VA Awards Swords to Plowshares $1 Million to Help Veteran Families

New Grant Targets Homeless and At-Risk Veterans

San Francisco, CA (PRWEB) July 19, 2012 -- Swords to Plowshares, a San Francisco-based veteran service agency, is one of 151 community-based organizations nationwide to receive the Department of Veterans Affairs Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant. The grant will provide assistance to 330 very low-income veterans and their families in San Francisco and surrounding counties.

“For decades the VA has provided us with resources to mitigate homelessness among thousands of veterans and build the most comprehensive model of care in the country,” said Michael Blecker, Executive Director of Swords to Plowshares and Vietnam veteran. “This grant will have a significant impact on our ability to deliver improved services to veterans and their families in our community and move us closer to meeting VA Secretary Shinseki’s goal of ending veteran homelessness.”

The Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant will allow Swords to Plowshares to expand services to low-income and homeless veterans and their families. Veterans will receive assistance with eviction prevention, housing acquisition, and a number of services to provide the stability needed to prevent homelessness. The SSVF services will greatly complement Swords to Plowshares’ existing array of services, including employment and training, case management and counseling and benefits advocacy.

“We know firsthand that far too many veterans are experiencing homelessness and poverty,” said Leon Winston, the Chief Operating Officer of Swords to Plowshares, a formerly homeless veteran. “The SSVF program is key to providing the stability and support veterans and their families need amidst a challenged economy and housing market.”

About Swords to Plowshares
Founded in 1974, Swords to Plowshares is a community-based not-for-profit organization that provides counseling and case management, employment and training, housing and legal assistance to homeless and low-income veterans in the San Francisco Bay Area. Swords to Plowshares promotes and protects the rights of veterans through advocacy, public education, and partnerships with local, state and national entities.

War causes wounds and suffering that last beyond the battlefield. Our mission is to heal the wounds, to restore dignity, hope, and self-sufficiency to all veterans in need, and to reduce homelessness and poverty among veterans. Learn more about the work of Swords to Plowshares, and ways in which you can help, by visiting our website at www.stp-sf.org

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