



To: GI Josie and potential supporters

From: Slavko Miling, Relationship Manager Office of the Veteran Experience

North Atlantic District (NAD), New England Area

As a Relationship Manager, I and the Veterans Administration recognize the urgent need for organizations such as GI Josie to help woman Veterans transition back into civilian life, overcome their traumas, and becoming healthy and productive members of our communities. Mission of the Office of the Veterans Experience is to assist and support all public private partnerships that provide services for all the Veterans.

VA recognizes that because of current laws and funding, VA cannot provide every service that the Veterans potentially needs as well as some Veterans may not qualify for VA benefits, therefore, organizations like Josie are critical in bridging the gap between VA provided benefits and the services Veterans need.

The number of homeless woman Veterans has doubled from 2006-2010. Homelessness and lack of affordable housing for Woman Veterans is expected to rise as percentage of woman in the military increases. Women make up 8% of the total Veteran population which is expected to increase substantially in the next decade.

While VA has number of homeless Veteran programs currently offered Veterans, trust is a major obstacle in obtaining care for woman Veterans, especially woman suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Military Sexual Trauma (MST). Organizations exclusively dedicated to providing services to woman Veterans to overcome their fears and gain the trust of others is critical in allowing woman Veterans to overcome their trauma and regain their life. GI Josie is such an organization that will provide dedicated service for woman Veterans in need.

Sincerely

Slavko Miling

Slavko Miling, USAF Retired

Relationship Manager, North Atlantic District