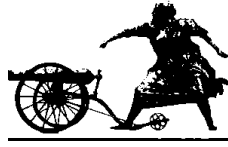


ServeAustin!



OPERATION OUTREACH

Initiative Summary - *Develop and implement a “veterans serving veterans” outreach and volunteer based service program designed to reduce stresses, poverty and homelessness among women veterans.*

Currently, veteran’s service organizations are often reactive; supporting veterans once they are in distress. Our goal is to develop a proactive initiative based within the Red Cross and supported by all veteran’s organizations in Austin.

This initiative builds on existing relationships between the City of Austin, Travis County, Central Texas Red Cross, and all other veteran’s support organizations but will be creating a new outreach program utilizing the power of volunteers.

Facts - 40% of Austin community Cities of Service survey respondents identified some kind of “basic needs” issues as their top concern for our community.

Veterans make up a disproportionately large segment of the general population in need of services. For example, it is estimated that 1/8th of the general population are veterans but 1/5 of the homeless population are veterans.

A significant portion of women veterans have experienced sexual assault in addition to the “normal” stresses and strains of a veteran.

Initiative Specifics - Central Texas Red Cross will raise 100 volunteers, primarily women veterans or family members of such.

All veteran support groups, agencies and associations in Austin will coordinate with Red Cross in developing (a) a volunteer training curriculum and (b) a comprehensive database of support information for the volunteers to work with.

Volunteers will be committed to reaching out to women veterans on a proactive basis upon return from duty with follow up on an ongoing basis and on an “as women veteran’s needs are identified basis”. These volunteers will direct identified women veterans to services and follow up where possible.

Metrics - Number of volunteers recruited and trained, number of female veterans met at Yellow Ribbon events, number of veterans contacted post Yellow Ribbon events, number of referrals for service and attitudinal surveys through out the year. Data is currently being compiled on homeless rates, poverty rates, suicide rates and others for inclusion in the metrics program as a baseline to measure rate reductions in the future as a result of Operation outreach.

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