



ARIZONA STANDDOWN

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For Immediate Release

Phoenix confirms end of veteran chronic homelessness at 13th Annual StandDown 3-Day Event Connecting Homeless and At-Risk Veterans with Services

PHOENIX (February 11, 2014)- More than 1,500 homeless and at-risk military veterans are expected to receive temporary haven and assistance during the 2014 Arizona StandDown, a three-day event beginning Friday, February 14th at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix. The Arizona Veteran's StandDown is coordinated as a D.B.A. of the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness.

StandDown is a military term that refers to a brief period of time for a soldier to leave an active combat area, to rest and regain strength before returning to battle. The Arizona StandDown seeks to offer a hand up to former members of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Valley who now battle with homelessness and life on the streets. The event's goals are to increase the community's awareness of the plight of the homeless American veteran. Over 70 human service providers will be onsite to help veterans regain their independence. The event includes: a robust Municipal and Superior Court System, full service Motor Vehicle Division office on-site, Social Security Administration office, a myriad services housing programs, medical clinic, and other wellness services including acupuncture. Last year's StandDown served 1,510 veterans; over 100 chronically homeless veterans have secured housing since.

Project H3 VETS will be confirming an end to Veteran Chronic Homelessness in Phoenix though data collected at the Arizona StandDown. Saturday morning, partner leaders will be celebrating the milestone at a Victory Ceremony, highlighting the best practices and coordination that has led to its success. Each organization's Director will briefly speak to their commitment to the end of Veteran Chronic Homelessness in the Valley and an end of all homelessness for the future. Project H3 VETS leadership will be available briefly for questions and interviews at the end of the program. The speaking event will be followed by City of Phoenix's H.E.R.O Hiring event and the continuation of the StandDown services.

Project H3 VETS is a special initiative coordinated by the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness, partnering with the Phoenix VA Health Care System, Arizona Department of Veteran Services, Arizona Department of Housing, Valley of the Sun United Way, Community Bridges Inc., City of Phoenix and other community partners.

- Who:** As many as 1,500 homeless and at-risk military veterans are expected during the 3-day event. Victory Ceremony featuring Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, Governor Jan Brewer, and other collaborating partners will be held on the second day.
- What:** 2013 Arizona StandDown, a 3-day event benefitting homeless and at-risk military veterans.
- Where:** Veterans memorial Coliseum – 1826 W. McDowell Road in Phoenix – South Exhibit Hall. Enter 17th avenue off McDowell Road, park South of the Coliseum. Media and invited dignitaries are asked to check in at volunteer registration table.
- When:** Doors open 8AM on Friday February 14th. Victory Ceremony will be held on Saturday, February 15th at 9:00 AM.
- Why:** To provide rest and recuperation for homeless veterans and connect them with housing and services to regain independence.

Arizona StandDown is a community collaboration of:



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AZCEH provides limited fiduciary services for the Arizona Veterans StandDown Coalition, an unincorporated association of 30+ member agencies. For more information about the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness, visit www.azceh.org. AZCEH is a 501(c)(3), Non-Profit Tax ID #: 86-0909029

For more information about Arizona StandDown, please visit our website at www.arizonastanddown.org or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/azstanddown