



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Central California Healthcare System
2615 East Clinton Avenue
Fresno CA 93703-2286

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 27, 2013

CONTACT: Sheryl Grubb
Chief, Public Affairs Service
Phone: (559) 836-8731
E-mail: sherly.grubb@va.gov

VA and AMVETS Program Gives Household Items to First Veteran Recipients in Fresno

“Welcome Home” Program Builds on HUD-VASH Support”

FRESNO – A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed on October 1, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. between the American Veterans (AMVETS) and VA Central California Health Care System (VACCHCS) establishing a partnership where previously-homeless Veterans will receive furnishings for their homes. Immediately following the signing, household items will be delivered to the homes of ten Veterans.

Since 2008, the HUD-VASH program has provided thousands of homeless Veterans with Section 8 housing vouchers, including about 1,000 per year to California Veterans. The program follows a “housing first” model, which allows homeless Veterans to rent privately owned housing and, at the same time, access clinical and supportive services through VA’s health care system. But those Veterans often move into empty apartments and cannot furnish their homes until long after moving in. The VA and Team AMVETS’ partnership goal is to eventually offer furnishings and household items to HUD-VASH recipients throughout the state.

“I have been homeless since 2009 when I came back from Iraq. I didn’t have stable housing and was moving around all the time, living with friends.” – said Lamont Hall, an Army Veteran previously homeless, currently enrolled in the HUD-VASH program – “I feel lucky now”. Mr. Hall is one of ten Veterans receiving furniture and small appliances on Oct. 1.

No one who has served our country should ever go without a safe, stable place to call home. More than 50% of Veterans in the Central Valley are homeless. If you encountered a homeless, ask if they served in the military. If the answer is positive, please call 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838) or make a referral to the Central California VA at 559-225-6100 extension 5764.

To view the story featured on the web, please visit
http://www.fresno.va.gov/FRESNO/features/2013_10_01_AMVETS_.asp

###