



The Corporate Connection engages the private sector in joining the campaign to end veteran homelessness by 2015.

New One-Stop Shop for Veterans Employment

Groups band together to help veterans with networking, career training, job opportunities

The Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University (IVMF), Hire Heroes USA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring Our Heroes initiative have combined forces to create VetNet, a three-track program to assist veterans in employment.

Arguably the **site's most impressive feature** is an enhanced online mapping tool, "Fast Track," to help service members and veterans identify the 100 fastest-growing job markets in the U.S. and the key industries driving growth in local communities.

The map is generated from job listings in the **Veterans Job Bank**. To possibly include your business in this new resource, add your available jobs to the [Veterans Job Bank](#) today.

[Click here](#) to read the full press release.

IRS Veterans Tax Credits Set to Expire

Hire veterans by year's end for WOTC

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) that was expanded in the 2011 VOW to Hire Veterans Act is **set to expire** at the end of the year. The IRS is encouraging businesses to act on the credit soon.

Many businesses may **qualify to receive thousands of dollars in tax credits**, but only if the veteran begins work before the New Year. For more information, visit the [FAQ Employment page](#) at the Corporate Connection.

Homeless Veterans Decrease 7% in 2012

HUD releases 2012 Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness

On a single night in January 2012, 62,619 veterans were homeless in the United States. Based on data reported by more

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Quick Facts

* Veteran homelessness **reduced by 17.2%** since January 2009. ([Source](#))

* Post-9/11 veterans: 10.0% unemployment rate

* Post-9/11 veterans, age 20-24: 28% unemployment rate

* Post-9/11 veterans, female: 12.9% unemployment rate ([Source](#))

CSR Spotlight

"What we're seeing today is a new millennial consumer that is affecting the entire marketplace and that consumer really wants to understand what is the brand

than 3,000 cities and counties, last January's estimate reveals a marginal decline in overall homelessness (-0.4%) along with a **7% drop in homelessness among veterans** and those experiencing long-term or chronic homelessness.

Some highlights:

- 62,619 veterans were homeless on a single night in 2012. This represents about **13.0 percent of all homeless adults**.
- About 56 percent of homeless veterans were sheltered, and an estimated 44 percent were in unsheltered locations.
- Nearly half of homeless veterans (48.8 percent) were located in major cities.
- Homeless veterans were **overrepresented in major cities** (48.5 percent of veterans compared to 42.3 percent of all homeless people), and underrepresented in smaller cities, counties, and regional Continuum of Cares (38.8 percent of compared to 42.3 percent).

"This report continues a trend that clearly indicates we are on the right track in the fight to end homelessness among veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki. "While this is encouraging news, we have more work to do and will not be satisfied until no veteran has to sleep on the street."

To read the full press release and download the report, [click here](#).

Business Giving Back: Surplus Food For Those in Need

Largest restaurant chain provides food donations to local food banks

Through Darden's partnership with Food Donation Connection, Darden's 2,000 restaurants are able to donate surplus food to local food banks, Feeding America and other charitable organizations throughout the country. Food Donation Connection provides an alternative to discarding surplus wholesome food by linking food service donors with surplus food to local hunger relief agencies.



Launched in 2004, the Darden Harvest Program partners with local food banks to provide immediate hunger relief. In 2011, Darden donated 10.4 million pounds of food valued at \$105 million and has **given more than 60 million pounds of food** to hunger relief agencies since the program's inception.

One major benefit for Darden has been the **increased morale and productivity of its employees**. "Service is innate to who we are as a company," says Angela Woods, Director of Darden Foundation and Community Affairs. "Our community outreach helps employees improve their effectiveness at work. They feel

for, what does it advocate for in terms of a difference in society, what social change does it want to see take place and how is it helping me create that social change. And that is why I think we are moving into a new era of

better about being at work and in turn, improve their interactions with our guests. It's an **essential morale booster** that consistently improves engagement across the board."

To learn more about this program and how you can get involved, visit Darden Foundation's [website](#).

Happy Holidays from the Corporate Connection!



About the Corporate Connection

The Corporate Connection, in partnership with The Home Depot Foundation, serves as the information and facilitation portal for businesses, provides individualized consulting, and highlights the financial,

social, and environmental benefits of working with community organizations on behalf of homeless veterans. Visit the [Corporate Connection!](#)



brands and causes." – [Mark Addicks, SVP Chief Marketing Officer, General Mills](#)

How Your Business Can Help

- * Volunteer, e.g., team-based, individual, skills-based
- * Donate money to a local service provider
- * Start a veterans' hiring initiative
- * Participate in NCHV's Annual Conference
- * Donate products, excess inventory, or other in-kind goods to a local service provider
- * Join NCHV's Corporate Honor Roll