

2017 23rd Annual VAMC Winterhaven Homeless Stand Down and 13th Annual NAAV Community Partner Participation

On January 28, 2017, NAAV participated in its thirteenth year of helping homeless and at-risk Veterans of the greater DC metropolitan area at the DC VA Medical Center's (VAMC) Winterhaven Stand Down for Homeless Veterans, along with collaborative partners representing agencies, organizations and volunteers. Attendance numbers indicate that 804 Veterans consisting of 732 males and 72 females received services at the 23rd Annual VAMC event.¹



During this event, the VAMC provided medical services, clothing, as well as assistance with claims and benefits, housing, psychological services, legal and nutritional counseling, women's health, general metro transportation, employment, health screenings, personal care items, and vouchers for thrift store clothing. It is reported that 68 Veterans received haircuts, 513 Veterans were educated on HIV and risk reduction, 157 Veterans had a rapid oral HIV test completed; and 465 volunteers, staff, and community partners provided their services to Veterans in attendance

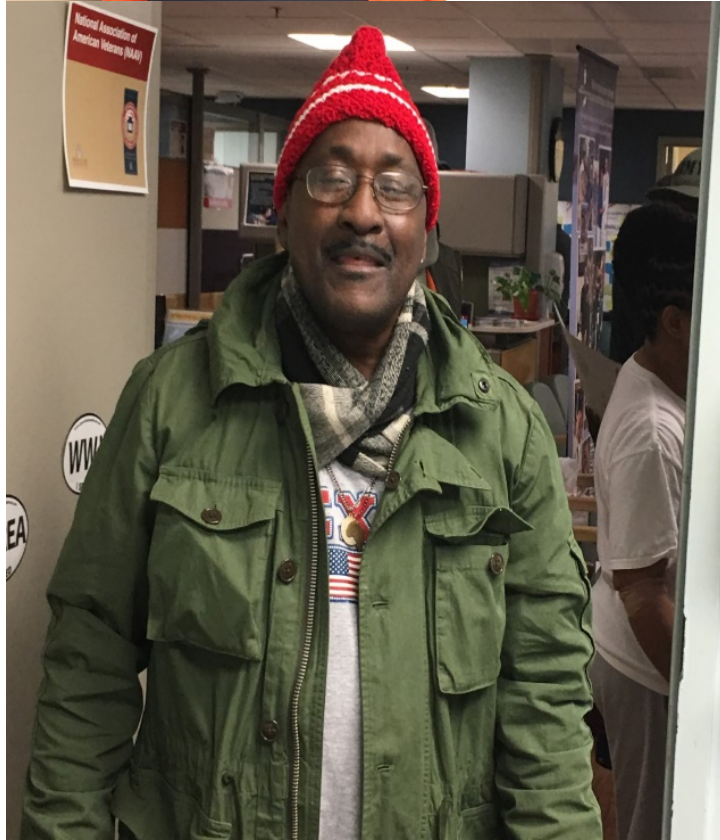
¹Note: photos within this article were taken by NAAV staff (1/28/2017), and or pulled from the Internet; DoVA website on 1/30/2017. Thus NAAV does not claim ownership of all photo represented; instead all photos are used to highlight event, which NAAV took part in on Saturday, January 28, 2017 and the DC VA Medical Center "Winterhaven Homeless Stand Down, 2017 event."

at this 23th annual event on Saturday. One noticeable difference, we didn't have snow nor the blustery cold this year like many others.

Just as we have so often done, NAAV secured its corner room in the Orange Section providing a steady stream of assistance with claims and benefits, safe-link wireless phone applications,



free information booklets, and gifts for Veteran attendees. To top it off, handmade knitted hats were also made and distributed during the event. Those carefully crafted and colorful head ornaments were made by Linda Cunningham of Indianapolis—the sister of NAAV CEO and President, Constance Burns.



Homeless, low-income, and economically disadvantaged male and female Veterans, and their families residing in the Washington metropolitan area also participated in this year's event. NAAV routinely supports HUD and our housing partners in their effort to improve the quality life of homelessness among male and female Veterans and their families.

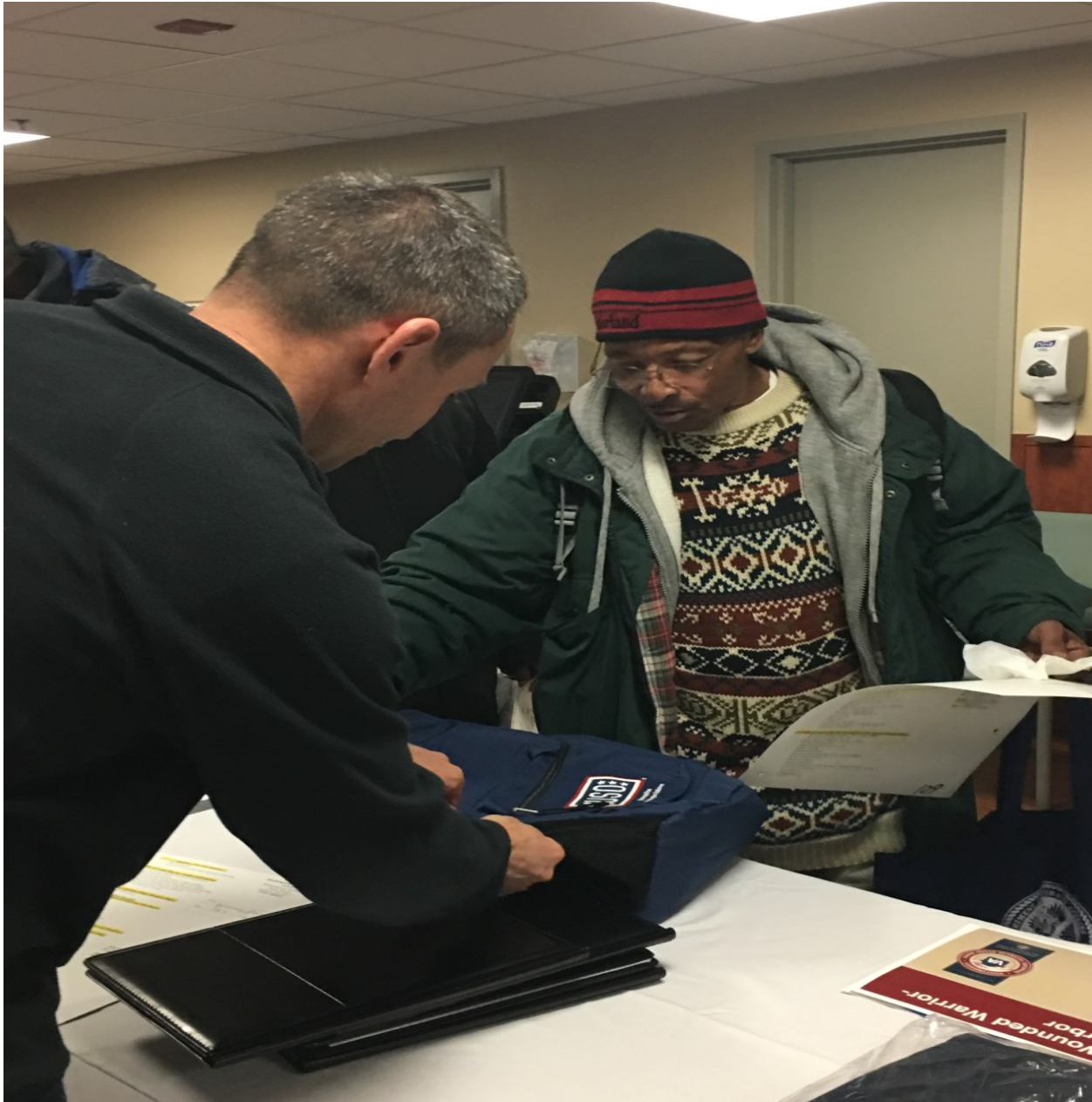
In addition, the Veterans Affinity Group (VAG) delivered estimated 846 of 1,000 pairs of new boots/shoes to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Community Resources and Referral Center (CRRC) located at 1500 Franklin Street, NW, Washington, DC 20018. The center is one of the 17 facilities the VA opened nationwide to help eliminate homelessness amongst male and

female economically disadvantaged Veterans. The CRRC is open 24/7 to assist Veterans and their family members and provide services to homeless, and at-risk Veterans, and includes a Primary Care Clinic, a complete kitchen, laundry, shower facilities, a food pantry and a play room for children, as well as a host of other community services.



WINTERHAVEN: Helping The Homeless

*Photo by Andrew J. White DoVA



Former President Barack Obama and Veterans Affairs Secretary, Robert McDonald have made Veterans homelessness a top priority in America and have undertaken an unprecedented initiative to increase, and make available Veterans services and information to Veterans who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless across this nation through collaborations and partnerships with public and private organizations, including federal and local services agencies, private and nonprofit community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, law enforcement organizations, and homeless shelters. NAAV is pleased to be an active participant of this most noteworthy endeavor in support of our nation's homeless Veterans.

This annual Winterhaven Homeless Stand-Down event is an occasion NAAV has been proud to serve and participate in over the past several years. There truly is a need out there to support our Nation's veterans, those who gave so much. Please keep your donations, prayers, volunteering of your time and service continuing to help refresh and reshape the lives of our veteran men, women, and their families. There is still a lot more work and effort to be done!

Thank you for supporting NAAV and helping to us to accomplish our mission one day at a time.

Last but not least, a special thanks to Constance A. Burns, CEO, President and Veterans' Service Officer, NAAV, Inc., Sherri Jones-Kleiner, NAAV Media and Publications Manager and NAAV Supporters Lola and Charlie Johnson for their continued support and professional assistance on behalf of the National Association of American Veterans and those we served.

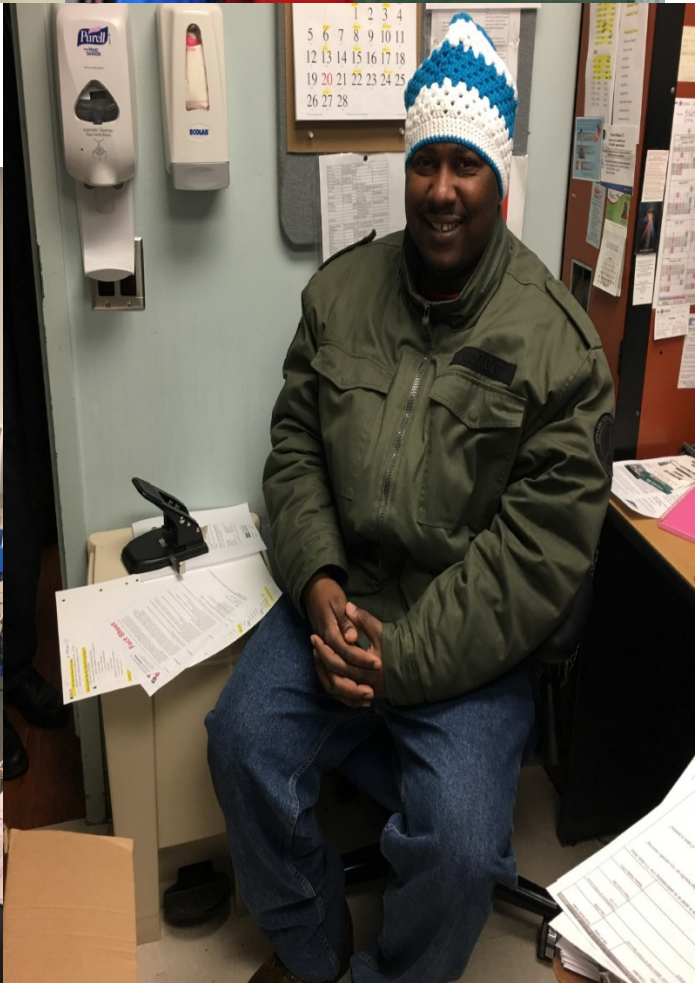
Sincerely,

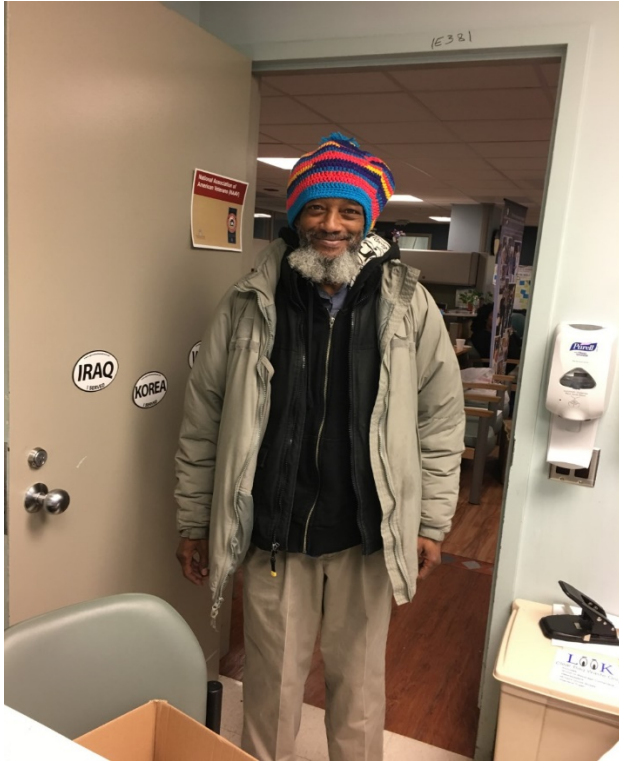
CEO & President
Constance A. Burns
NAAV, Inc.



*Pinterest.com (pulled 1/30/2017)







*Got one! 😊