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For Immediate Release:
April 16, 2019

VETERANS INC. Salutes and Thanks Volunteers During Reception

Event held in conjunction with National Volunteer Appreciation Week

Worcester, MA-Nearly 100 attendees filled the Grand Hall at Veterans Inc. in Worcester last Wednesday evening at the non profit's Volunteer Appreciation Reception. Volunteers of Veterans Inc. were thanked for their impact on the organization and the veterans they serve by their selfless giving of time during the last year, which collectively totaled to over 4,800 hours.

During the opening remarks, Lisa Bousbouras, Marketing and Communications Manager said Veterans Inc. was proud to be paying tribute to the organization's volunteers' service and achievements and that everyone who was there was "making a difference in the lives of veterans in need and their family members."

An award presentation was included in the evening's program. **Wakefly, Inc.** received the Group Volunteer Award for contributing over 136 Hrs of volunteer time serving lunches as well as helping clean, move furniture, decorating and helping with events. **The Seeley Family** received the Family Volunteer Award for their contribution of over 156 hours of volunteer time by helping in the kitchen and the food pantry. **Linda Coccola** received the Individual Volunteer Award for her many hours as a member of the Gala Ball Committee member since 2014 and co-chair of the 2018 Gala Military Ball.

The John Valis Memorial Stand Down Award was presented to **Girl Scout Troop 11649**. Last year, this troop took on the monumental task of transforming a storage area for the Annual Veterans Inc Stand down event inventory into a clean, usable and organized space. They received the award in memory of a member of the Veterans Inc. staff, John Valis, who was dedicated to the success of the stand down event and the improvement of the lives of veterans in need.

Eight year old **Breaden Sexton** was the recipient of the Youth Volunteer Ward in recognition of the outstanding collection drives for veterans in need. In speaking about his volunteerism, Breadan said, "I chose Veterans Inc. because I like helping veterans get what they need," He went on to say, "I feel grateful for the veterans because they help give this country peace and freedom".

Veterans Inc. is New England's leading provider of support services to veterans and their families. A 501(c)3 non-profit, the organization's single-minded mission is to be there for our veterans in their time of need. Incorporated in 1990, Veterans Inc. has helped more than 85,000 veterans in need and today operates offices and programs in all six New England states. Our services include housing, employment & training, counseling, family support programs, benefits counseling and advocacy, temporary financial assistance, health and wellness, food services, post-9/11 support and women & childcare services. They were there when we needed them...We must be there now that they need us.