

LOCAL, ONGOING NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY THE VA IN THE DC AREA

Beds: Most veterans move into homes with nothing, and this includes a place to sleep. Donated beds are no longer an option because of the bed-bug epidemic. Mattresses and frames are an ongoing need. (Keep in mind that most VA facilities don't have the capacity to store a large number of beds.)

Welcome Home Kits: Gather a kit of basic supplies for veterans moving into new homes. Include things like cleaning supplies, laundry supplies, dishes towels, hygiene supplies and more. Hold a supply drive to collect common items.

Moving Day assistance: Most veterans don't have the resources to hire movers, or friends with the resources to help with moving furniture, home goods or other possessions/ donated supplies. Gather a few friends and a truck and help veterans move into their new homes.

Finding affordable apartments: Affordable apartments are hard to find. Encourage landlords in your community to rent to veterans. Partner with the VA to hold a housing fair.

Furniture Drive: Hold a furniture supply drive, or partner with a local Salvation Army to collection home goods for veterans.

Independent Living Skills: It can be hard to adjust after life on the street. Help veterans learn skills like budgeting, cooking and basic computer skills. Hold workshops or offer one-on-one assistance.

Job searching: Help veterans find and apply for jobs in their community. Assist with writing resumes and building interview skills. Encourage business owners to hire veterans.

Be a friend: hold monthly get-togethers for veterans who are at homeless, who've recently moved into homes, or are at risk of being homeless. Create a community of support.