



Veterans Transition House
Building Hope for Heroes \$1.3 Million Capital Campaign

Organizational Overview

One of very few centers for veterans in Southeastern Massachusetts, Veterans Transition House (VTH) is a nonprofit organization that provides transitional housing and specialized services to homeless, formerly homeless, and at-risk veterans.

Founded in 1990, VTH provides rehabilitation, re-integration, and other supports necessary for veterans to achieve self-sufficiency, especially for those who have struggled with substance abuse, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and financial hardship. VTH has helped veterans get, and stay, sober and healthy, find employment, and move into permanent housing. Our motto is “a hand up, not a hand out.”

Residents live in a 24-hour staffed home and receive meals, transportation, counseling, case management, referrals to career counseling, and other services. VTH currently employs 24 staff members to support, educate, and care for the veterans who have served our country. Veterans lead our Board of Directors and staff, and many of our staff are former clients.

To facilitate our services, VTH is conducting a capital campaign with a goal of \$1,300,000 to fund the complete renovation of a historic building located at 1060 Pleasant Street as Transitional Housing for Veterans, and the complete renovation of 1311 Purchase Street as a much-needed Outreach Center.

Rationale for this Campaign and Capital Project

Veterans returning home from military service often face homelessness, poverty, unemployment, lack of education, PTSD, major depression, traumatic brain injuries and loss of spouse or family. Approximately 3,000 veterans in Southeastern Massachusetts are at-risk of homelessness, are living at the poverty line, and/or face chronic mental health and medical challenges.

According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV), veterans need a coordinated effort that provides secure housing as well as the essentials to meet their basic needs such as nutritional meals, health care and counseling. The most effective methods are community-based nonprofit agencies, designed with Veteran-Helping-Veteran models and transitional housing programs that offer the camaraderie of structured and substance-free environments.

VTH’s approach is designed to rapidly and successfully connect homeless individuals and families to permanent housing, without barriers to entry. However, there remains a high need for transitional, supportive housing for vulnerable veterans not ready to move directly into permanent housing. Recent studies suggest that chronically homeless veterans, especially those with histories of trauma, initially struggle to maintain healthy lives in permanent housing settings. VTH provides these veterans the encouragement, determination and discipline to rise above homelessness and poverty, and grow into new roles once their time of military service has ended.

The vision of VTH is to provide first-class facilities, services and staff to ensure that every veteran has a home. To realize this vision, VTH is expanding to create one entire New Bedford city block of permanent and transitional housing and outreach services. Two buildings are the subject of this campaign and one (20 Willis Street) is fully funded to become 30 bedrooms of permanent housing.

VTH is fully permitted by the City of New Bedford to renovate 1060 Pleasant Street and 1311 Purchase Street. The 1060 Pleasant Street property is a neglected, historic property recently acquired by VTH. This property will undergo a complete restoration and re-purposing, in collaboration with the Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE), to include 10 bedrooms (20 beds) of transitional housing. The 1311 Purchase Street building will be renovated to serve as a much-needed Outreach Center for veterans to drop-in and discuss their needs with compassionate, qualified staff members. Upon completion of these two projects, along with the 20 Willis Street permanent housing project, VTH will invest nearly \$10 million to create a modern, nurturing campus for veterans and, in doing so, will revitalize a blighted city block.

Ways to Give

We invite you to support the *Building Hope for Heroes* Capital Campaign in a way that is convenient and meaningful for you and your family. Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law, and naming opportunities are available for donors of \$5,000 or more. All donors will be recognized on a Donor Wall in the Outreach Center as well. All donors will be invited to the groundbreaking and dedication ceremonies, along with our veterans, to share the success of this important project. Thank you.

- **Donations** – give online at www.vetshouse.org/donate or by mail (see below)
- **Monthly recurring gift** – sign up for automatic credit or debit card payments
- **Gift of securities** – the donation of appreciated stock may offer significant tax advantages
- **Matching gifts** – many employers will match a qualified charitable gift
- **Pledged gifts** – donations may be distributed over five years to maximize the gift size
- **Memorial gifts** – a lasting remembrance to a loved one, perhaps recognizing their military service
- **Estate planned gifts** – leave a legacy and reduce the taxable amount of your estate

For more information on making a pledge or contribution, please contact David F. Guertin, Vantage in Philanthropy, at 401-619-3990 or david@vantageinphilanthropy.com.

Donations can be made payable to the Veterans Transition House and mailed to:

James Reid, Executive Director
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New Bedford, MA 02740