



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contra Costa's Homeless Veterans Get Housed

Over 225 Veteran Households have received assistance from Shelter Inc.

MARTINEZ, CA – SHELTER, Inc. of Contra Costa Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program assists homeless veterans find and keep stable housing. The SSVF program has served over 225 households (350 individuals) thus far.

The program can provide financial assistance to house homeless veterans and help to prevent homelessness for others. The first step is to call 925-957-7579.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program provides critical services to those Veterans most in need. The VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program helps homeless and at-risk veterans and their families living in Contra Costa County. The funding will also help prevent homelessness for very low-income veterans and their families at immediate risk of homelessness.

"It was around Christmas when I thought me and my two boys were going to be homeless. I lost my job and things were bleak. I fought in the Persian Gulf and left the battle only to find myself battling homelessness," said an SSVF client. SHELTER, Inc.'s SSVF case manager was able to assist the veteran and his sons by finding new housing and rental assistance within a few days.

The cornerstone of this program is case managers who help veterans and their families achieve housing stability by helping them move into rental housing, and obtain VA and other mainstream benefits (e.g. food stamps, SSDI, etc.). In addition, homeless veterans and families at risk of homelessness can be assisted with first month's rent, security deposit and utility assistance.

SHELTER, Inc. has partnered with Contra Costa County Homeless Program to provide the services for veterans and their families throughout Contra Costa County. Timothy O'Keefe, Executive Director of SHELTER, Inc. of Contra Costa County states, "We must help veterans in their time of need like they have helped our country in our time of need. For over 25 years, SHELTER, Inc. has helped at-risk and homeless families in Contra Costa, and we are extremely excited to be able to continue services targeted to veterans and their families in our community."

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is funding 151 non-profit community agencies in 49 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia as part of its expanding Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program.



If you, or someone you know, is interested in applying for SSVF services, please contact: SHELTER, Inc. at (925) 957-7579. For more information on SHELTER, Inc.'s SSVF Program, visit www.shelterincofccc.org.

ABOUT SHELTER, INC.

SHELTER, Inc. is an independent, charitable, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1986 to alleviate Contra Costa County's homeless crisis whose mission is to prevent and end homelessness by promoting self-sufficiency among low-income residents of Contra Costa County.