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December 9, 2010

Dear Community Partner:

U.S. VETS – Las Vegas has been the non-profit sponsor of the Veterans Stand Down since the event's inception in 2004. If you are not familiar with the Stand Down concept, this is an event that is held in cities all over the nation to provide food, clothing, services and referrals to homeless veterans.

The name “Stand Down” comes from a term used in times of war. Exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover were removed from the battlefields to a place of relative security and safety. Today, Stand Down refers to a grassroots, community-based intervention program designed to help the nation's estimated 107,000 homeless veterans “combat” life on the streets. The hand up, not a handout philosophy of Stand Down is carried out through the work of hundreds of volunteers and organizations throughout the nation.

Last year in Las Vegas, on March 24 & 25, 2010, the 7th annual Veterans Stand Down was completed with support from Nellis Air Force Base, local non-profits, veteran service organizations, the offices of Congresswoman Titus, Congresswoman Berkley and Congressman Heller, the offices of Senator Harry Reid and Senator John Ensign, and the VA Medical Center of Southern Nevada. A total of 477 veterans were served, and 25 were connected to housing during the Stand Down. In addition to housing, the Stand Down provided veterans with free and comprehensive services such as VA enrollment, legal assistance, medical checks, dental work, clothing, hygiene products, haircuts, showers, and much more.

The next Stand Down will be held on March 23 & 24, 2011. The Stand Down brings the community into the solution, gives hope to veterans still living on the streets of Las Vegas, offers them a temporary respite, and provides information and services that can help end their nightmare on the streets. Please consider assisting with this most important event. I can be reached for more information or with any questions at (702) 429-7294.

Sincerely,

Shalimar T. Cabrera, MSW
Veterans Stand Down Chair
U.S. VETS – Las Vegas

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