



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 12, 2011

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### VA Sponsors Health Fair and Outreach Event for Homeless Veterans

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On January 22, several hundred homeless Veterans are expected at the Washington DC VA Medical Center (DCVAMC) for the 15th annual Winterhaven Homeless Stand Down. Medical Center leaders hope this will be among the last stand downs in the nation's capital, as 2011 begins year-three of President Obama's initiative to end homelessness in five years.

The Winterhaven Homeless Stand Down will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the VA Medical Center, 50 Irving Street, NW, Washington, DC. Winterhaven brings together more than 70 community agencies, Veteran Service Organizations, and national and local businesses to provide one-stop support and services to homeless Veterans.

Veterans will receive medical screenings, mental health consultations, employment support, housing services, hot meals, warm clothing, comfort kits, haircuts, Google voice cards and tokens for goods at local thrift stores.

New to this year's effort is the "Walk in their Footsteps", a local collaborative of VA and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) employees who are seeking donations of new shoes and boots for homeless Veterans.

Other event participants and sponsors include: Google, WMAL Radio, Pentagon Federal Credit Union, DAV Charitable Trust, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, The Ranger Group and All Faith Consortium, as well as local businesses such as ZIPS Dry Cleaners, Davis Barber Team, Bennett Beauty School and AmeriCorp. State and federal agencies participating include the IRS, Department of Labor, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the DC Department of Human Services.

Medical screenings will include flu shots, cholesterol, Hepatitis C, and HIV screenings, and general physical exams. Consultative services offered include ophthalmology, podiatry, infectious diseases, oral health and women's health. Psycho-social referrals for Veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and substance abuse will be provided.

Employment support will be available through the DC, MD and VA, Department of Labor Employment Offices, VA Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and the DC Coalition for the Homeless. Staff from the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and the VSOs will assist with VA benefits claims. Chaplain Service will be present for pastoral care and counseling.

The Medical Center will provide transportation to and from local shelters and shuttle buses from both Union Station and Brookland/CUA station. For further information, contact the Office of Public Affairs at (202) 745-4037 or visit our website at <http://www.washingtondc.va.gov/>