

HOMELESS VETERANS GUIDE
IVY LEE REINHARDT – CHAIRMAN
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Homeless Veterans are everyone's concern and we as Unit Members can step up and show we care.

First – Why are Veterans Homeless? There is an extreme shortage of available jobs, no available home they can afford and many do not know where to go for help. Many are living with the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and substance abuse. Some have lost the support of their families and society.

In the year 1996 33% of the male homeless population were Veterans and now is over 40% and rising. Let us do something to slow it down and put forth an effort to stop it.

What can you do?

Determine the need in your community. Go to local Social Service facilities to seek assistance in locating Homeless Veterans and Providers of Services. Ask others for help in locating them.

Involve Others! Let organizations in your community know your concerns and let them know of any plans you might have.

Participate in area homeless coalitions. If there is not one in your area, now is the “season” to bring people together to tell them about this critical need to help our Homeless Veterans. Host a forum at your post home and ask the community to help.

Determine what is needed in your community. Visit a Homeless Veterans Service Provider. Try to get a list of needed items and share it with others. Check with VA Medical Centers to see if they can help you with information.

Donations consist of many items. An individual can donate dollars or needed items. Coordinate a special fund raising event. Host a personal item “shower”, have everyone bring a needed item, have fun and help the Homeless Veterans.

Many areas have Stand Downs annually. Find one and volunteer at it. Find out what is needed and you can bring it with you. You will never feel more tired at the end of the day but you will feel so wonderful and fulfilled just knowing that you have helped those who have served our country and helped it remain free. You will feel so proud to be an Auxiliary Member. It is the best feeling you can ever have – “Try It, You'll Like It”!

There are now awards in the Department of Michigan at this time except just knowing that you have helped our Homeless Veterans.