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Mr. Wally Haley
Michigan Wireless Association
10059 Bergin Road
Howell, MI 48843-7049

Dear Wally:

I'm writing to officially thank you for the Michigan Wireless Association's \$6,000 contribution on Feb. 25 toward our veteran services. But I also wanted to thank you, Linda, Beth and Michelle for introducing the Volunteers of America to your group.

When you stopped by here last month, you might recall I mentioned one gentleman we bumped into on the sidewalk was a veteran who had once found employment in the wireless industry. I'm happy to report that, although he returned to our program for a while, he has found work again, working on towers out West.

That chance encounter reminded me about the great diversity of industries and professions grouped within your association. It's easy to see how the wireless industry could make a natural connection to the nation's veterans, who themselves come from vast backgrounds but share in their service to country.

I'd like to give you an idea of what your contribution provided to our programs. Just to summarize our veteran services, we provide:

Transitional housing for homeless veterans: 56 beds in Lansing, 60 in Detroit, 16 in Niles. Just this month we are opening an additional 16 beds in an apartment building in Warren, for a total of 148.

Employment services for homeless veterans: Based in nine counties across the southern half of the Lower Peninsula, these offer career counseling, resume help, education assistance and case management. Tremendously successful program.

Support for veteran families: Offered in 12 counties from Lansing west to Lake Michigan, this program offers case management and financial assistance to very low-income veterans and their families to prevent them from falling into homelessness, or to get them rapidly rehoused if they already are homeless.

We also organize every year the **Capital Area Stand Down for Homeless Veterans** (this year it will be May 21 in downtown Lansing) and the **Michigan Stand Down for Female Veterans** (tentatively Nov. 8 in Dearborn.)

So you can see that, while veteran services are not our only mission, we consider it a privilege to work with the men and women who have served their country. This has been a hallmark of Volunteers of America since the end of World War I.

We are honored and pleased that Michigan Wireless Association chose to join in that work. The \$6,000 your group contributed will go a long way toward that cause. In fact, that contribution will pay for *complete care* for a veteran for more than 22 days.

By complete care, I mean that veteran will have a place to stay with fellow veterans (the veterans housing you saw during your visit) and three meals a day, plus access to case management and the full array of services available on our campus, plus the opportunity to enroll in our employment programs. With all of these programs in place, there is a very good chance of recovery from homelessness for that veteran.

The veteran programs at Volunteers of America Michigan often are cited as among the best performing in the nation. Our success rate routinely is in the 80 percent range, meaning that 8 out of 10 veterans who complete our programs leave here with a source of income and keys to their own place.

That's the kind of victory you helped make possible with your fundraiser and social event. You and all your members should be very proud of that achievement.

We're making gains against veteran homelessness, both as an agency and even as a nation. It's not as bad as it was three or four years ago – but the fact that veteran homelessness exists at all is unacceptable.

If you or anyone from the MWA would like to attend the Capital Area Stand Down for Homeless Veterans, please let me know. It's a great event where folks from all walks of life converge at a park in downtown Lansing, and hundreds of volunteers gather to serve and salute veterans.

Lastly, please share my gratitude with everyone at MWA. It's a great group of people, and I really enjoyed meeting you all. If any member ever wants to see how their donation is put to work, or simply learn more about our programs, please tell them to give me a call or email.

Gratefully,



Darin Estep

destep@voami.org | (517) 930-2599

Thanks again, Wally
Stop by anytime.
—D