



THANK YOU!!!  
We salute you

For more information contact:  
Karl Butler  
Program Director  
Galaxy Veterans Empowerment & Training  
Phone: 515-778-9374  
Gvet@mchsi.com



LOVE FREEDOM?

THANK A VET

GALAXY

VETERANS EMPOWERMENT & TRAINING

Galaxy Veterans Empowerment & Training is a non-profit 501c3 organization committed to promote and provide education and training and to enhance psychological, physical and financial health. To raise awareness of the responsibility to treat all veterans with dignity and respect.

1620 Pleasant St. Ste 231  
Des Moines, IA 50314  
515-778-9374  
gvet@mchsi.com



President Barack Obama First Lady Michelle Obama, and Dr Jill Biden put forward today nearly 50 commitments by federal agencies responding to the President's directive to establish a coordinated and comprehensive Federal approach to supporting military families.

Strengthening Our Military Families: Meeting America's commitment is the result of an effort led by National Security Staff and Domestic Policy Council responding to the Presidential Study Directive-9 calling on all Cabinet Secretaries and other agency heads to find better ways to provide our military families with the support they deserve.



#### SERVICES PROVIDED:



- Job Training
- Job Placement
- Education
- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Housing



- Individual Counseling
- Group Therapy
- Family Counseling
- Childcare
- Parenting Skills
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Intervention and Prevention
- Financial Literacy

- Life Skills
- Life After Military
- Legal Assistance
- Access/Knowledge of Community Resources



**LOVE FREEDOM?**



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## VETERANS EMPOWERMENT & TRAINING

Empowering Veterans, Active Duty personnel and their Families



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## VETERANS EMPOWERMENT & TRAINING

### About Us

Galaxy Veterans Empowerment & Training (GVET) is private not-for-profit corporation that was formed in 2009. Headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa, GVET as an Organization is committed to promote and provide education and training and to enhance psychological, physical and financial health. To raise awareness of the responsibility to treat all Veterans with dignity and respect.

### Our History

The nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the state of Iowa was formed by a group of concerned citizens about the treatment received and lack of services for military Veterans and their families. These citizens canvassed local Veterans getting their views and opinions on treatment after leaving military service. These citizens were particularly concerned about the lack of services and the lack of respect these Veterans received after service to their country.

We started as a resource center mainly referring Veterans to local services in their community. One of referral partners was the Iowa Work Force Center. This collaboration resulted in providing Veterans seeking employment, direct access to the Veterans Affairs personnel. This resulted in the Veteran getting immediate attention and computer access to job listings.

Another referral partner was Des Moines Area Community College. This partnership resulted in getting Veterans seeking to better their employment possibilities, into those areas of training and study that would allow them to achieve their goals.

GVET also referred Veterans to local physical and psychological healthcare providers.

## Goals and Achievements

In July 2010 GVET and their Board of Directors made a decision to broaden our ability to empower Veterans and military families. Deciding to be more than a referral center, GVET decided to become a service provider. After much research and gathering of information and statistics from organizations such as The Department of Veterans Affairs and The Department of Housing and Urban Development, GVET and the Board of Directors chose transitional housing for homeless Veterans as the most immediate need.

### **Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness Among Veterans**

On a single night in January 2009, 75,609 veterans were homeless; 57 percent were staying in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program; and the remaining 43 percent were living on the street, in an abandoned building, or another place not meant for human habitation (i.e., unsheltered).

Veterans are overrepresented among the homeless population. At a point in time in 2009, approximately 12 percent of all people (and 16 percent of adults) experiencing homelessness identified as a veteran, as did 10 percent of those homeless over the course of a year. Less than 8 percent of the total U.S. population has veteran status.

## One-Year Estimates of Sheltered Homelessness Among Veterans

An estimated 136,334 veterans spent at least one night in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009. This accounts for 1 of every 168 veterans in the U.S. or 1 out of every 10 veterans living in poverty.

Just over 96 percent of sheltered veterans were individuals, and just less than 4 percent were veterans who were a part of a family.

While homeless veterans make up less than 1 percent of all veterans, within the poverty population veterans are at greater risk of homelessness than non-veterans. Ten percent of veterans in poverty became homeless at some point during the year, compared to just over 5 percent of adults in poverty.

Appendix presents the detailed estimates based on HMIS data.

**Exhibit 1 Estimates of Homelessness Among Veterans in the United States, 2009**  
*Type of Estimate*

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Coverage</i>
PIT One-Night Count <sub>1</sub>	75,609	100%	Sheltered and unsheltered
One-Year Estimate <sub>2</sub>			
Total	136,334	100%	Sheltered only
Adult Individuals	132,160	96.3%	
Adults in Families	4,174	3.7%	

## 2.1 How Common is Homelessness among Veterans?

Veterans are over represented among the homeless population. Veterans constitute just under 8 percent of the total U.S. population and, based on the PIT estimates, they account for 12 percent of the total homeless population (and 16 percent of homeless adults) on a given night. Their overrepresentation is reinforced by the one year estimates. Approximately 10 percent of all people who experienced homelessness over the year 2009 identified themselves as veterans.

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Sources: 2009 Continuum of Care Applications: Exhibit 1, CoC Point-In-Time Homeless Population and Subpopulations

Charts: 2009 Homeless Management Information Systems

The report estimates that Iowa has less than one percent (.4 percent) of the total number of homeless veterans in the nation. But, of the people in Iowa who are homeless, 8 percent are veterans, which is only slightly lower than the average for all Midwestern states. The report places Iowa on a list of 14 states with an underrepresentation of veterans in their homeless population when compared to the state's overall population share.

Perhaps most interesting for Iowa and other predominantly rural states is the fact that 32 percent of homeless veterans were accessing services outside of urban centers. Those veterans who seek services in rural or suburban areas have characteristics that are markedly different from veterans seeking urban services. For instance, a considerable majority of the rural/suburban aide seekers were white, carried a higher incidence of disability and migrated into the rural area.

As of January 2011 GVET has acquired 3 properties that once converted will be able to house some 30 homeless Veterans. GVET has also received commitment from Sun Prairie Apartments in West Des Moines, IA to house 10 homeless Veterans with families. One of the goals of GVET in 2011 is to acquire and build additional properties with the aim to house every homeless Veteran in Central Iowa. The final component of our housing program is to transition these Veterans and military families into Permanent Housing by positioning the Veteran with employment. This aggressive plan coincides with the plan laid out by Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Veterans Affairs and Health and Human Services (HHS) to eliminate homeless by 2015.

“Providing assistance in mental health, substance abuse treatment, education and employment goes hand-in-hand with preventive steps and permanent supportive housing. We continue to work towards our goal of finding every Veteran safe housing and access to needed services,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

GVET has also negotiated to have on staff a Doctor of Clinical Psychology. This staff member would provide counseling to individuals and families as well as Group Therapy, Substance Abuse Counseling, Family Counseling, Life Skills and Life after Military Service. GVET plans to take a proactive approach and offer Intervention and Prevention Counseling. GVET feels its counseling services will match the plan laid out by HHS, and the Department of Defense (DoD) to best confront suicide trends within military family and Veteran populations. By offering these services we feel we can increase behavioral health care through prevention-based alternatives.



Also as of January 2011 GVET has partnered with Another Chance Construction a local building trades contractor. This partnership was formed to create jobs and provide training for those Veterans desiring to enter the building trades industry. After considering many Contractors in Central Iowa, Another Chance Construction was selected because their company Model most matches GVET and its board of directors. Another Chance Construction has been an empowering of both Veteran and civilian homeless since 1997.

Veterans considering a career in Building Trades would be given an opportunity to enter an apprenticeship program under Another Chance Construction. Those Veterans would then be able to receive the On The Job hours needed for their chosen career.

Our partnership with Des Moines Area Community College, Penn Foster, and Vatterott College would provide the classroom training required for their chosen apprenticeship.

Other services planned for 2011 is Financial Literacy training, designed to educate the veteran on managing there finances and all financial instruments such as a checkbook and credit cards. GVET wants to protect military members and families from unfair financial practices and help families enhance their financial readiness.

GVET and the board of director's places a large infuses on ensuring the excellence in military children's education and their development and encourages the healthy development of military children. We desire to improve the quality of the educational experience.

## **Our Mission**

Our mission is to improve the care and support of military families and Veterans. GVET is committed to *The Strengthen Our Military Families* Initiative laid by the current administration, The First Lady and Dr. Jill Biden. We endeavor to ensure that active duty personnel, reservists, guardsmen, veterans, caregivers, and their families have resources to be their best.

## **WHY A NOT-FOR PROFIT?**

Because we are a mission driven organization, our corporate goals differ from for profit companies.

We are driven by a volunteer Board of Directors who have no financial interests in the company. This defines them as stakeholders not shareholders. Therefore instead of profits going to dividends all excess revenues are plowed back into operations in the form of capital expenditures or improvements (facilities and equipment) staff investment(wages, benefits and training) or future operations (new or expanded services).

## Contact Information

Karl Butler

Chief Executive Officer

Galaxy Veterans Empowerment & Training

1620 Pleasant St

Suite 231

Des Moines, IA 50313

Phone: 515-778-9374

Karl@gvet.us