

Welcome Home Baskets for Veterans

Did you know?

According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, it is estimated that 39,471 veterans across the country are homeless on any given night. 11% of the homeless adult population are veterans. 20% of the male homeless population are veterans. 50% are age 51, or older.

Approximately 12,700 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND) were homeless in 2010. The number of young homeless veterans is increasing, but only constitutes 8.8% of the overall homeless veteran population.

HUD-VASH is a joint program between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that provides supportive housing with case management services to Veterans experiencing homelessness. This program aims to **serve those who have served** by targeting chronically homeless veterans in need of intense case management services. The VA Connecticut Healthcare System HUD-VASH program has sites in Newington and West Haven.

We need your help!

Many of these veterans are moving into VA housing with limited resources. Volunteers are invited to take action through the creation of a Welcome Home Basket. Volunteers are encouraged to purchase new household items such as a set of dishes, bedding, kitchen-ware, personal hygiene items, and cleaning supplies and assemble a Welcome Home basket. Laundry baskets make a great base in which to assemble items into for new apartment dwellers. Assembled Welcome Home Baskets can be dropped off in the Social Work Department (Jefferson Building Suite 113). The baskets will then be brought to the VA in Newington.

- Please see attached Supply List for ideas.
- Use the pictures attached as examples, but feel free to get creative with your baskets!

Goal

Hartford Hospital employees will collect needed household items and assemble Welcome Home Baskets to be donated to recently housed Veterans.

Process

- Volunteers will donate various themed baskets filled with new items from the supply list attached.
- **Please deliver baskets to the Social Work Department Suite (JB113) during drop-off times.**
 - **Wednesday, October 31 8am-4pm**
 - **Thursday, November 1st 7am-4pm**
 - **Friday, November 2nd 8am-4pm**
- **Deadline for basket dropoff is Friday, November 2nd. For alternative drop off times, please arrange with your department's social worker.**
- The Welcome Home Baskets will be brought to the VA (Newington and West Haven locations) and then distributed to veterans moving into housing through the HUD-VASH program.

Helpful information

To learn more visit the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans at <http://www.nchv.org> and the HUD-VASH program <http://www.connecticut.va.gov/services/homeless>

Contact **Kerry Hoyt at 860-972-9109** or **Felicia Velez at 860-972-5186** with additional questions.

Welcome Home Baskets for Veterans

Example Supply List

Bathroom items

- Bath towels
- Washclothes
- Toilet plunger
- Toilet brush
- Shower curtain
- Shower curtain hooks



Cleaning Supplies

- Dryer sheets
- Dishwashing soap
- Handsoap
- Laundry detergent
- Multipurpose cleaner
- Mop
- Broom
- Dustpan



Kitchen items

- Dishes
- Plastic cups
- Cooking utensils
- Silverware
- Pots & pans
- Dish towels
- Can opener



Paper goods

- Paper towels
- Napkins
- Toilet paper
- Tissues

General items

- Laundry basket
- Trash can
- Trash bags
- Ziploc bags
- Tin foil/plastic wrap