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## Veterans Inc. helps over 500 Veterans and their family members at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Stand Down

**WORCESTER, MA** – On June 23, 2023, Veterans Inc., in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, and other local agencies, had nearly 1,000 people in attendance at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Veterans Inc. Stand Down.

With the help and support of over 300 community volunteers and staff at Veterans Inc., the event provided services to more than 500 Veterans and their family members, with over 115 providers and employers onsite. In addition, representatives from the state legislature, city council, and other government organizations also attended and spoke during the opening ceremony.



“Thank you to Veterans Inc. and all the organizations and businesses who showed up to provide resources and support to our veterans at the annual Stand Down event,” said Senator Robyn Kennedy. “We are grateful to our veterans who show up for us when our country calls. While we owe each veteran a debt we can never repay, we can begin by ensuring that when they receive their orders to stand down, they return to the warm embrace of a welcoming and supportive community.”

The providers and employers that were on-site provided free goods and services. Among the providers in attendance included the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV), the Veteran Affairs (VA), (MCPHS) Optometry, Aids Project Worcester (APW) mobile testing van, and Amazon.

“The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles is proud to partner with Veterans, Incorporated, to support training and job placement initiatives for our nation’s veterans,” said Registrar Colleen Ogilvie. “We were pleased to participate recently in the Stand Down event to assist veterans in applying for identification cards which allows veterans to seek much needed services as they rebuild their lives after serving our country.”

The event also provided free clothing, food and refreshments, haircuts, and personal care items. Shabby Gourmet Juices and Mrs. Moriconi’s Ice Cream food truck were onsite, providing free juice and ice cream. In addition to offering food and drinks to attendees, multiple hairdressers and barbers from Super Cuts provided free haircuts, MCPHS optometry faculty and students performed vision screening, and all veterans received new boots, jackets, Army t-shirts, waist packs, backpacks, duffel bags, blankets, women’s peacoats and more!

“I can’t say enough about how impressed I was with the overall organization of the event and the quality of vendors.” Shared Brian Maynard, the past commander of American Legion Post #13 in Putnam, CT “the online registration was a breeze, and the staff was friendly and helpful. While I’ve attended numerous Stand Down events, I was overwhelmed by the quality of the vendors and the information I could gather. Not only do I plan to attend next year, I’ll encourage other post members to attend as well.”

Thank you to our sponsors of this year's event: The TJX Companies, The Department of Labor, Spectrum, National Grid, CYR Electrical, Rubicon Builders, Casella, Blue Hive, Pathways for Change Inc., and Sunrise Detox.

For more information on next year's event, veterans may contact Veterans Inc. at 1-800-482-2565 or via e-mail at [StandDown@veteransinc.org](mailto:StandDown@veteransinc.org). For Stand Down Sponsor Opportunities, visit [www.veteransinc.org](http://www.veteransinc.org)

**About Veterans Inc.**

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 90,000 veterans in need and today operates offices and programs in all six New England states. Our services include housing, employment & training, counseling, an alcohol and drug treatment center, 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.

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