

**BOG SQUADS – Taking Action to End Veterans’ Homelessness (updated 6/9/15)**



We’re now launching the next phase of our quest to end veterans’ homelessness, breaking into the following action-oriented, boots-on-the-ground (BOG) squads. Once again, ***we need your help!*** Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to volunteer for one of the listed BOG squads, and to blaze a trail through your group’s focus area, immediately developing action plans and tactics, and taking on specific roles within a specified timeline –tell us who plans on doing what by when! Remember that our strong emphasis should be on steps we can take that have a good likelihood of housing more vets within the next 5 months! If you’re ready to take this on please let me know immediately, if not sooner, and I will wrap you into the work.

Thanks,

Tod Schneider [tod.schneider@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:tod.schneider@ci.eugene.or.us) 541 682 8442

i. <b><u>PR/COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA SQUAD</u></b>	<b><u>Fearless volunteers so far</u></b>
<p>This squad will be focusing on all aspects of community education, including landlord outreach, PR for micro-housing and camps, giving voice to the homeless, reducing community fear of the homeless and building our supporter base in general. One task will be to create clear, easy to understand materials for landlords, explaining and promoting voucher programs</p>	<p>Pat Walsh (<a href="http://www.voxprpa.com">www.voxprpa.com</a>) will take the lead on this. He should have a framework put together by 6/12/15, at which point we’ll be in a better position to know how others can help, and to make an overall game plan with a time line. Larry Abel (HACSA) and Andy Vobora (LTD) offered assistance with communications. Tia Politi (Acorn Properties) and Larry Abel are already working on an outreach letter to landlords.</p>
ii. <b><u>NEW PROGRAMS &amp; FACILITIES SQUAD</u></b>	
<p>This squad will focus on quickly developing new programs or facilities, including respite beds, mass leasing, creative landlord partnerships and possibly establishing a VA community integration project.</p>	<p>Lorie Perkins (Housing Our Vets) is looking into buying at least one new building, and is exploring what can be done about one she currently runs for vets, which may require fire sprinklers in order to meet HUD requirements – an expensive proposition. Margaret Salazar (HUD) and Chuck Hauk (HACSA) are looking into options. Lorie may have an update by 6/11/15.</p> <p>For those of you with multiplexes to run, we’re generally interested in the mass leasing concept, so if you own or manage a multiplex and you’re open to partnering with others to run a vet-oriented facility, let me know.</p> <p>Stephanie Jennings offered to look into the possibility of more respite beds via Sheltercare.</p> <p>Tod Schneider is looking into replicating the Community Integration Project, currently run by Columbia Care in White City, in cooperation with the VA. (David Strain from the VA, Joseph Chick and Jody Parrott from CC helping with this). I hope to hear back about this by 6/12/15.</p>
iii. <b><u>NEW SITE SQUAD</u></b>	
<p>The New Site Squad will scour the area for properties that could be put to good use fairly quickly, with some interest already expressed in National Guard property, or city property near the fairgrounds. These might include sites for micro-housing or camp sites, but could also include delinquent, foreclosed, or otherwise distressed properties that might become available with a little support. Zoning obstacles</p>	<p>Emerald Village Eugene just announced the launch of their newly acquired site in Whiteaker neighborhood (Congratulations to Dan Bryant et al), but I don’t have any specifics on how many spots might go to vets, and it’s probably too early to say. C.S.S. is working on a new vet camp at the Mission (Thanks, Erik and Faye), and there may be room for more huts there. Electricity would also help. Funding for either would be appreciated.</p> <p>Dan was also going to look into a couple of properties for possible use for micro or alternative approaches, including the National Guard site near the fairgrounds and what was once the Naval Reserve facility nearby that was demolished. Stephanie Jennings advises that the land is city-owned and zoned for public use. She further advises, “We have been talking with Council for some time about making this a</p>

<p>might be explored. Older student housing may also find a place in the mix. One place to start might be to determine the best way to find such properties.</p> <p>On an individual basis, any of you who can reach out to institutions of any kind, to see if they would take in at least 1 vet in a Conestoga camper or equivalent, would be appreciated. Campers are screened by SVDP, then screened again by the host to find a reasonable match. (City code permits up to a maximum of 6 campers per such sites.) This not only helps out a vet, it also provides the business, church or facility with a caretaker for after hours at minimal cost.</p>	<p>landbank site for future affordable housing development but it would need a metro plan amendment first.” She further advises that, “The site on the corner of Chambers and 13th is owned by the Army National Reserve. I don’t know what their plans are for the site.”</p> <p>There was some enthusiasm at the summit regarding working out arrangements with delinquent or foreclosed properties. Great idea, but riddled with complications. Still, if the right property came along the concept would be to forgive tax arrears in exchange for an agreement to rent to vets.</p> <p>Richard Herman (Cornerstone) was going to explore possible inroads with older student housing; Mitch Trotter and James Manning were going to explore longer term family housing.</p> <p>John Brown and Wayne Martin will continue looking into River Keeper possibilities for Conestoga huts.</p> <p>C.S.S. remains interested in the Forest camp, but that’d be a complex project, not an option for extremely short term solutions.</p>
<p><b>iv. <u>IMPROVED ACCESS TO EXISTING OPTIONS SQUAD/ SERVICE DELIVERY/ CONNECTIVITY/PLACEMENT</u></b></p>	
<p>The Improved Access Squad will look for ways to streamline service delivery, improving outreach and connectivity. They’ll make sure we’re doing the best possible job identifying vets with the highest needs, building trust with them and connecting them with support services and housing that best meets their needs. This may include boosting VASH vets on various waiting lists, to get them into housing as quickly as possible; looking at ways to establish a peer network for mutual support; or making it easier for vets to recognize police officers who are veterans. The group also look for ways to strengthen police awareness of resources for vets.</p>	<p>A number of good ideas came up that fall into this category, generally having to do with doing a better job of connecting vets with existing resources. Individuals offered to help promote: identifying high acuity vets (Joby Reilly), Improving the matching of vets with providers (Ann Williams), and encouraging service workers to ask about vet status (Noreen Dunnell and Amanda McCluskey.) There was also support for improving police training and resources around responding to vets, including wearing an emblem that would make it easy for vets to know an officer was also a vet (Eric Klinko, Sam Kamkar).</p> <p>One suggestion, perhaps with the most likelihood of directly boosting the number of vets housed, is to adjust the section 8 regulations, giving vets top priority. A half dozen of you volunteered ideas or energy around this, and I believe HACSA jumped on it and already made the changes. (Thanks Larry Abel, Chuck Hauk, Dan Rupe, Richard Herman and Connor McDonnell).</p>
<p><b>v. <u>FUNDING SQUAD</u></b></p>	
<p>All of the above will be a whole lot easier if we can find funding. This squad will look for creative funding possibilities (such as dedicated tax funds), donations, and anything else they can think of. They may help sort out where to maintain a fund, as well as look for financial sweeteners with which to recruit more landlords.</p>	<p>This is obviously a challenging area, so it was greatly appreciated that John Cox (Rotary) volunteered to put some energy into this topic with the micro-housing and Conestoga breakout group. Tim Angle (SVDP) is working on a trust fund model, which would move the 365 fund under the umbrella of the HMIS Continuum of Care (stay tuned), making the fund easier for other agencies to access, perhaps. Mayor Piercy agreed to look into possibly earmarking some of the money that comes in through the rental-owner’s fee, John Brown was going to look into tax write-offs and Claire Syrett was going to look into incentives for landlords. Meyer Memorial and State Recording Fee funds may be sources for cash worth further exploration.</p>

**WONDERING HOW YOU CAN HELP? HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS:**

<b>Cash</b>	<b>Time &amp; Energy</b>	<b>Property, Buildings &amp; Construction</b>
Operation 365 fund, Home for Holidays funds for donut hole (any amount)	Recruit more spots for single Conestogas, micro-housing or trailers.	Establish high acuity housing w/ case mgt. (wet housing, TBI, dual diagnosis, etc.)
2nd Chance tuition (\$200/ person)	Recruit Landlords. We have the vouchers, but not the housing.	Provide sites for micro-housing or alternative shelters.
Hope Center Internet access (\$500)	Recruit landlords to reach out at the Stand Down, Sep. 25 <sup>TH</sup> 2015.	Build more affordable housing.
Hope Center computer, printer, fax (\$1,000)	Find multi-unit locations for micro-housing developments or Conestoga safe spots.	Donate computers, printer and fax machine to the Hope Center.
Life Change program at the Mission (\$5,000/person)	Establish Govt/Social Service Frequent flyer team / Million Dollar Murray focus	Trailer donations.
Electricity for vet row of Conestogas at mission (\$10,000)	SOAR volunteer, (requires 20 hr. on line training) to help vets with filling out applications for ID, SSI, etc.	Donate property or buildings.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance overall program funding (\$35,000 shortfall)	Volunteer with agency of your choice, drawing on your skill set.	Donate goods (i.e. construction materials, socks, sleeping bags.)
Conestoga huts (est. \$1,000 each.)	Landlords / Govt / Social Services partnership to expand opportunities.	Donate habitable trailers.
1 on 1 sponsorships of vets or vet families at imminent risk of homelessness, through SVDP (varies, avg. \$1,000/vet)	Provide liaison to landlords to help establish joint efforts.	Provide housing for registered Sex Offender s(RSO).
HC remodeling (\$43,000)	Host bake sales, yard sales, pizza nights, dance marathons, etc.	
Two additional case managers for Mission (\$100,000)		
Ongoing case management or agency funding of your choice.		

If any of this grabs you but you're not sure who to contact in order to pursue it, contact: Tod Schneider, 541-682-8442  
[tod.schneider@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:tod.schneider@ci.eugene.or.us)