

For the last three years, AFVHF has also been committed to reducing the turnover in nursing staff, which it believes is the greatest need of the Veterans Homes Community. A national nursing study, co-funded by the Kellogg Foundation has been followed by a new partnership with the LEAP Nurse Training Program. LEAP (Learn, Empower, Achieve, Produce) is a workforce restructuring initiative to greatly improve communication and team building in nursing staffs. LEAP is also a cultural change that shifts the model of nursing care from a task-oriented, medical model to one that emphasizes person-centered, long term care. LEAP's outcome data shows a reduction in nurse turnover of 30% - with significant improvement in quality outcome measures. LEAP nurse training is provided cost-free to all Homes by AFVHF.

National Partnership

Other important program services are also provided to the community by the Foundation through a partnership with the National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH). NASVH and AFVHF have teamed-up to build education and professional development programs for the nation's Veterans Home administrators. AFVHF also develops a vendor trade fair and sponsorships in support of NASVH's Mid-Winter Meeting and Annual Conference. The Foundation and NASVH share office space in the headquarters building of the Air Force Sergeants Association, in close proximity to Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland.



Armed Forces Veterans Homes Foundation
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*Remembering Those
Who Have Defended
Our Freedom*

Caring For America's Heroes



Keeping America's Promise to Our Armed Forces

Objective: The Armed Forces Veterans Homes Foundation (AFVHF) was established to provide supplemental resources in instances where public funding for the nation's 133 Veterans Homes is insufficient. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for elderly and infirm veterans requiring long term care.

Through its fund raising efforts, the Foundation strives to provide resources for both Home operations and resident needs. The Foundation also aspires to establish a permanent national endowment fund to protect all Veterans Homes and ensure the well-being of our living heroes for many generations to come.



What is a Veterans Home?

A Veterans Home is a state government agency that offers long care services to elderly and disabled veterans. The healthcare services offered in these facilities include assisted living, skilled nursing care and dementia/Alzheimer's care.

The history of the over 135 State Veterans (Nursing) Homes dates back to 1864, when large numbers of disabled Civil War veterans were in need of care. Federal aid to these Homes began in 1888. Veterans Homes today operate under a partnership between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and state governments.

States initially offer a parcel of land for Home construction and 35 percent of construction costs. The VA provides the remaining 65 percent. The VA also provides \$59 per day per resident for annual operating costs, less than 30% of the total amount needed. State government support for operation of their Homes varies widely.

Proud Tradition

Veterans Homes are one of the proudest military traditions in America. Anyone who has served in the armed forces knows the time-honored code of "taking care of our own." Since our nation's beginning, men and women of the American military community have taken great pride in the ability to "cover your buddy." There isn't a better example of this practice than the 135 Veterans Homes now operating in America and the roughly 30,000 veteran residents whom they serve.

For 140 years, Veterans Homes have been nurtured by their surrounding communities. The support offered to these Homes by local veterans, civic groups and active duty military personnel enriches the lives of residents daily. But unfortunately, the World War II generation is passing and the number of volunteers are decreasing. This year, 500,000 members of the Greatest Generation will die.

About the Armed Forces Veterans Homes Foundation

AFVHF is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit organization that was established in 1996 by the Air Force Sergeants Association and four other military-related associations. Staffing and full-time office operations began in 2000. The Board of Directors is composed of representatives from the military, health care, and business communities. The Foundation has been certified by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management for the annual Combined Federal Campaign. It also participates in Public Employee Campaigns conducted each year by 20 state governments.

Current AFVHF Services

In the past year, the Foundation has offered every Veterans Home, at no cost, the Senior Crimestoppers Program. Crimestoppers is widely recognized for its community safety and security improvements and has demonstrated high effectiveness in reducing crime, vandalism and patient neglect. Last year Crimestoppers Homes reported an 83% drop in crime related incidents. (continues to rear panel)

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Homes Foundation

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