



Mission

The Women Veterans Support Services, Inc. (WVSS) will provide compassionate care to women veterans in the Triangle in times of crisis, ensure they receive the benefits to which they and their families are entitled, and connect them to community support.

WVSS Needs Your Help!

Join us in serving the women veterans who served us and sacrificed to defend our freedoms and our nation. Will you help provide emergency support, housing and rent, childcare and healthcare counseling, financial and employment consultation, and volunteer services? Can you give WVSS office space?

The Needs and the Services

Existing local agencies alone cannot address the unique needs of women veterans and their families. WVSS understands these special challenges and will:

- ★ help find short-term emergency housing for homeless women veterans with or without children
- ★ ease the stress for women veterans who file Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) claims and help them through the process; PTSD is terrible for both sexes, but women experience it very differently than men do
- ★ address the devastating impact of Military Sexual Trauma (MST) on the female veteran and her family, including her reluctance to report it altogether due to perceived stigma
- ★ help women veterans and families who are victims of domestic violence and in crisis obtain emergency shelter and transition assistance through existing networks and programs
- ★ provide referral service for federal, state and local programs that assist women veterans, including rehabilitation and jobs.

Project Shoe is what we call our program to eliminate homelessness among veterans in Durham, Orange and Wake Counties of North Carolina. We are Women Veterans Support Services, Inc. (WVSS) of Raleigh, NC. Our organization is the result of the vision one individual, Patricia Alston Harris, a one hundred percent disabled, minority, Veteran of the Gulf War and the United States Army. Her experiences were heartrending and she is determined not to let any other veteran go through the same thing.

We are a group of dedicated volunteers, all veterans or spouses of veterans who have been helping the most underserved of our fellow veterans in the Triangle that covers the Cities of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, NC. We are in the Heart of VISN 6 and within hailing distance of the Durham VA Medical Center and the Carolina Homeless Information Network (CHIN) in Raleigh.

We help veterans in crisis. We have been doing so as a 501 (c) (3) corporation since February 5th, 2008. Since that time we have helped 232+ Veterans (mostly women and their families) in crisis to find a safe place to stay, and get the benefits that they earned as veterans. We have done this through intimate cooperation with the VA hospital in Durham and with area support agencies such as the American Legion of NC, VFW Foreign Wars, as well as many social services. We are a volunteer based organization with very limited resources and each working from home. We realize that we cannot help all of the veterans in our area who are homeless or who are at risk of becoming homeless. We estimate that today, there are 87,840 women veterans in our area many of whom are homeless right now. Some are sleeping in the woods areas around Raleigh and Durham. We have spoken with them. We currently serve a large percentage of the homeless women veterans in our area. In short, Women Veterans Support Services knows the proposed clientele better than anyone else because *we have been there*. We know the mission better than anyone else because *we are already performing it*. With your help we know that *we can do more* to eliminate homeless among veterans in North Carolina.

The Red Shoe.



We chose the Red Shoe to symbolize our effort because we see it as a symbol of hope and inspiration. As our veterans leave the military, they envision themselves stepping up in society to a better life. No man or woman exiting the military service ever imagine him or herself in a situation as dire as being homeless. Often when reaching this point there are complications with family, drugs, or the law. The network of comrades that they left behind in the military is long gone and they face despair and feel that they are alone. We step in so that they can step up to that better life. We have been there!

Tax-exempt Donations

WVSS is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit. Cash, volunteer and in-kind contributions, including Raleigh-area office space, will be gratefully accepted.

Tax-exempt contributions may be made by check or money order to: WVSS, Inc., PO Box 26876 Raleigh, NC 27611-6876. PayPal is also accepted.