

**Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, Inc.**

**119 N. West Street**

**Wheaton, IL 60187**

**P: 630-871-8387 F: 630-653-6748**

**[www.helpaveteran.org](http://www.helpaveteran.org)**

100 Heroes to Heroes Campaign

PURPOSE: MSHV is seeking out 100 individuals, foundations or corporations to donate \$2,500 per year for two years. Your “100 Heroes” donation can be made in installments that fit your budget or it can be donated all at once, at your discretion. No matter how you allocate your gift, this program allows MSHV to meet all of our operational budget needs for 2010 and 2011- above and beyond what we raise in grants and other donations.

INTRODUCTION: The shelter is a not-for-profit transitional housing program that provides assistance to U.S. veterans of any era for the opportunity to return to useful and productive lives by providing them with the skills for independent living.

MISSION STATEMENT: To Serve Those Who Served The Nation.

VISION STATEMENTS:

- The shelter will be at the forefront of transitional housing programs for veterans in the nation.
- The shelter will be the model program for community-based transitional housing programs for veterans in the nation.
- The shelter will continue to grow and develop 30% every two years though community –based, corporate, foundation, and government funding.
- The shelter will be a model of fiscal responsibility and stewardship.
- The shelter will strive to develop and provide unique and innovative services to those we serve.
- The shelter will strive to be excellent community members in the communities we reside in.

SERVICES: The shelter provides a variety of independent living/transitional housing services including: education (GED/College advising), psychotherapy, substance abuse assessment and treatment, legal assistance, job training, and employment/career opportunities. In addition, the shelter has developed cooperative relationships with hospitals, physicians, lawyers, educators, and business professionals in the community to provide services offsite. Staff and volunteers provide transportation to these appointments. Independent living skills such as budgeting, housekeeping, and preparation of meals are developed through staff assistance. The Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans (MSHV) is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit corporation, incorporated in 2000 in the State of Illinois.

HISTORY: MSHV was founded and incorporated in 2000 by Robert M. Adams of Winfield, Illinois. Mr. Adams is a US Navy combat veteran of the Vietnam era, and a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) in private practice. Over the past years, Mr. Adams, through his private practice, has been providing individual, group, and family therapy especially for veterans. Mr. Adams has specialized training in the treat of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) of which many veterans in his practice are afflicted.

In 2004, Dirk Enger of Winfield, a USMC combat veteran of Operation Desert Storm and a Union Iron Worker joined Mr. Adams in working with government agencies, veteran service organizations, trade unions, and other entities in exploring the possibility of opening a transitional housing program for veterans of all eras in DuPage County, Illinois. In 2005, a very active Board of Directors was developed, and they are all very involved in the further development of this organization (see Exhibit A). In the fall of 2005, MSHV entered into an agreement to lease (with an option to purchase) a single family home at 119 N. West St. in Wheaton, Illinois to serve as our inaugural shelter. In November 2005, the Wheaton City Council granted MSHV a special use permit, and a zoning change to use the property as a transitional housing program. In January 2006, the City of Wheaton Group Care Home Commission issued a license to MSHV to operate a group care facility upon purchase of the property. In February 2006, the DuPage County Community Development Office awarded the MSHV a \$300,000 grant through the Federal Community Development Block Grant program to use for a capital expenditure for the property. The property was purchased in June 2006. In the fall of 2006, the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs awarded MSHV a capital grant to aid in the purchase of the home, as well as a van for outreach and shelter transportation purposes. A full-time Case Manager, and full time House Manager Staff was hired and trained, and we opened our doors to veterans on January 08, 2007. A grand opening was held on January 20, 2007 with 250 people in attendance. The Board of Directors officially named the shelter the LCpl Nicholas Larson Home for Veterans, in memory of a Wheaton native who was killed in action in Iraq in 2004.

We currently are at full capacity, with a small waiting list. Since the Shelter opened in 2007, twenty-nine veterans have gone through the program. The MSHV program has a 71% success rate (meaning that veterans are housed, employed and substance free) upon completion of the program, with 66 percent of the vets remaining housed, employed and substance free after one year. The average length of stay for a veteran is 9 months. MSHV is the **only** veteran specific transitional housing program in DuPage County. The MSHV program has been cited as the model program for a transitional housing facility in Illinois by the VA Medical Center at Hines Hospital and by the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

FINANCIAL NEED: As applications from veterans continue to pour in, currently our greatest financial need is for operations money. While we have been successful in our development efforts through fundraisers, we currently only have enough operations funds for approximately 6-8 months while we wait for the awarding of foundation and other grants. Through our budgeting process, we approximate the monthly operational expenses run between \$20,000 and \$25,000 including personnel, utilities, supplies, and food.

According to the 2008 audit report, MSHV spends 81 percent of the operating budget on the program services, 8 percent on management and general expenses, and 11 percent on fundraising expenses. MSHV received 66 percent of the 2008 operating expenses from foundation grants and public contributions, 23 percent from government grants, and 11 percent from fundraising efforts.

More detailed budget and financial information is available on request.

If you can answer the “100 Heroes” call, please contact:

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Anita L. Dierks  
Executive Director  
C: 630-346-6877  
[anita@mshv.org](mailto:anita@mshv.org)

or

Bob Adams  
President  
C: 708-567-4075  
[llnrma321@aol.com](mailto:llnrma321@aol.com)

## **Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans**

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Elaine Moss, DuPage County Social Service Administrator

Terry Owens, DuPage County Social Services Case Manager

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### 100 Heroes Donation Slip

I'd like to make a donation to the Midwest Shelter in the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_

\$2,500 a year for 2 years. Payment plans are acceptable.

If you choose the payment plan contact:

Anita L. Dierks at (630) 871-VETS to make your arrangements.

Enclosed is my check for the 1<sup>st</sup> years' donation of \$2,500.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support. A reminder will be mailed for your 2<sup>nd</sup> donation to complete the 2 year pledge.

Please make check payable to: Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans or (MSHV)  
and return this form with your donation to 119 North West Street, Wheaton, IL 60187.