



NATIONAL COALITION
for **HOMELESS VETERANS**



Annual Report
FY 2011

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Our Mission: NCHV will end homelessness among veterans by shaping public policy, promoting collaboration, and building the capacity of service providers.



Staff at the 2011 NCHV Annual Conference. From left: Policy and Program Assistant Matt Gornick, Director of Technical Assistance Baylee Crone, President and CEO John Driscoll, Office Manager Kristen Hoag, and Director of Communications Randy Brown.

President's Report: Corporate Leadership Makes its Mark in FY 2011

When President Barack Obama announced ending veteran homelessness would be a priority for his administration in 2009, NCHV met with his advisors to develop a better understanding of his expectations and vision. It was clear throughout those early meetings the President believed Corporate America would ultimately need to fill a significant gap in the delivery of services to the nation's most vulnerable heroes.

FY 2011 will be remembered as a turning point in the 22-year-old campaign to end veteran homelessness for two reasons: Congress passed the most ambitious funding package to end and prevent veteran homelessness in U.S. history; and several of the nation's corporate giants took their place at the table of leadership to support the work of NCHV and its network of community- and faith-based service providers.

By the second quarter of the fiscal year, NCHV was working with four Platinum Corporate Partners for the first time ever – The Home Depot Foundation, Fannie Mae, New Day Financial and Others First.

As part of its Veteran Initiative – a three-year, \$30 million campaign to increase housing opportunities for formerly homeless and extreme low-income veterans – The Home Depot Foundation became the lead sponsor for the 2011 NCHV Annual Conference, and dedicated funding for the soon-to-be-launched Corporate Connection. This will be a web-based resource to connect the nation's business community with veteran service providers that need support in their communities.



From left: Rob Posner of New Day Financial, Kelly Caffarelli of The Home Depot Foundation, and Maria Barker of Fannie Mae accepting Corporate Partnership Awards on behalf of their organizations at the 2011 NCHV Awards Banquet.

The ultimate goal of the Connection is to provide low-income veterans and those in homeless assistance programs with access to affordable housing, employment opportunities and other supportive services, while highlighting and promoting the corporate citizenship initiatives of the business community across the country.

The Home Depot Foundation partnered

with NCHV to host the historic “Veteran Access to Housing Summit” in San Antonio in late July 2011. More than 125 leaders in veteran program administration, housing

John Driscoll,
President and CEO

John Driscoll, a Vietnam Veteran who served NCHV since 2002 as Director of Communications and Vice President of Operations and Programs, became the organization's third President and CEO on July 1, 2009.



development, finance, VA and HUD programs, real estate, and philanthropy convened to explore innovative strategies to create 90,000 units of safe, affordable permanent housing in accordance with the VA Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness.

Funding from New Day Financial – one of the nation's largest mortgage lenders – allowed NCHV to staff the summit and produce a comprehensive report on the work sessions and program successes of participating service providers. The Summit Report can be downloaded at <http://www.nchv.org/page.cfm?id=337>. This report will serve as the foundation document for NCHV's work to increase veteran access to housing throughout the next two years.

Fannie Mae provided two grants to NCHV to focus on enhancing services for women veterans and to strengthen the nation's Stand Down programs. The National Stand Down Registry numbered more than 150 community events in FY 2011, with an estimated outreach to 45,000 homeless and at-risk veterans and immediate family members. NCHV staff researched and published more than 120 government and private grant notices for organizations offering housing assistance and supportive services for women and single veterans with dependent children.

Overall, corporate contributions in FY 2011 totaled \$182,298, about 30% more than budget projections. Combined with additional revenue from the most successful Annual Conference in NCHV history, and receipts from the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), corporate partnerships helped generate the strongest year-end financial position NCHV has ever known.

On Capitol Hill

The first session of the 112th Congress was marked by intense pressure to reduce federal spending and the constant threat of deep cuts to domestic programs. By the end of the first quarter of FY 2011, funding for virtually all homeless veteran programs was frozen at the previous year's levels, except for the HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program. That critical housing program for mentally ill and disabled veterans had been deleted from the budget altogether.

For the first three months of calendar 2012, President and CEO John Driscoll and Policy Assistant Director Matt Gornick visited all of the staffs of Congressional committees of jurisdiction in both the House of Representatives and Senate to help them understand the importance of HUD-VASH in the campaign to end veteran homelessness.

Driscoll met with Senate leaders, participated in several live television and radio interviews, and spoke privately with House Committee on Veterans Affairs Chairman Jeff Miller (R-FL) while Gornick continued to brief various staffs on Capitol Hill.

The efforts of NCHV during that critical juncture resulted in the restoration of more than \$50 million for HUD-VASH in FY 2011, enough to fund more than 7,500 vouchers for veterans with disabilities and low-income single veterans with dependent children.

Those Hill visits also afforded NCHV the opportunity to brief most of the staffs – both majority and minority – about FY 2012 funding needs for programs that are vital to the success of the Five-Year Plan. The approved FY 2012 appropriations for homeless veteran programs included virtually all of NCHV's recommendations, including:

- \$75 million for an additional 10,000 HUD-VASH vouchers (bringing total to 49,000)
- \$224 million for VA Grant and Per Diem Program (increase of \$74 million; NCHV requested \$250 million)
- \$100 million for VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families grants (increase of \$40 million)
- \$38.2 million for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (increase of \$2 million; NCHV requested \$50 million)

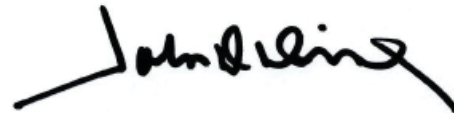
Other Milestones in FY 2011

- As a signing agent of "Opening Doors, the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness,"

NCHV participated in several conferences, teleconferences and webinars to discuss veteran programs with officials from the Departments of Labor, Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

- NCHV continued to support the Office of Warrior and Family Support, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, verifying data and information on homeless veterans and service programs, and participating in discussions about transition support and discharge planning.
- NCHV participated in the National Hiring Initiative with the Department of Labor-Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS) and U.S. Chamber of Commerce at the Chicago and New York Hiring Fairs. NCHV provided media support and pre-event publicity for similar programs across the country designed to place veterans – including disabled and homeless veterans – into employment at the scheduled events. This partnership conducted veteran hiring fairs in 100 cities nationwide.
- NCHV solidified its partnership with the American Bar Association to support the Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, and its work to expand legal services to homeless and extreme low-income veterans. Staff participated in the ABA meeting with Department of Labor Office of the Solicitor Nicholas Levintow to discuss USERRA enforcement issues, the Legal Assistance Forum at the University of Maryland, and the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland briefing on Homeless Courts.

Thank you to all of our members and partners who made FY 2011 such a great success. NCHV is proud to represent the homeless veteran service movement as we push onward toward our goal of ending veteran homelessness.



John Driscoll
President and CEO
National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

Expanding Service: Technical Assistance Center

During this year, the Technical Assistance Center (TA Center) at NCHV has focused on consolidating its core strengths to enhance effectiveness of service delivery to community-based organizations and expanding its resources in emerging issue areas to meet newly identified needs of homeless veterans and veteran families. Focusing specifically on reducing homeless veterans' barriers to gainful employment, the TA Center has delivered on these objectives by providing group training and individual consultations, delivering timely electronic and print news alerts and information, highlighting the specific needs of emerging target populations, and developing new training materials based on research and practice from the field.

This year, NCHV's TA Center dramatically increased its training and technical assistance support to Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) programs and to the Department of Labor-Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS). Using direct engagement with DOL-VETS and grantee staff members through teleconferences, focus groups, training sessions, and engagement with DOL-VETS priority programs, the TA Center has provided valuable resources to organizations seeking to expand and improve their programs in a year marked by unfavorable job markets, a stagnant economy and decreasing independent funding sources.

Teleconferences, which offer the opportunity for grantees from around the country to engage one another in real time and with minimal cost, were a useful asset this year to provide timely updates and guidance to HVRP programs and their partners. Nearly every teleconference hit maximum capacity within days of opening registration. Participants included representatives from Federal program grantees, including HVRP grantees, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Veterans Affairs (VA), DOL national and local offices, congressional staff, and partner organizations working with homeless veterans. To assist new and returning HVRP applicants immediately after the release of the Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA) in June, the TA Center organized and executed three teleconferences that covered the HVRP program and application process. The TA Center held teleconferences on various topics requested by service providers that support the objectives of HVRP programs, including collaboration building, Stand Down development, Stand Down budgeting, and practices and research on homeless female veterans.

Organizing a series of facilitated in-person focus groups and trainings allowed the TA Center to work directly with grantees, respective DOL-VETS representatives, and

partners from Texas, West Virginia, Colorado, Florida, California, Oregon, New York and Washington to identify pressing concerns and promising strategies to adapt and improve service delivery. The TA Center's participation in the Oregon Post-Award Conference in late September provided grantees with materials and information about the services offered by NCHV and contributed to grantee program discussions. NCHV participated in training sessions on legal barriers to employment and collaboration to improve service delivery in Denver, Florida, California and Texas. In July, the TA Center represented NCHV at the 24th Annual San Diego Stand Down.



Baylee Crone,
Director of Technical
Assistance

NCHV staff has continued to support the activities of DOL-VETS as an institutional priority. At the request of DOL-VETS staff, NCHV provided a general overview of housing needs of veterans and best practices of successful HVRP programs to DOL staff in Tennessee. In addition to participating in the quarterly Assistant Secretary's VSO meetings, the TA Director and the President/CEO attended the first DOL-VETS and United States Chamber of Commerce "Hiring Our Heroes" Veteran Hiring Fair in Chicago. NCHV has also provided assistance to DOL for an important demonstration program, the Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration (VHPD) Project.

In an effort to connect veterans to gainful employment and advance service delivery systems to help veterans achieve sustained housing and independent living, the TA Center has provided resources for homeless veterans, community service providers and their partners through targeted communications activities. First, through a dedicated hotline, NCHV continues to provide referrals and intensive consultations to service providers in need of guidance for program development and administration, government officials and legislators involved in policy and legislative matters, and veterans and veteran families that are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This year, staff reported an increase in the number of female veterans and veterans with dependent children seeking help locating and contacting appropriate services to fit their needs. Second, NCHV's bimonthly newsletter, which is widely recognized in the service provider community as

the most comprehensive source of published information about homeless veterans and programs to serve them, was distributed to community and faith-based organizations, HVRP and GPD grantees, government agencies, and service providers. The TA Center section in each newsletter delivered critical program information directly to grantees, including promising practices for serving homeless female veterans and homeless veterans with families, a reporting back on the Legal Track at the 2011 NCHV Annual Conference, and information on new DOL-VETS and U.S. Chamber Hiring Fairs.

This year, the TA Center has expanded its services to organizations serving specific target populations, focusing on female veterans, veterans with families, and veterans with legal barriers to employment. The TA Center, in collaboration with the National Center on Family Homelessness (NCFH) and community providers, hosted two teleconferences and a 2011 NCHV Annual Conference training session for organizations that work directly with female veterans and veterans with families. These sessions focused on the unique approaches and program strategies to foster better outreach, engagement and employment placement and retention.



Steve Binder, American Bar Association, presents during the Legal Track at the 2011 NCHV Annual Conference.

The TA Center worked with the American Bar Association's Commission on Homelessness and Poverty (The Commission) to develop a Legal Track at the 2011 NCHV Annual Conference. This Legal Track included three training sessions and one reporting back session for service providers interested in increasing their involvement in and knowledge of the legal needs of their clients, which often create significant barriers to employment.

The TA Center increased its development and distribution of printed materials and guide books for service providers this year. As in previous years, NCHV distributed the "Planning for Your Release: A Guide for Incarcerated Vet-

erans" handbook, which presents a step-by-step approach to identifying the supportive services and assistance incarcerated veterans will need to successfully transition back into society after their release, and the "Stand Down Guide." Both products are also offered online as a no-cost download.

New materials this year included an "Addressing Legal Challenges of Homeless Veterans" newsletter article, which gave special attention to resources for grantees and their partners who work directly with homeless female veterans and recently returned homeless or at-risk veterans encountering legal barriers to employment. Building off of the Legal Track and the newsletter article, the Commission began development of a resource book, titled "Lawyers Working to End Homelessness among Veterans," for legal service providers who are interested in providing legal services for homeless veterans. Recognizing the utility of addressing legal barriers to employment through Stand Down, the TA Center and the Commission decided to create a Legal Service Survey to report legal services offered at Stand Down events funded through DOL-VETS around the country.

FY 2011 Technical Assistance Provided

- 10 teleconferences and 7 in-person trainings involving over 1,500 service providers
- 819 published and distributed resources
- Over 920,000 website hits
- 6 newsletters and 12 e-newsletters
- 289 hours of program consultations
- 1,807 calls answered from homeless veterans
- Distribution of hard-copy manuals, including 364 Incarcerated Veterans Guides

Leading Voice: Communications Report

NCHV's most sacred resource is its unparalleled communications network within the homeless veteran service field. For over two decades, NCHV has built relationships among the service provider community it represents. This includes an array of critical partners across the spectrum of interests involved in fighting veteran homelessness. Stakeholders in this effort trust NCHV for information, expertise and direction. FY 2011 saw that network continue to expand, and all communications activities were aimed at keeping the homeless veteran service community abreast of the latest, most critical updates, news, funding opportunities and resources.

In FY 2011, NCHV's reach expanded to over 5,100 contacts in our general listserv, including about 2,100 service providers across the nation. The remainder is a conglomerate of Congressional staffers, concerned citizens, corporate partners and, with the increasing momentum of the Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness, a rising number of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) staff and other federal, state and local government representatives.

With the Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness moving forward, NCHV's partnerships with federal agencies such as VA, the Department of Labor (DOL) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have grown even more vital. These departments frequently look to NCHV to spread their messages to the national community of stakeholders involved in ending veteran homelessness.

In FY 2011, communications staff worked closely with the Technical Assistance Center and other NCHV staff to broadcast essential information to our nationwide network, ensuring service providers receive the information they need as we near the halfway point in the Five-Year Plan.

NCHV Website

In 1997, NCHV launched its website, www.nchv.org, which has grown into the most comprehensive information resource focused solely on ending veteran homelessness. For service providers, homeless veterans, Congressional representatives, and the general public, NCHV's constantly updated website provides links to new research, critical resources, the latest funding opportunities, guidebooks, and other important information.

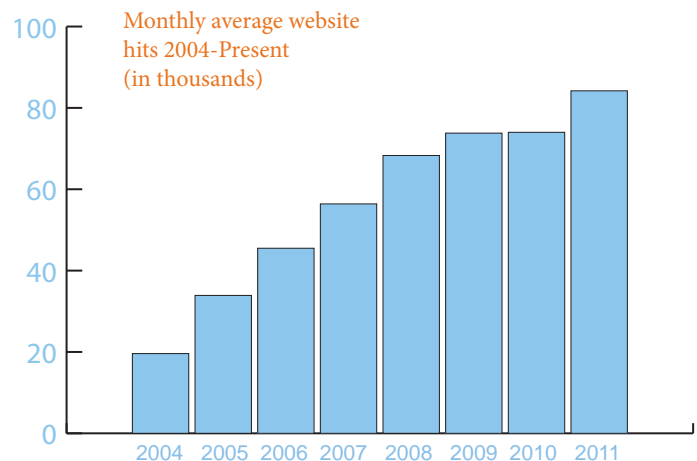
The NCHV website averaged over 84,100 hits per month in FY 2011, increasing from the 74,800 average in FY 2010.

Traffic to the site has nearly doubled over the past five years with funding throughout that time from VA and DOL technical assistance grants.

The site features information on the following: NCHV; the NCHV Technical Assistance Center; homeless veteran statistics and demographics; a step-by-step guide for homeless veterans on how to get assistance, including a searchable nationwide database of homeless veteran service providers; employment assistance; providing support for service providers; Stand Down, including the national Stand Down registry; the latest public policy updates; the NCHV Resource Library; and more.



Randy Brown,
Director of
Communications



In FY 2011, NCHV began an overhaul of its website and database capabilities. The new NCHV website, scheduled to launch in FY 2012, will feature an updated design and easier navigation, along with advanced features that will improve the user experience. The database upgrade will allow easier interaction between NCHV and its members, along with streamlined management of all information NCHV keeps on community-based service providers and other contacts. These upgrades will assist in ensuring NCHV continues to be the most accurate, comprehensive and user-friendly source of information available.

Publications

All of NCHV's publications, including guides, e-newsletters, brochures and fact sheets, appear on the website. Featured publications in FY 2011 included the monthly



Pete Dougherty (left) and Roger Casey, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA and other Federal agencies rely on NCHV's extensive communication network to relay important information to community-based service providers nationwide.

NCHV e-newsletter and NCHV Members e-newsletter, and the bimonthly print newsletter.

The NCHV e-newsletter is sent to over 5,100 contacts in our listserv. It provides the latest news, resources, funding opportunities, event information, and public policy updates. The NCHV Members e-newsletter is sent only to member contacts, and features a more robust catalog of resources and funding opportunities, as well as member-exclusive information.

The NCHV print newsletter, delivered bimonthly to members and federal grantees, was redesigned in FY 2011 to both upgrade its appearance and increase the capacity for more in-depth coverage of news events and opportunities for NCHV member organizations.

Social Media

In FY 2009, NCHV launched a Facebook page to have a presence in the online social networking community. The page provides updates, information, and links to increase the general public's awareness of, and involvement in, the campaign to end veteran homelessness. By the end of FY 2011, NCHV's Facebook page had over 5,700 fans.

Continuing Commitment

As the Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness continues on its course, NCHV's role as the communications link between the federal government and the nationwide community of service providers will become more critical. With unprecedented funding, emphasis, and attention flowing into the homeless veteran service arena, NCHV will continue to be the leading channel of information for the entire homeless veteran service community.

Special Outreach Programs

Stand Down Registry

At the request of Stand Down founders Robert Van Keuren and Jon Nachison, NCHV became the national coordinator of Stand Downs in 2002. For more information on Stand Down, visit www.nchv.org/standdown.cfm.

NCHV publishes a schedule of Stand Down events nationwide on its website as well as in its print newsletter. Stand Down administrators also submit an "After Action Report," including information on services offered, number of veterans served, and demographic information.

There were 211 documented Stand Downs held in 2011, a slight increase from the 196 held in 2010. Over 44,000 veterans were served at Stand Downs in 2011, receiving referrals for health care, housing, legal and employment assistance.

Incarcerated Veterans Outreach

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor, NCHV provides assistance to veterans in correctional facilities who are preparing to transition back into society upon their release. Through 2011, approximately 20,500 copies of "Planning for Your Release: A Guide for Incarcerated Veterans" have been sent directly to men and women in correctional facilities, and another 5,500 copies have been distributed to prison outreach and case management specialists.

The creation of the guide was made possible through a grant from the Department of Labor-Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS) in 2004, and an updated version of the guide was produced under a DOL-VETS grant in FY 2010. It is estimated approximately 40,000 veterans leave correctional facilities each year in the United States, and without this pre-release assistance many would be unable to obtain housing and steady employment.

Veterans Toll-free Help Line

The 1-800-VET-HELP line is funded through contributions, and is available to anyone who calls, including family members who need guidance on how best to help their loved ones.

The helpline receives a minimum of 100 calls for assistance each month, and that number increases to as many as 160 from late fall to early spring. In FY 2011, the helpline provided guidance to more than 1,800 veterans and family members seeking referrals to assistance programs in their communities.

Callers are informed about the assistance that is available through VA Medical Centers, VA Readjustment Counseling Centers (also known as Vet Centers), local homeless service providers and faith-based organizations in the NCHV database, as well as mainstream assistance for which they may qualify.

Excerpts from top stories in the NCHV newsletter sent bimonthly to members and federal grantees. To become a member visit www.nchv.org.

October/November/December 2010

Recommendations of the VA Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans

For eight years, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans – made up of community-based providers, treatment experts, state veterans affairs officials, VA staff, advocates and formerly homeless veterans – has made recommendations to VA. Its mission is to ensure all veterans are provided the programs and services necessary to aid their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

“The significance of the report is that it really has led VA policy on homelessness over the eight years it has existed,” said George Basher, Chairman of the Advisory Committee. “If you look at the Five-Year Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans, you are really seeing a compilation of Advisory Committee recommendations over the years. Feedback from VA program offices has improved over time, and we have often been asked to provide comments on proposed program changes and initiatives outside the annual report cycle.”

Basher noted how the Advisory Committee’s role has shifted from general advocacy, asking for “a laundry list of things,” to specific, achievable improvements.

“One of the biggest accomplishments was getting VA to embrace permanent supportive housing, but others included special needs grants in GPD,” he said. “As we get ready to meet to put next year’s report together I think our role is more one of looking ahead and trying to determine what the need will be going forward – more prevention initiatives, more family-inclusive activities and more community involvement.”

Recommendations from the “2010 Annual Report of the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans” are listed below. (The full outline including VA responses to recommendations is featured in the November-December 2010 NCHV newsletter.)

1. Payment and inspection systems under the Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD) need improvement.
2. Address OEF/OIF veterans post-deployment health ser-



George Basher, Chairman of The VA Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.

- vices, including transition assistance, research on homelessness prevention, and development of better screening and assessment tools for TBI and PTSD.
3. Improve delivery of benefits to aid homeless veterans by addressing homeless and at-risk veterans’ benefits claims, Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility for certificate programs, and preventing foreclosure among veteran borrowers.
4. Address the unmet primary and specialty care needs of the homeless veteran population.
5. VA should act to insure that case managers or community providers are hired, and trained to provide case management services for permanent housing.
6. VA should use its resources and surplus land to provide new housing for veterans where it is needed and not just where facility directors desire it.
7. VA should conduct a personnel audit to determine if homeless veteran programs are appropriately staffed.
8. VA should create a discretionary fund of \$10 million to \$25 million to fund projects to support innovative practices to identify new, replicable ways to increase community collaboration; and establish regular joint VA/community partner training programs to insure a continuous flow of the latest information.
9. Continue efforts to remove barriers to care for justice-engaged veterans.
10. Increase stature and influence of homeless programs leadership by elevating the position of Director of Homeless Programs to a Senior Executive Service position.

VA Secretary Shinseki Announces \$41.9 Million for Grant and Per Diem Program



VA Secretary Eric Shinseki was a featured speaker at the 2011 NCHV Annual Conference.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki announced that 40 states will share more than \$41.9 million in grants to community groups to provide 2,568 beds for homeless veterans this year.

“These grants wouldn’t have happened without the extraordinary partnerships forged with community organizers,” said Shinseki. “These investments will

provide transitional beds to veterans who have served honorably but for various reasons now find themselves in a downward spiral toward despair and homelessness.”

The Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD) provides grants and per diem payments to help public and nonprofit organizations establish and operate transitional housing and service centers for homeless veterans.

The \$41.9 million is broken into two categories. About \$26.9 million will help renovate, rehabilitate or acquire space for 1,352 transitional housing beds. A second group of awards, valued at \$15 million, will immediately fund 1,216 beds at existing transitional housing for homeless veterans this year. The awards will cover daily living costs based upon the number of homeless veterans being served in transitional housing.

A key component of VA’s Five-Year Plan, the grants and per diem payments helped reduce the number of veterans who were homeless on a typical night last year by 18 percent to about 107,000 veterans.

A complete list of capital grant recipients can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/25p6zl4> (PDF). A complete list of “per diem only” grant recipients can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/2dtnk51> (PDF). For more information, visit the National GPD Office’s webpage at www.va.gov/homeless.

January/February 2011

VA Summit Focuses on Five-Year Plan

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Inter-agency Council on Homelessness (USICH) conducted a two-day summit on ending veteran homelessness Dec. 7-8, 2010, in Arlington, Va. Federal and local government officials, VA health care providers, and community-based partners that serve homeless veterans were invited to

review and comment on the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, particularly the provisions that focus on veteran homelessness.

The purpose of the summit was to provide VA practitioners and their partners the “information necessary to implement plans, and designate regional and local efforts,” according to event organizers. Presentations were given on each of the five principle themes of the plan:

1. Leadership, Collaboration and Civic Engagement
2. Access to Stable, Affordable Housing
3. Increase Economic Security
4. Improve Health and Stability
5. Retool the Homeless Crisis Response System

All of these issues have been addressed to varying degrees in communities across the nation for decades, but the overarching message of the summit was clear: success in the campaign to end all homelessness depends on effective, integrated local service delivery systems that ensure access to housing, employment and income supports, and health services. Prevention – the new frontier in addressing homelessness – requires early interventions that keep at-risk populations safely housed through supportive services that ensure access to all three critical needs.

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki reminded participants that the goal of the Five-Year Plan he announced a year earlier in Washington, D.C. – the end of veteran homelessness – remains the same, and that the Federal Strategic Plan includes the strategic initiatives to make it possible. He again emphasized the importance of the community-based partners that have helped reduce the number of homeless veterans by nearly 60 percent since 2004.

VA Announces Funding Availability for Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the availability of funds for supportive services grants under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF Program).

The SSVF Program’s purpose is to provide supportive services grants to private nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives that will coordinate or provide supportive services to very low-income veteran families who: 1) are residing in permanent housing, 2) are homeless and scheduled to become residents of permanent housing within a specified time period, or 3) after exiting permanent housing within a specified time period, are seeking other housing that is responsive to such very low-income veteran family’s needs and preferences.

Approximately \$60 million is available for supportive services grants to be funded under this notice for a one-year period. The maximum allowable grant size is \$1 million per year per grantee.

March/April 2011

HUD, VA Release Supplemental Report on Veteran Homelessness

The Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) have released “*Veteran Homelessness: A Supplemental Report to the 2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress*.” The report is a result of ongoing collaboration between HUD and VA to understand the extent and nature of veteran homelessness, and marks the shift toward interagency data integration.

The report determined that on a single night in January 2009, 75,609 veterans were homeless, and an estimated 136,334 veterans spent at least one night in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program between Oct. 1, 2008, and Sept. 30, 2009.

This estimate is different than the VA CHALENG report, which estimated 107,000 veterans were homeless on a given night in 2009. The HUD estimate was based on information from community Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), which prior to 2011 were not required to report veteran data. Beginning this year, all VA-funded homeless programs are required to report client data to their regional HMIS.

Highlights from the HUD/VA supplemental report include:

- Veterans are 50 percent more likely to become homeless compared to all Americans, and the risk is even greater among veterans living in poverty and minority veterans.
- Most veterans who used emergency shelter stayed for only brief periods. One-third stayed in shelter for less than one week, 61 percent used a shelter for less than one month, and 84 percent stayed for less than three months.
- Nearly half of homeless veterans were located in California, Texas, New York, and Florida, while only 28 percent of all veterans were located in those same four states.
- About 96 percent of homeless veterans are single adults; 4 percent are veterans with families. This compares to 66 percent of non-veteran homeless persons who are single.

To read the full report, www.hudhre.info/documents/2009AHARVeteransReport.pdf.

May/June 2011

U.S. Chamber, DOL-VETS Launch “Hiring Our Heroes” Program

On March 24, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce expanded its nationwide effort to help veterans and their spouses connect with meaningful employment opportunities. The program, called “Hiring Our Heroes,” represents a partnership with the Department of Labor - Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS) to improve public-private sector coordination in local communities.

The trademark of this program will be 100 “hiring fairs” across the nation during the course of a year (March 2011 through March 2012). Unlike many job fairs, these hiring fairs feature employers who are willing and able to hire veterans on the spot, as opposed to collecting resumes to make decisions later.

The inaugural event, held in Chicago on March 24, was co-hosted by the U.S. Chamber, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois Chamber, and the Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve. This program was well-attended and deemed a huge success, with participation from 127 employers and 1,200 veterans and their spouses. Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL) was a distinguished speaker, discussing both his military service and the importance of creating employment opportunities for veterans.

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) was also in attendance – specifically, NCHV President and CEO John Driscoll and Technical Assistance Director Baylee Crone – per the invitation of DOL-VETS Assistant Secretary Ray Jefferson. The hiring initiative is part of Jefferson’s strategy to increase veteran employment opportunities nationwide by working more closely with America’s corporate community, veteran-owned businesses and government agencies.

The U.S. Chamber has a veteran-specific webpage with more information on the Hiring Our Heroes campaign, including U.S. maps of hiring fairs and unemployed veterans by state. To visit the page, go to www.uschamber.com/veterans.

For general employment assistance and resources that pertain to homeless veterans, visit the DOL-VETS website at www.dol.gov/vets, or see NCHV’s employment section at www.nchv.org/employment_assistance.cfm.

NewDay Financial Joins NCHV as Platinum Sponsor



Rob Posner, CEO of NewDay Financial.

NewDay Financial, LLC, one of the nation's fastest-growing mortgage companies, has announced its Platinum Sponsorship of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV). By contributing at this highest sponsorship level, NewDay Financial joins the ranks of elite organizations – including Fannie Mae, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, and

The Home Depot Foundation – that champion NCHV's work on behalf of homeless veterans.

“The government and nonprofit sectors have made encouraging progress toward ending and preventing homelessness among veterans; but lasting, long-term solutions to this problem will only be possible if companies and individuals in the private sector step up to the plate and get involved, too,” said Rob Posner, CEO, NewDay Financial. “NewDay Financial's Platinum Sponsorship of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans is a ‘first step.’ We see this relationship in terms of an ongoing commitment, and we plan to be very involved as the scope of NCHV's service to the nation's homeless veteran assistance community expands.”

Final FY 2011 Appropriations Bill Restores up to 7,500 New HUD-VASH Vouchers

On Friday, April 8, Congress narrowly avoided a government shutdown by reaching a compromise on fiscal year (FY) 2011 appropriations. Although the final continuing resolution for FY 2011, H.R. 1473 – signed into law by President Obama on April 15 – includes record spending cuts, it restores \$50 million for new permanent supportive housing vouchers for chronically homeless veterans.

These vouchers represent a collaboration between the Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) to help veterans with serious mental illness and other disabilities obtain and maintain housing. Under the program, VA provides case management and health services for veterans who receive HUD-VASH vouchers.

On Feb. 19, the House of Representatives passed an appropriations bill, H.R. 1, that would have eliminated \$75 million for approximately 10,000 new HUD-VASH

vouchers. To date, 30,000 vouchers have been allocated. An additional \$50 million will raise the number of vouchers to about 60 percent of the total number most federal officials and service providers agree are needed to end chronic veteran homelessness.

“We want to commend the leadership of both the House and Senate for this compromise,” said John Driscoll, President and CEO of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV). “Strong bipartisan support in Congress for veteran programs over the last 10 years has brought us within reach of ending veteran homelessness. This keeps that legacy alive and, more importantly, moving forward. This act will provide housing for 7,500 of our most vulnerable former guardians and their families.”

Throughout March and April, NCHV worked to restore the HUD-VASH vouchers, meeting with House and Senate committees and speaking directly with congressional leadership.

July/August/September 2011

17,000 Homeless and At-Risk Vets to Benefit from More than \$28 Million in Renewed HVRP Grants

U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Secretary Hilda Solis has announced 122 grants totaling more than \$28 million to provide approximately 17,000 veterans who are homeless with job training to help them succeed in civilian careers.

The grants are being awarded under DOL's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) to continue successful programs into second and third years. Funding includes \$4.3 million for the Homeless Female Veterans and Veterans with Families Program and \$3.9 million for the Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program, which helps veterans who have served time in detention facilities.

“The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program is recognized as an extraordinarily efficient and effective program, and is the only federal program that focuses exclusively on employment of veterans who are homeless,” said Secretary Solis.

Second- and third-year funds are being awarded to state and local workforce investment boards, local public agencies, and nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and community groups, that demonstrated through first-year funding that they can administer effective programs and are familiar with the geographic areas and populations to be served.

Through HVRP, homeless veterans may receive occupational, classroom and on-the-job training, as well as job search and placement assistance, including follow-up

services. Grantees under this program coordinate their efforts with various local, state and federal social service providers. More information on DOL's unemployment and re-employment programs for veterans is available at www.dol.gov/vets.

To view a full list of second- and third-year grantees and award amounts, go to www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/vets/VETS20110814.htm.

The Home Depot Foundation and NCHV Host “Veteran Access to Housing Summit”



Fred Wacker, COO of The Home Depot Foundation, at the 2011 NCHV Annual Conference.

On July 27 in San Antonio, NCHV and The Home Depot Foundation, in coordination with the Department of Veterans Affairs, held the unprecedented “Veteran Access to Housing Summit.” This intense, full-day strategic work session served to explore and identify opportunities, as well as challenges, to increase permanent housing opportunities for low-income and formerly homeless veterans.

As part of its Plan to End Veteran Homelessness by 2015, the VA has estimated there is a critical need for about 90,000 units of permanent housing for homeless and low-income veterans.

This summit brought together veteran service providers, corporate partners, charitable organizations, and federal agency representatives to share innovative practices, ideas and solutions to problems that can be replicated and have an immediate impact on increasing high-risk veterans’ access to housing.

Four NCHV Central Office staff members, listed below in parentheses, were on hand to facilitate the following breakout sessions:

- Multifamily Housing Development (Baylee Crone,

Director of Technical Assistance)

- Single-Family Housing Development: Transition in Place (John Driscoll, President and CEO)
- Single-Family Housing Development: Foreclosed Property (Matt Gornick, Policy and Program Assistant)
- Single-Family Housing Development: Philanthropy and Partnerships (Randy Brown, Director of Communications)

NCHV has compiled a three-volume report on the Veteran Access to Housing Summit, which provides an overview of each work session discussion, followed by profiles of organizations and programs that have been effective in creating and expanding housing opportunities for homeless and low-income veterans and their families.

To access the full report, visit http://www.nchv.org/news_article.cfm?id=1010.



2011 NCHV Annual Conference

The nation's veteran service provider community gathered at the 2011 NCHV Annual Conference, June 6-8, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C., for one of the most important forums in the 21-year history of the campaign to end veteran homelessness.



Over 530 people attended the 2011 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., the largest in NCHV history.

The Home Depot Foundation was the lead sponsor of the 2011 NCHV Annual Conference. Having made a commitment of investing \$30 million in housing for veterans over the next three years, the Foundation had a strong presence at the conference, including a strategy session with representatives from across the service spectrum to discuss ways to effectively enact the Foundation's initiative.

In addition, VA and its federal partners, after extensive planning and the incorporation of service provider input, convened in Washington ready to share information on implementation of the Five-Year Plan in communities across America.

More than 530 conference attendees learned how existing federal grant programs, new initiatives, and corporate engagement will fuel the efforts of service providers, government agencies and veteran service organizations as never before.

The theme for the 2011 conference was "Leadership: Implementing the Plan to End Veteran Homelessness," and attendees learned how the plan will impact their organizations and programs. They also learned how to ensure veteran access to mainstream and homeless prevention services in their communities.

Conference attendees participated in 33 sessions over three days, among them critical workshop sessions on:

1. Changes in the Grant and Per Diem Program.

2. The future of HUD-VASH and access to low-income housing.
3. Increasing veteran employment opportunities.
4. Homelessness prevention – a major VA investment.
5. Expanding legal aid for homeless veterans.
6. Data integration impact on local programs and funding.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki was the keynote speaker at the Opening Session, providing insight into the Plan to End Veteran Homelessness. An excerpt from Secretary Shinseki's address:

"As the prime national advocacy movement devoted solely to helping veterans, your dedication has resulted in greater partnering, better collaborating, teamwork, and sharing at the federal, state and local levels to both rescue homeless veterans and prevent them from becoming homeless – a two-part mission. We will not end veterans homelessness unless we are getting A's on both parts of this mission: rescue those who are homeless today, and prevent those at risk from becoming homeless.

"And while our year-to-year, point-in-time count estimates continue to trend downwards, I am reminded that these are estimates, and they focus primarily on veterans who are homeless today – the rescue mission. We must find the best approaches for sizing the homeless veteran population accurately, and it must include both rescue and prevention requirements or we will never be able to anticipate, plan, resource and execute properly.

"Our plan today emphasizes rescue and prevention because it must. In time, the plan must transition primarily to prevention and will require us to be much more knowledgeable about the causes of veterans' homelessness, about the details of our current homeless and at-risk





VA Secretary Eric Shinseki addresses conference attendees at the Opening Session.

veteran populations, and about creating action plans that serve veterans at the individual level.

“We will have to become far more expert on our VA tasks, smarter about being willing to learn from and share with all other stakeholders in the homelessness arena: government, non-profit, for profit, federal, state, and most especially, the local level, where the creative geniuses in homelessness reside.

“Since 2006, we’ve seen and served nearly 375,000 homeless veterans. This fiscal year alone, we’ve seen and served over 130,000 homeless veterans at our medical facilities. I have directed the creation of a living registry that will list every homeless veteran and veterans at risk of



HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan speaking at the Opening Session of the 2011 NCHV Annual Conference.

homelessness with whom we come into contact – with all appropriate precautions for protecting veteran identity and privacy.

“We intend to devise better solutions for housing those who are homeless and preventing those at risk from becoming homeless. We’ll do our part, but we need the insights, support, and partici-

pation of all who have a stake in ending veteran homelessness.”

In addition to Secretary Shinseki, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan sat down with NCHV President and CEO John Driscoll during the Opening Session for a dialogue on HUD’s role in the Plan to End Veteran Homelessness. Donovan was also presented with the Jerald Washington Memorial Founders’ Award, the highest honor in the homeless veteran assistance movement. Donovan was presented the award in recognition of his support of President Barack Obama’s vow to end veteran homelessness, marking the first time

in U.S. history a HUD Secretary has placed special emphasis on housing homeless veterans. With about 37,000 HUD-VASH vouchers signed into law, Donovan has overseen the build-up of the program, with the goal of ending chronic veteran homelessness.

Under Donovan’s leadership, HUD-VASH has become efficient and effective in getting vouchers into the hands of chronically homeless veterans, and getting them off the street and into housing.

Donovan was the chair of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness when “Opening Doors,” the first ever national plan to end homelessness, was developed and released.

Donovan’s close collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs has brought veterans into the fold of mainstream homeless programs. For the first time, veterans will be included in HMIS data and better represented in Continuum of Care planning.

Another first under Donovan’s leadership is the inclusion of veterans in the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report, HUD’s annual report to Congress. This will provide the most accurate and detailed count of homeless veterans to date.

Joining the secretaries at the opening session were Barbara Poppe, Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), Col. David Sutherland, Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Ray Jefferson, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Labor-Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS).

The NCHV Policy Forum, which was held on the afternoon of June 6, addressed concerns and answered questions about the impact of the Five-Year Plan on grant-funded homeless veteran assistance programs.

USICH Deputy Director Anthony Love and NCHV President and CEO John Driscoll co-facilitated a panel featuring Pete Dougherty, Associate Executive Director of the VA Homeless Initiatives Office; Roger Casey, Director of the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program; Vince Kane, Director of the National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans; and HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs Mark Johnston.

Each panelist delivered a presentation of about 20 minutes, discussing programs of great concern to veteran service providers. After these six presentations, the floor was opened up for questions from conference attendees, and officials were able to respond directly to service providers’ concerns.



Kelly Caffarelli, President of The Home Depot Foundation, served as keynote speaker at the 2011 NCHV Awards Banquet.

The 2011 NCHV Annual Awards Banquet was held the evening of June 7. Each year, NCHV takes time during the Annual Conference to recognize a few of the many deserving individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the homeless veteran service movement.

The keynote speaker for this year's Awards Banquet was Kelly Caffarelli, President of The Home Depot Foundation. Caffarelli was on hand to discuss The Foundation's commitment of \$30 million

dollars toward veteran housing over the next three years. The Foundation is leading the way in a new era of corporate involvement in the campaign to end veteran homelessness.

Caffarelli accepted a Corporate Partnership Award on behalf of The Home Depot Foundation.

Other NCHV Awards presented in 2011 were:

Jerald Washington Memorial Founders Award – Secretary Shaun Donovan, Department of Housing and Urban Development

Thomas Wynn Sr. Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement – Dr. Jon Nachison and Robert Van Keuren, cofounders of Stand Down

Meritorious Service Award – Barbara Poppe, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Meritorious Service Award – Col. David Sutherland, Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Meritorious Service Award – George Basher, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, Chair of the VA Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans

Meritorious Service Award – Vince Kane, Department of Veterans Affairs

Corporate Partner Award – The Home Depot Foundation

Corporate Partner Award – Fannie Mae

Corporate Partner Award – NewDay Financial

Unsung Hero Award – Fred Nunez, Veterans Alliance of Southern California

Unsung Hero Award – Janet Whitehead, Grand Hyatt Washington

Unsung Hero Award – John Briggs, Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries

Unsung Hero Award – Matt Gornick, Assistant Policy Director, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

Unsung Hero Award – Oskar Gonzalez-Yetzirah, U.S. VETS

Department of Veterans Affairs Staff Award – Karen Guthrie

Outstanding Partnership Award – Central Oregon Veterans Outreach

Outstanding Partnership Award – City of Duluth, MN

Outstanding Member Award – The New England Center for Homeless Veterans, Boston



Dr. Jon Nachison receiving the Thomas Wynn Sr. Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in recognition of his role as a co-founder of Stand Down.

Vital Partners: Corporate and Individual Contributions

None of what NCHV has accomplished in FY 2011, or over the past 21 years, would have been possible without the generous support of corporate and individual contributions. This support helps strengthen and expand services to America's homeless veterans. NCHV would like to extend a special thank you to the corporations and individuals who helped lead the fight to end veteran homelessness in FY 2011.

NCHV Roll of Honor

President Barack Obama and First Lady
Michelle Obama
Carl Cinardo
Charlotte Haynes Robuck Family
Foundation
CHG Group, Inc.
EnduraCare
Fannie Mae Foundation
Foundation for American Veterans
The Home Depot Foundation
James T. Jones
Janet Bellusci
Dr. Judith Turian
Mangen Family Charitable Foundation
Mary Jean Grove
Patrick Henry
The Meade Foundation/Key Bank
Milner and Caringella
National Equity Fund
NewDay Financial, LLC
Others First
Patrick & Kathleen Ryan
Robert & Jamie Taylor Foundation
Samuel, Son & Co. Inc
Shoebuy.com, Inc
WSHS PC

Our Corporate Family



FY 2011 Statement of Financial Position

Statement of Financial Activities <i>Year ended September 30, 2011</i>		Statement of Financial Position <i>September 30, 2011</i>	
Revenue and Support		Assets	
Grants	\$ 336,829	Cash	212,830
Contributions	285,552	Grants Receivable	60,178
Annual Conference	163,803	Accounts Receivable	3,937
Membership	68,350	Prepaid Expenses	3,107
Sponsorships	35,587	Total Fixed Assets	15,650
Programs Fees	7,592	Deposits (Rent, Utilities)	1,760
Other	2,030		
Total Revenues and Support	899,744	Total Assets	297,462
Expenses		Liabilities and Equity	
Program Services	593,162	Accounts Payable	15,126
General and Administrative	133,793	Other Liabilities	6,609
Fundraising	16,305	Total Liabilities	21,735
Total Expenses	743,260	Beginning Net Assets	119,343
Net Assets, End FY 2010	107,343	Net Income	156,384
Change in Net Assets	190,119	Total Equity	275,727
Net Assets, End of year	297,462	Total Liabilities & Equity	297,462

The need for comprehensive federal and local supportive, veteran-specific programs for homeless veterans is well-documented.

These men and women answered the call to serve their country in a way increasingly few Americans ever will.

They deserve nothing less than the full measure of our support in their greatest hour of need.



NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

www.nchv.org