



Veterans Inc.

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Supportive Housing ♦ Case Management ♦ Employment & Training ♦ Food Bank ♦ Outreach ♦ Emergency Shelter

Veterans Inc. Receives National Recognition

Washington, DC, Nov. 3, 2009 – In front of an audience of more than 1,500 national representatives from both the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and community of service providers from across the country, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric. K. Shinseki awarded Veterans Inc. the Secretary's Outstanding Service Provider Award for 2009. The event, held in Washington DC, was part of the VA's National Summit Ending Homelessness Among Veterans.

Veterans Inc., headquartered in Worcester MA, was selected from more than 1,000 organizations serving veterans nationwide. Veterans Inc. (formerly Massachusetts Veterans Inc.), was established 20 years ago and is now the largest provider of services to veterans and their families in New England.

Two of the agency's founders, Vincent J. Perrone, Lt Colonel, USAF (retired), President & CEO and Denis M. Leary, Executive Director, were joined by several other staff members to receive the award. *"We are humbled to receive this tremendous honor and special recognition from the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs,"* said Perrone, *we are focused on caring for the 'Total Veteran' and our mission is to serve those who have served and their families.* According to Denis Leary, Veterans Inc. has been a model for other programs across the country; especially in the area of PTSD and the recent tragedy at Fort Hood in Texas is a reminder of the stress that veterans live under everyday. *"Deployment to any area of the world has impact on both the veteran and their family...deployment to a war zone can have significant consequences which often do not surface until the veteran has returned home. Our job is to help the entire family,"* said Leary.

Veterans Inc. has also refined its programming in order to provide the most effective services possible for veterans and their families: particularly those who have been homeless or who are at risk of homelessness."

"Veterans Inc. plays a vital role in improving the lives of veterans and their families in our community, and throughout New England" said Congressman James McGovern (D-MA), who attended the award ceremony. "I know Veterans Inc. provides outstanding programs and services, and I am so pleased that the Department of Veterans Affairs is recognizing the organization as a national leader in ending homelessness among veterans. This award confirms the standard of excellence set by Veterans Inc. in the provision of services for veterans and their families. I especially want to congratulate Vin Perrone and Denis Leary for their dedication, persistence, leadership, and humanity."

Veterans Inc. has the largest number of housing beds for veterans in New England (over 200 beds) and a success rate of 85%, one of the highest in the nation, for transitioning clients out of homelessness. Supportive services include: intensive case management, support groups, family counseling, benefits counseling, employment and training, health and wellness programs and services, outreach and referrals to community resources, transportation, daily meals, a food pantry and free clothing. Veterans Inc. also offers programs specifically for women veterans, including women with children, retreats for single veterans and families, and an Early Learning Center that offers day care and after school programs for children of veterans and service members.

Since its inception, Veterans Inc. has helped more than 40,000 veterans and their families to overcome the chaos of homelessness, to create hope, and to live lives of dignity they so richly deserve. Veterans Inc. is in the process of duplicating its successful programs in other states, including Vermont, Connecticut, Maine, and New Jersey.

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