs by active military personnel is quite low. Compared to civilians, men and women in the military rarely use illegal drugs because of strict policies and enforcement by random drug testing. On the other hand, prescription drug abuse is a real problem for both active duty military personnel and veterans. The rate of misuse of prescriptions increased from 2 percent in 2002 to 4 percent in 2005 and 11 percent in 2008.

Alcohol may be legal, but it is a substance of abuse for many people and veterans are no exception. The Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center says that one in eight troops get treatment for alcohol abuse after returning from overseas deployment. While women are not immune from the problem of drinking, men are the ones who are really struggling. Twenty three percent of male veterans binge drink, compared to 14 percent of female veterans.

For most of modern military history, suicide rates have been lower for troops and veterans than for civilians. Starting in 2004, though, the incidents of suicide in the military have been rising. In 2008, the rate of suicides in the military surpassed the rate among civilians. Substance abuse is often involved in cases of suicides. According to the Army Suicide Prevention Task Force, one-third of suicides included abuse of prescription drugs.

If you are a veteran and you struggle with drug or alcohol use, or you care about a vet who is having a problem, know that help is available. NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND offers several services for vets, including screening and diagnosis referrals. This first step can even be done anonymously. The veteran can then decide to take steps to get treatment. Options for treatment are varied and include therapy, couples and family counseling, support groups, care for a dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse, and medication. NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND offers referrals to residential treatment as well as outpatient care and continuing care.

Substance abuse is a common problem among veterans because of the experiences of active duty. Mental health care is crucial to these important people and we at NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND believe they deserve to have the best treatment modern medicine can offer.

Job Training and Job Placement

NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND VET2WORK Program

The NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND VET2WORK Program is designed to train military veterans in the art of landing and maintaining a career that fits their skill set.

To qualify:

1. The veteran must go through the NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND evaluation process (must obtain copy of medical records).
2. The veteran must also have proof of education levels completion (i.e. high school diploma/G.E.D., etc.) a valid state i.e., DD214 (other than honorable also accepted in most cases), valid ssn/card.
3. The veteran must be available for 4 weeks (3 days per week) for Career Excellence training. The training includes corporate office and skills trade assessment, resume writing and interviewing skills enhancement. The veteran will receive a 2way bus ticket after each class.
4. After Career Excellence Training, the veteran will receive a fitting for a new suit or dress, shirt or blouse, tie or purse, shoes and a voucher to receive each. The veteran will also receive a certificate of completion and bus passes or 2 gas fill ups (for a total of \$50.00 ea.) for 2 months.

NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND is currently training military veterans with basic computer skills in order to apply for more advanced training, create resume's and enroll in trade or technical schools and/or university. NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND also connects military veterans with software engineering and skills trade's assessment programs.

If you are a veteran or currently in the guard or reserve, the On-The-Job Training (OJT) Program offers you an alternative way to use your VA (GI Bill) education and training benefits. The following is a summary of these GI Bill alternatives.

When you are trained for a new job, you can receive monthly training benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs in addition to your regular salary. This means that if you are using the Post 9/11 GI Bill you can receive up to 100% of the housing stipend for your zip code.

#### Financial Management for Veterans

Military veterans transitioning from being unemployed to being gainfully employed are often vexed with financial woes. Defaulted loans and bill payments in arrears will possibly have plagued them for some time. NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND will pair the military veteran with financial managers who can assist them with budgeting, credit repair and sound investments that will give them the knowledge to be fiscally responsible, eliminate debt and allow them to focus on providing for their family and themselves. NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND will also assist the military veteran with tax preparation upon securing employment or starting a business.

#### Veterans' Transitional and Permanent Housing

Finally, NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND will assist the military veteran with either transitional or permanent housing. NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND will also place them with a Housing Counselor that can provide advice on buying a home, renting, defaults, foreclosures, and credit issues.

The NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND program is designed to rescue those who have rescue us!

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## **NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND**

### **Greening Mandate – The “Deeply Rooted” Program**

**NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND** implements empowerment programs for Military Veterans. Our goal is to not just assist Military Veterans with implementation back into civilian society but to also empower the Military Veteran and immediate family.

One such empowerment program is one of our **Greening Mandates** entitled the “**Deeply Rooted**” program. After enrolling in the **NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND “Vet2Work”** program the Military Veteran is simultaneously enrolled into the “**Deeply Rooted**” program.

The “**Deeply Rooted**” program is a volunteer program benefiting the **Greening of Detroit** with projects designed to help **plant trees, clean up parks, and work in farm gardens.**

One of the **Greening of Detroit** volunteer projects is the “**Citizen Forester**” Program. This program trains volunteers in tree planting, volunteer management, community engagement, tree identification and tree maintenance. The **Greening of Detroit** will help ensure quality and safety at the work site and make this volunteer event fun and meaningful for the Military Veterans.

The “**Deeply Rooted**” program gives the Military Veteran the opportunity to continue to serve while also healing. According to **Psychology Today**: “...some of the therapeutic power of gardening is that it allows us to unleash our anger and aggression as well as providing an opportunity to nurture. Why beat pillows with a baseball bat or yell at the cat when you have a hedge to hack?”

We at **NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND** have found that Military Veterans who volunteer are more likely to have a smoother transition into civilian society. They find that volunteerism manifests in several ways; including a sense of pride, feeling motivated and ‘**giving** something back’.

Military Veterans can register for the **NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND “Vet2Work”** Program by emailing a resume to: [veteranrescue@gmx.com](mailto:veteranrescue@gmx.com) or calling **313-595-1262**.

**NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND...“We rescue those who’ve rescued us!”**

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[noveteranleftbehind.us@gmail.com](mailto:noveteranleftbehind.us@gmail.com)

### **What Your Support Achieves**

When you support **NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND**:

1. You help a military veteran assimilate back into civilian society.
2. You enlist mental health professionals that have experience working with active and veteran military personnel.
3. You assist in funding group therapy, substance abuse treatment and substance abuse and suicide prevention for a military veteran.
4. You help fund the **Vet2Work** job skills training program to insure that the military veteran is prepared to be successful in a post-military career.
5. You help a military veteran with transportation and clothing needs to find and secure employment in a post-military career.
6. You secure a military veteran's place in the **NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND Financial Management Course**. Designed to teach a military veteran fiscal responsibility, conservative investments and tax preparation and filing(s).
7. Finally, you help a military veteran find reasonable housing both transitional and then permanent.

When you support **NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND...**

You help a military veteran!

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