



OCTOBER 2026 ★ VOLUME II ★ ISSUE IV

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE

Dear Friends,

At New Directions for Veterans, we see what is possible when veterans have access to safe housing, supportive services, and people who believe in their ability to move forward. As we enter the fall season, I am grateful for the many people and organizations who continue to make our work possible.

One of those valued partners is The Home Depot Foundation. Their generous support helps us strengthen the housing and supportive services we provide to veterans and create spaces where they can find stability, heal, and build a path toward a fulfilling future. We are grateful for their commitment and for the many partners who share our belief in the potential of every veteran we serve.

This spirit of community will also be at the heart of our Honoring Our Heroes Gala on November 8 at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

We hope you will join us for a special evening celebrating our veterans, recognizing the people who support them, and coming together around a shared commitment to veteran success.

As we look toward the holiday season, I encourage you to find a way to be part of this mission. Whether through a donation, volunteer service, attendance at our gala, or simply sharing our work with others, your support makes a difference.

Thank you for standing with us and, most importantly, for standing with the men and women who have served our country. Together, we can continue opening doors, creating opportunities, and helping veterans build the future they deserve.

With Gratitude,



Leo Cuadrado, M.B.A
Captain (Ret.), USMC
Executive Director



Putting Veterans First Since 1992
NEW DIRECTIONS *for* VETERANS

Honoring Our Heroes Gala 2026

6:30 pm | *Cocktail Reception*

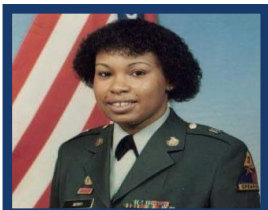
7:30 pm - 9 pm | *Dinner and Program*

SUNDAY **NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM**
NOVEMBER 8, 2026 **OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

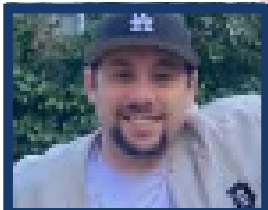


**TAKE A LOOK BACK AT OUR PAST HONOREES
AND JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THIS YEAR'S HEROES!!**

2025



DONITA BERRY
United States Army



SETH FERRARO
United States Marine Corps



ANTHONY ROBINSON
United States Army

2024



JOY BRICKHOUSE
United States Army



DARRYL MOSBY SR.
United States Marine Corps



DANIEL MARTIN
United States Army

**CLICK HERE OR
SCAN THE QR
CODE TO RESERVE
YOUR TABLE TODAY**



QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

PLEASE CONTACT:

SCOTT BRUMER

SBRUMER@NDVETS.ORG | 310.806.8413

THE GIFT OF DIGNITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND HOPE

When we launched the America 250: Veteran Opportunity Center Renewal Capital Campaign in 2025, we did so with a simple goal: to preserve and improve a place that has supported veterans for generations. The campaign focuses on essential improvements throughout the Veteran Opportunity Center (VOC), including modernizing elevators, renovating communal restrooms, replacing flooring, repainting the building, and addressing roofing needs.

Originally constructed in 1930, the VOC continues to serve veterans by providing shelter, meals, case management, and connections to treatment and benefits. As the building approaches its centennial year, ongoing investments are essential to preserving both its functionality and the quality of care veterans receive every day.

"OUR VETERANS ARE EXCITED AND LOOKING FORWARD TO THE RENOVATED RESTROOMS. WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL TO THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THIS CRITICAL EFFORT."

**— LEONARDO CUADRADO,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NDVETS**

Thanks to the generosity of public and private partners, many of these improvements are already underway. Among the most impactful recent investments is support from The Home Depot Foundation, whose renewed commitment is making it possible to refurbish the facility's communal restrooms. This project will improve accessibility, reduce safety risks, and enhance the overall quality of life for the veterans who call the VOC home.

Leading up to construction, staff worked closely with facility teams to identify upgrades that would have the greatest impact on veteran well-being. The renovations are designed to better accommodate veterans with mobility and sensory impairments while creating spaces that promote dignity, comfort, and independence.





BUILDING IMPACT TOGETHER

Our partnership with The Home Depot Foundation began in 2012 and has grown into a meaningful collaboration spanning multiple veteran housing and service programs. Throughout the years, Foundation support has helped build an Edible Garden at the Veteran Opportunity Center, provide furnishings that enhance veteran well-being, address facility repairs, and strengthen several permanent supportive housing initiatives.

Beyond the physical improvements, this partnership demonstrates the power of community collaboration in creating environments where veterans can thrive. Together, we are helping ensure that those who served our nation have access to facilities that support healing, stability, and long-term success.

"COMMUNITY PARTNERS LIKE THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION LEAD THE WAY – MAKING THE CONTINUING MISSION OF OUR ORGANIZATION POSSIBLE. THROUGH THE FOUNDATION'S GENEROSITY WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENHANCE THE LIVES OF VETERANS WHO DEPEND ON US, WHILE PROVIDING THEM THE DIGNITY THEY DESERVE."

As renovation work continues, we remain grateful for those who share our commitment to serving veterans. Their support helps preserve a historic facility while creating lasting improvements that will benefit veterans for many years to come.

— JOHN COHN,
CHAIRMAN
OF THE BOARD, NDVETS

"WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT NEW DIRECTIONS FOR VETERANS AND THE VETERAN OPPORTUNITY CENTER RENEWAL CAMPAIGN, HELPING TO CREATE A SAFER, MORE ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENT WHERE VETERANS CAN HEAL AND REBUILD."

— ERIN IZEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION

ONE YEAR ONE COMMUNITY

This year, we celebrated the one-year anniversary of our two newest permanent supportive housing communities, MacArthur A & B, located on the West LA VA Campus. Today, these apartments are home to 150 veterans and their families, providing more than a place to live. They have become a true community.

Each week, Resident Service Coordinators (RSCs) bring residents together through a variety of activities and programs, including cooking classes and a weekly gardening workshop led by dedicated volunteer.



To celebrate one year in their new homes, residents gathered for an afternoon of sweets, laughter, and entertainment from four veteran comedians. It was a fun opportunity to come together, celebrate new beginnings, and recognize the community that residents have built together over the past year.

**HERE'S TO ONE YEAR OF NEW BEGINNINGS
AND A PLACE TO TRULY CALL HOME!**



SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER



THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, AS WE PREPARE FOR THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS, WE WELCOME IN-KIND DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS TO HELP MAKE THESE OCCASIONS SPECIAL FOR THE VETERANS WE SERVE.

WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO DONATE, ORGANIZE A COLLECTION DRIVE, VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME, OR SUPPORT OUR HOLIDAY EVENTS, THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GIVE BACK THIS SEASON.

TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP MAKE THE HOLIDAYS A LITTLE BRIGHTER FOR THE VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We're looking for volunteers of all abilities to help assemble Christmas gift bags for the veterans we serve. Join us in spreading holiday cheer and making the season welcoming, festive, and full of hope .

INTERESTED?

Please Contact:
Olivia Russell
orussell@ndvets.org
310-927-6645

CLICK OR SCAN
HERE AND LEARN MORE
ABOUT YOU CAN
SUPPORT VETERANS
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Opening Doors to Stability and Opportunity

Every veteran's journey toward stability begins with a safe place to call home. On October 1st, we are proud to expand our reach with a new transitional housing property on 25th Street in South Los Angeles.

The home will provide safe shelter for up to 14 unhoused veterans, while serving as a critical entry point into our comprehensive network of supportive services and housing.

For many unhoused veterans, securing shelter is the first step toward rebuilding their lives. While emergency housing addresses immediate needs, long-term success requires access to a broader system of care that includes: case management, healthcare navigation, employment support, benefits assistance, behavioral health services, and pathways to permanent housing.

Our 25th Street house was secured with that vision in mind.

As demand for veteran housing services continues to exceed available resources, investments in properties such as the 25th Street home, help ensure that more veterans have access to the support they need when they need it most. The property represents more than a real estate investment, it reflects our continued commitment to creating housing solutions that address the complex challenges faced by veterans in Los Angeles County.



"EVERY VETERAN DESERVES NOT ONLY A SPACE TO FEEL SAFE, BUT A CLEAR PATHWAY TOWARD HEALING, STABILITY, AND INDEPENDENCE. THIS HOME EXPANDS OUR ABILITY TO MEET VETERANS WHERE THEY ARE AND HELP THEM MOVE TOWARD THE FUTURE THEY DESERVE."

- LEO CUADRADO

Strengthening the Continuum of Care

Beyond the physical structure itself, the property represents hope. It stands as a tangible reminder that communities can come together to create opportunities for veterans who have sacrificed in service to our nation.

The home's location in South Los Angeles also provides important proximity to community resources, transportation, healthcare providers, workforce development opportunities, and veteran-focused services.

"HOUSING IS MORE THAN SHELTER. IT IS THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH VETERANS CAN REBUILD THEIR LIVES, RECONNECT WITH THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND PURSUE NEW OPPORTUNITIES."
- SCOTT BRUMER, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, NDTVETS

How You Can Help?

Creating a welcoming and supportive environment requires more than housing alone. In-kind donations play a critical role in helping veterans transition into stability with the dignity, comfort, and resources they deserve.

From bedding, towels, and kitchen supplies to hygiene items, furniture, and other household essentials, donated goods help transform a residence into a home and provide veterans with the tools they need to begin their next chapter.

Every contribution helps ensure that veterans entering our continuum of care have access to the practical support necessary to focus on recovery, personal growth, and long-term housing success.

If you are inspired to support veterans residing at the 25th Street home or elsewhere within the New Directions continuum of care, we encourage you to explore our current in-kind donation needs by visiting our In-Kind Donations Program.

To learn more, discuss donation opportunities, or share how you are motivated to help, please contact Olivia Russell, Development Associate, at (310) 927-6645 or orussell@ndvets.org.

Together, we can provide more than shelter. We can provide hope, dignity, and a pathway forward for the veterans who have served our nation.

ART COMMUNITY & CONNECTION



Veterans in our Clinical Program recently had the opportunity to meet New York-based artist Francesco Simeti, whose multimedia artwork will be featured at the new Metro D Line station coming to the West LA VA campus. Simeti, whose work has been featured in Metro systems and public spaces in cities around the world, draws inspiration from the natural environment and architecture of the communities where his work is installed.



During the visit, Simeti shared his creative process and discussed how the West LA VA community helped inform his artwork for the new station. Veterans had the opportunity to ask questions, learn more about his approach, and engage in a thoughtful conversation about art and the creative process.

The conversation was especially meaningful given the number of artists and creatives among the veterans who participated. What began as an artist presentation quickly became an engaging exchange of ideas, experiences, and perspectives, highlighting the important role that art can play in connecting people and communities.



MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILIES MONTH



November is an important month for service members, veterans, military families, and their communities. On November 11, we will observe Veterans Day, honoring all who have served our country and recognizing their dedication and sacrifice.

This year also marks the 30th anniversary of National Veterans and Military Families Month, recognizing the families and loved ones who support those who serve. Throughout November, we honor not only our veterans, but also the families, caregivers, and communities who stand beside them.

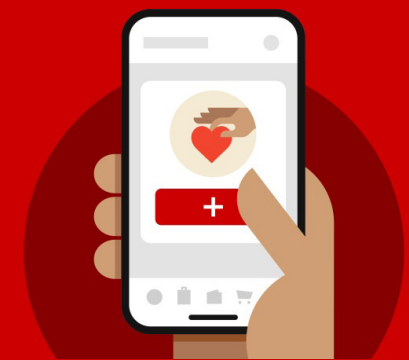
**WE'RE EXCITED TO SHARE THAT
NEW DIRECTIONS FOR
VETERANS IS FEATURED IN
TARGET CIRCLE!**

**WHEN YOU VOTE FOR NEW
DIRECTIONS FOR VETERANS,
YOU HELP DIRECT WHERE
TARGET'S COMMUNITY
DONATIONS GO, SUPPORTING
THE WORK WE DO EVERY DAY
TO EMPOWER VETERANS AND
PROVIDE THE CARE AND
RESOURCES THEY NEED.**

1 Choose
My Target



2 Tap
Cast votes

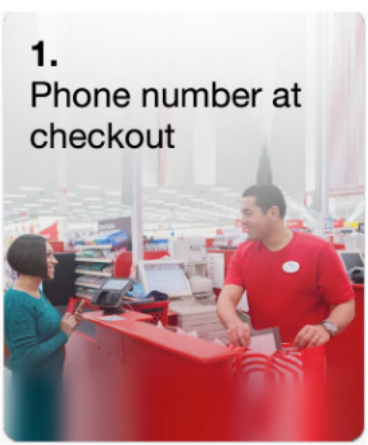


3 Find us &
vote

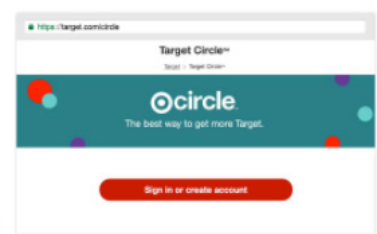


Joining is easy! Here are 3 ways:

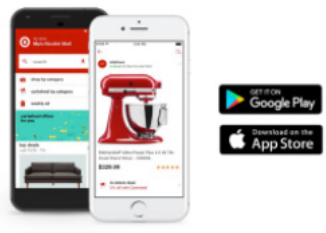
1.
Phone number at
checkout



2.
Sign up at
target.com/circle



3.
Download the
Target app



**YOU HAVE UNTIL DECEMBER 31
TO CAST YOUR VOTES AND SUPPORT THE
VETERANS IN OUR CARE!**