



www.eastbaystanddown.org

PO Box 2196
Danville, CA 94526

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers needed for event to help East Bay Homeless Veterans

Pleasanton - May 28, 2010 – Over this Memorial Day weekend, many Americans will be remembering those who gave their lives for our freedom. It may also be an appropriate time to remember – and help – some of our veterans who have suffered losses of a different kind. Organizers of the East Bay Stand Down are now looking to recruit 1,500 volunteers to support a large-scale event at the Alameda County Fairgrounds this August to assist displaced, needy, and homeless Veterans and their families. Concerned citizens with various skills and ability are needed to support the operation of a “tent city” at the fairgrounds, which will be in operation from August 5-8.

Volunteer jobs include preparing and serving meals, escorting veterans to appointments, setting up and breaking down camp, and many other support functions. In addition to volunteers, the Stand Down is also looking for additional financial support, loan of equipment and services (one need is the use of a refrigerator truck), temporary construction fencing around the site, and donations of such things as new male and female underwear, socks, recent paperbacks, and games.

“Stand Down” is a term used during war to describe the practice of removing combat troops from the field and taking care of their basic needs in a safe area, and this same concept has been successfully used to provide assistance to veterans who are on the streets or close to losing jobs, family connections, and housing.

The East Bay Stand Down (EBS D) is one of the largest event of its kind in the nation, serving up to 500 men and women veterans and their families. After screening to ensure eligibility and verify need, participants are bussed in from various points throughout the Bay Area and transported to the event site. Once checked in, the Veterans will receive food, clothing, shelter, showers, haircuts and other basic necessities. VA and Military Health Care providers will be available to assist with physical, dental, and mental health needs, and counselors are present to address substance abuse issues, employment options, veterans benefits and spiritual concerns.



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Since the first EBSD in 1999, these events have continued on a bi-annual basis, and have proven to be uniquely effective in helping to break the cycle of homelessness among some Veterans. The objective of the EBSD this year is to place 20% of the eligible participants directly into follow-on programs. Opportunities that can lead to direct employment are provided. Other connections with community agencies can help with stabilization of the participants' lives, helping these Veterans to come in off the street and become productive citizens.

According to Jerry Yahiro, Director of the Stand Town, volunteers are the lifeblood of this program and extend the ability of the program to work with the maximum number of veterans on a limited budget. "Many of our volunteers come back year after year" he said "there is a great sense of accomplishment, camaraderie, and team spirit among those who work the event".

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION:

Those wishing to sign up as volunteers or donate to EBSD can register and view a list of needs at <http://www.eastbaystanddown.org>

Check contributions may be sent to Diablo Valley Veterans Foundation (DVVF/EBSD), PO Box 2196, Danville CA 94526.

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