

HELPING OUR HOMELESS VETERANS



The Hands Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization started by brothers Darrell and Chauncey Marrier of the bands Fragile and Rosewater to "Help Those in Need". In 2011, The Hands Foundation became aware of the shocking numbers of homeless veterans who were also under-clothed for the cold seasons of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Items We Need

Donations of warm clothing and cold-weather gear have been essential and public donations of these items have been remarkable. Important items include:

- quilts / blankets
- winter boots
- new mens underwear
- sleeping bags
- socks and long johns
- winter coats
- travel size toiletry items
- backpacks

Quilt donations were the beginning of this project. Giving the Vets a hand made quilt made just for them goes a long way to build trust and create future opportunities to help. If you are interested in making or donating quilts, please contact us. In lieu of clothing donations, monetary donations may be made with checks payable to: **The Hands Foundation**. All donations go directly to the beneficiaries with nothing taken out for administrative costs. For more information or to donate, please contact Scott or Deb Marrier at 715-229-4456.

The Numbers

According to various sources the numbers of Homeless Veterans is increasing rapidly. There are anywhere from 76,000* to 200,000** Veterans on the street on any given night. In the course of a year, the total is estimated to reach over 400,000. These are conservative numbers.

- Homeless Veterans make up 25% of the total homeless population in the U.S.
- 38% of Homeless Veterans are from the Iraq and Afghanistan Campaigns.

Help-A-Vet

Help-A-Vet, based in Minneapolis, MN, was formed by Veteran Tom McKenna, to deal with the growing numbers of Homeless Veterans in his home city of Minneapolis. A partnership was formed with the common goal of eradicating the Homeless Veteran epidemic in this country. The McKenna's are an integral part of the process, and this project would not be possible without their commitment and sacrifices. Tom and Jessi McKenna give a legitimate and passionate voice to the struggles of the Homeless Veterans.

Goals for the Future

While we're proud of our work so far, there is much left to do. Donations of clothing and items will keep the Vets going for now, but the long term goals are jobs and housing. We are currently expanding our reach and will soon start collecting and handing out items in Nashville, TN, working with local Veterans groups and Homeless shelters in the area. The Homeless Veterans Project will become a national campaign as we aim to raise awareness and work with others to erase the phrase "Homeless Veteran".

*U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

**The National Coalition for the Homeless



Rosewater

Rosewater is an outlaw bluegrass / rock n' roll band which was formed by the Marrier Brothers. The band has created a signature live event based around a 1930's era "Shotgun Wedding" in order to raise awareness and collect goods for the veterans. The audience is encouraged to wear clothing as if they are attending an actual wedding reception. Vintage style clothing is also welcomed. They are also asked to bring a "wedding gift" in the form of items for our Homeless Veterans. A list of needs are provided for each event. So far, The Hands Foundation and Rosewater have collected, and along with Help-A-Vet, handed out over 1,500 quilts and over 21,000 survival items to the veterans.

www.handsfoundation.com

www.rosewaterband.com