

YWCA Henderson House
for
Homeless Women Veterans
of
New Mexico



Lieutenant Colonel Patricia Gaston
(Ret)

Homeless Female Veterans

- Currently over 1.8 million women Veterans
- Any given night 7,000 of them end up homeless
- This is four times that of civilian females

Unique Female Veteran Issues

- ◉ Homeless female Veterans have significant histories of trauma
- ◉ Exposure to trauma impacts all aspects of their daily functioning
- ◉ Female Veterans do not always self-identify as Veterans
- ◉ Often find themselves without a support network
- ◉ Services tailored to them are minimal

YWCA Henderson House

- Established in April 2011 by Caroline Margolis, President of YWCA



- House first of its kind for homeless female Veterans and those with children

Henderson House Continued

- The House accommodates up to ten women without children
- Residents can stay up to two years- average stay six to eight months
- Program provides case management, assistance in education, finance, budgeting and stress management



Henderson House Continued

- Graduating residents leave productive, financially stable and with a renewed sense of self
- Collaboration with other organization makes it possible for our ladies to transition back into society
- They include VA, NM Department of Veteran Services, Women Veterans of NM, Road Runner Food Bank, University of NM Veteran Services, NM Workforce Solutions, Goodwill Industries, Central NM Community College, Military Service organizations, civic organizations, governmental employees and individuals

Military Sexual Trauma (MST) / Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

- PTSD – a mental health condition that's triggered by a terrifying event
- Symptoms include flash backs, nightmares, and severe anxiety, as well as uncontrollable thoughts about the event
- Affects - inability to concentrate, constantly on guard, reliving the event
- Result - anxiety, depression, substance abuse, sleep disorders, weight gain, etc



New Mexico State Benefits

- ◉ **100% Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption**
- ◉ **Exemption from Excise Taxes on Vehicle Purchases**
Any veteran who has suffered the loss, or complete loss of use of a limb
- ◉ **Veterans' Service Organization Property Tax Exemption**

State Benefits Continued

- ◉ **Vietnam Veteran Scholarship**
Veterans who have been residents of New Mexico for a minimum of 10 years
- ◉ **In-State Tuition for Veterans,**
their spouses and their children
- ◉ **Children of Deceased Veterans**
16-26 whose veteran parent was killed in action or died as a result of their wounds incurred in battle, qualify for a full tuition

State Benefits Continued

- ◉ **National Guard and Reserves Defined as Veterans**
to anyone honorably discharged after serving six consecutive years as a member of the Reserve or Guard Forces
- ◉ **New Mexico Personnel Office Veterans Hiring Preference**
- ◉ **Business Tax Credit for Hiring Recently-Returned Veterans**

State Benefits continued

- 5% Procurement Advantage for Veteran-Owned Businesses or Contractors
- Veterans' Day Recreation and Museum Privileges
- Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License for 100% Disabled Veterans
- Veterans' License Plates

