

**3 Startling Facts
About Veteran
Homelessness
and
How You Can
Help In Atlanta**



Introduction

Everyone knows that homelessness is a major issue in metropolitan areas like Atlanta, but that's only part of the story...

Sadly, most people are unaware of just how many of the homeless men and women in the Atlanta area are veterans, and even fewer know how to help.

That's why we created this resource—to help educate you on the issue of veteran homelessness and offer some easy ways for you to get involved.

Before we dive into some of the ways you can help fight for those who fought for us, let's start by taking a look at some of the startling statistics around veteran homelessness.

Fact #1

20% of the male homeless population in the U.S. are veterans

Although veterans have served our country with bravery and distinction, unfortunately too many of them have fallen into homelessness.

According to estimates by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), over 35,000 veterans are homeless on any given night.

We cannot ignore our service men and women any longer.

Fact #2

Nearly 50% of all homeless veterans have a serious mental illness

For many reasons, people suffering from mental illness are at greater risk of falling into homelessness. Unfortunately, the stress of experiencing homelessness may exacerbate a previous mental illness and induce greater levels of anxiety, fear, depression, sleeplessness, or substance use.

According to the latest research, virtually half of all homeless veterans suffer from a mental illness, including bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, or schizophrenia. The most common mental health diagnosis among homeless veterans is post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Fact #3

70% of all homeless veterans have substance abuse problems

Studies have shown that PTSD and substance abuse issues are strongly related in people who served in the military.

Many veterans try to cope with PTSD symptoms by drinking heavily, using drugs, or smoking too much. Conversely, people with substance abuse issues are also more likely to develop PTSD.

Alcohol use disorders are the most prevalent form of substance use disorder among military personnel.

How VEO's evidence-based program is changing lives and bringing hope to homeless veterans in the Atlanta area

Since 2008, Veterans Empowerment Organization has been bringing hope and healing to homeless veterans in the Greater Atlanta area.

Over the years, we've pioneered an evidence-based approach to empowering veterans along their path to restoration. VEO's Theory of Change model is empowering veterans and bringing hope to America's Heroes in the Atlanta area.

Our revolutionary approach focuses on three key areas:



VEO strives to follow an evidence-based *Theory of Change* model to impact the lives of veterans and their families.

Using this holistic approach, we're empowering veterans—men, women, and families—along their journey to becoming self-sufficient, housed, employed, restored, and healthy.

How you can get involved and help make a difference in the lives of homeless veterans

We get it—you want to help end veteran homelessness, but you have no idea where to start. You may be thinking, “I’m just one person—how could I possibly make a difference?”

Thankfully, getting involved and making a lasting difference in the lives of veterans is easier than ever.

Become a Monthly Donor

We believe lasting change can only happen when we work together to invest in our veterans. Visit our website to learn more about joining our Hero Coalition as a monthly giver in support of veterans.

Volunteer Virtually by Organizing a Donation Drive

Although we have temporarily suspended Serve a Hero group visits due to COVID concerns, we are gratefully accepting donations of paper plates, bowls, cups, napkins, plastic silverware, and shelf stable food to be prepared and served by our kitchen staff.

Partner With Us!

We’re very grateful for our generous partners like The Gary W. Rollins Foundation, The Home Depot, Chick-fil-A, Lockheed Martin, Delta Air Lines, Salesforce, Mailchimp, FedEx, the U.S. Department of Labor, the City of Atlanta, and Fulton County. Visit our website to learn more about becoming a VEO partner with exclusive partnership benefits.



Over 5,000 Veterans Served





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