

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: American Legion Post 29****Federal Tax ID: 92-0121987****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

# American Legion Post 29 - Homeless and Disabled Veterans Assistance

**State Funding Requested: \$50,000****House District: Anchorage Areawide (16-32)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:**

Assisting Homeless and Disabled Veterans with daily living necessities.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost: \$50,000

Funding Already Secured: (\$0)

FY2013 State Funding Request: (\$50,000)

Project Deficit: \$0

*Funding Details:**2010, 2011, 2012, community donation, bake sales, sponsorship activities.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

American Legion Post 29 Muldoon and Vets Helping Vets are partnering to assist homeless and disabled veterans with daily living necessities, such as clothing, warm winter gear, food, work, bus passes, transportation, hygiene capabilities, and educational opportunities. We encourage our veterans to use us as a stepping stone to pull themselves back up on their feet while pursuing a full time job. We offer our veterans a hand UP, not a hand OUT, empowering them to regain control of their lives once again while improving their way of life for themselves and their families.

**Project Timeline:**

Time line is ongoing, as we assist veterans daily, as well as using expenditures daily.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

American Legion Post 29 and Vets Helping Vets

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Chuck Boring  
 Title: Commander Aide  
 Address: 1467 Muldoon Road  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99504  
 Phone Number: (907)338-3550  
 Email: vetshelpingvets01@yahoo.com

Total Project Snapshot Report

2012 Legislature

TPS Report 58137v1

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No

## VETS HELPING VETS

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ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, 99507  
907-433-0011  
Vetshelpingvets01@yahoo.com

*"Making a difference one person at a time"*

September 8, 2011

Subject: Proposal for funding for assisting homeless and disabled veterans in Alaska

Requested Amount: \$50,000.00

### Purpose of Proposal

To assist our homeless and disabled veterans with the daily living necessities needed for survival and to provide them with the information as to how to obtain a better quality of life for themselves and/or their families with a hand up, not a hand out.

### Project Description

A community based veterans organization called "Vets Helping Vets" that is established and licensed in Anchorage, Alaska. Vets Helping Vets or "VHV" focuses on providing social and health care services to the homeless and disabled veterans of our community thru assistance with food, clothing, transportation, education when available, and referral management for shelter when needed. Through providing this type of assistance and veteran information to our veterans it proves to have a direct and positive effect on the well being of the homeless and disabled veterans in our community.

VHV utilizes volunteers who are veterans or military related, i.e. spouses or children of veterans, in the organization. Each volunteer is required to complete an intake form, interview and placed on 90 day trial basis. Volunteers demonstrate proficiency during the 90 day period and are expected to contribute 5 days a week, at minimal each week, not to exceed 6 days in a week for at least a period of 3 months.

VHV operates with at least 5 in house staff and no less than a 6 crew member staff. In addition board members are appointed with volunteer veterans and community volunteers to provide overall sanctioning of the organizations operations. Periodic evaluations are conducted to assess the proficiency

of work, attitude and the value of how VHV is helping the volunteer and veterans based on improvement of social and healthcare needs of the individual.

## Background Information/Statement of Problem

Vets Helping Vets was developed and designed to assist our veterans, which are our nation's heroes to transition, develop and live long and productive healthy lives as civilians with self worth.

Major obstacles of VHV is homelessness, hunger, inadequate warm winter gear to prevent hypothermia for homeless veterans, transportation and adequate accessibility for our disabled veterans that deal with many of the obstacles listed above. A serious problem that exist is veterans dying in the streets from common illnesses in the winter months, infections from lack of medical care and/or no means of transportation to receive proper medical care, and very poor nutrition. Research has shown we have over 25,000 homeless veterans in Alaska, many of them over 40 and unemployed due to disabilities or no current address. The survival rate for our veterans is very low because of the obstacles they face every day.

The use of volunteers to provide service to VHV was a concept developed and used in a viable way as to keep the cost of employee manpower down, as this allows us to pay in a set stipend pay each day. Paying in such a way is another way we can assist our homeless veterans with day to day living.

## Project Detail

### Goal and Objectives

There are two major goals for Vets Helping Vets and specific objectives within each of the goals.

Goal #1- To reduce the number and degree of homeless veterans and lack of medical care for our disabled and homeless veterans.

- Objective #1.1 – To provide veterans with relevant information regarding the specific channels needed to navigate through regarding medical benefits and care as well as daily living necessities.
- Objective #2.1 – To assist veterans in learning how to effectively apply healthy, nutritional and medical information to empower them putting them in control of their own lives in a normal productive manner to sustain the rest of their years.
- Objective #3.1 – To teach veterans how to evaluate changes and adapt to changes by making the best decision to ensure they continue to live normal healthy lives off of the streets.

Goal #2 – To effectively use volunteers as a major factor in helping our veterans to learn and assist where needed.

- Objective #2.1 – To recruit a group of military related volunteers.
- Objective #2.2 – To provide a 90 day trial basis and knowledge of the organization and the information contacts to properly assist veterans.

## Clientele

There are two different clientele groups for this organization.

The first, and primary, are the veterans that reside in the state of Alaska.

The second group is the volunteers that participate in assisting our veterans in the state of Alaska.

Both groups are important and essential components of this organization. It is expected that significant learning and developing takes place for both groups.

The primary methods for achieving the goals and objectives of the organization:

- An organization that becomes a focal point for providing information on food, clothing, education, transportation, nutrition, hygiene, housing , and basic daily living skills for veterans through one-on-one and group assistance.
- An organization that continues to develop in recruitment and training programs for volunteers that is modeled after the program.

In addition, a plan will be developed by volunteers and board members to guarantee a collection of information of all services that are related to assisting veterans and sharing with similar organizations for growth.

## Volunteer/Staff Administration

The organization will carry a variable number of volunteer staff, as it encourages veterans to develop a normal way of life and living compared to the alternative of the streets, giving a hand up, not a hand out, each veteran must accomplish a goal within the organization to ensure the improvement of their quality of life.

Project President/Director (full time)- Responsible for hiring project volunteers, overseeing project development and operation, establishing and maintaining links with local government agencies, community relationships, schedules, assisting in collecting information and disseminating to volunteers to assist veterans, along with maintaining structure and appearance of the organization and budget. The Project President/Director will be Calista Anderson (author of this proposal).

Governing Board- Made up of both community volunteers and organization volunteers. Responsible for sanctioning the operation of the organization and providing feedback to the Project President/Director on the organization policies and operations.

Board Members are as follows: President, Calista Anderson, Board of Directors/Secretary, Sallie Neal, Board of Directors, Melvin Mathis, Board of Directors, Jason Heinz, Board Member Liaison, Carylee Kilgrow.

Available Resources within the VHV organization

- Building- small building for use for food service, clothing, personal item storage, laundry use, small personal hygiene use, community information, as well as the Vets Helping Vets thrift store.

Needed Resources

Funding for monthly operating expenses, i.e., food, gas, monthly rent and utilities as well as expansion to have the accessibility to further assist our community veterans, building modifications for handicapped accessibility entrance and restrooms, basic medical care assistance, adequate and safer transportation, educational classes and benefits for our veterans.

Equipment Needed

Copy machine

Chairs and tables for eating purposes

Store sign

15 passenger van for transportation

Locking storage cabinets

Conclusion

In conclusion, this funding would be a great benefit to the Vets Helping Vets organization and the community veterans and their families. The veterans of Alaska need a program that uplifts them while empowering them to strive for a better way of life, ensuring them they are not left behind or falling through the cracks without an outreach. Funding this program will ensure that Vets Helping Vets can continue to reach out to our community veterans and begin to move so many from the status of homeless to "housed" (if you will), and from disabled, not physically, but some mentally and emotionally. Please consider and approve this proposal keeping in mind the many lives that could be helped, as they helped in several ways, with a number of them losing their lives to ensure we have the free and wonderful quality of life that we so enjoy today.

Sincerely,

Calista Anderson, President  
Vets Helping Vets

Sir,

I am an active duty Soldier with 17 years in the Army, with three combat tours to Iraq. I think the Vets helping Vets organization is an extremely beneficial organization. They really help and support our military veterans. It would be very beneficial if this amazing organization could get funding from the state of Alaska. They handle anything from feeding, supporting and just giving back to our veterans. The funding would help them with transportation to and from work, food, warm clothing and a number of things to ensure our veterans are well taken care of. These veterans have always put our nation first, it's time we get involved and be there for them. Please consider funding this organization, it will benefit all of our veterans.

Thank you in advance,

Staff Sergeant William H. Anderson