

Dear Community Partner,

Family & Community Services, Inc. (FCS) has served veterans and their family members since World War II. The agency, incorporated in 1941, developed programming in 1945 to support Portage County's veterans who were struggling to make ends meet. Our roots began with serving those who served our country and is an essential part of what we do.

Though the Harry Donovan Jr. Valor Home has served us well over the past 9 years, the space does not meet a number of emerging needs we are currently experiencing — specifically to accommodate female veterans, as well as to allow safer spaces for social distancing and COVID mandates for all veterans served. Thanks to funding provided from the VA, FCS will be making renovations to Valor Home to create individual bedrooms and bathrooms for each veteran sheltered. The renovations will give them the space, privacy, and safety they need to work towards obtaining permanent housing, and will also now allow FCS to "Serve All Who Have Served," regardless of gender.

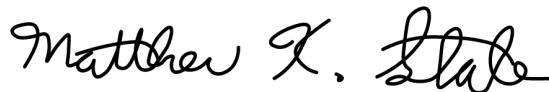
Funds are needed to complete this project. You can help us "Serve All Who Have Served" through a donation, sponsorship, or by volunteering. Please review the materials enclosed to learn more about how to get involved.

Thank you for your support of Valor Home and the veterans we have served throughout the years. The agency believes that no veteran should ever be homeless, and with your help, we can make sure we can serve all veterans. For more information, please contact Matthew Slater, Director of Development, at 330.687.8136.

Sincerely,



Mark Frisone
Executive Director



Matthew Slater
Director of Development

Our Fundraising Goal

History of Valor Home

In 2009, FCS, with the assistance of a group of concerned citizens from Summit County, both civilian and veterans, started meeting to develop a homeless program for veterans. With support from the City of Akron, Summit County, and Harry and Fran Donovan, FCS and this group obtained a capital grant from The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This grant, along with assistance from Habitat for Humanity Summit County and Testa Builders, allowed FCS to create a 16,000 square foot facility serving 30 homeless veterans. This would be the first VA transitional housing facility in the country to receive LEED certification — a certification that the building met certain environmental criteria in both its construction and its operation.

Today, FCS is growing this facility yet again. With your help, we will be able to transform our facility from one with congregate, shared spaces to one that offers private bathrooms and bedrooms for each veteran served. This will help us ensure that we can “Serve All Who Have Served,” regardless of gender. Thank you for helping us meet this growing need in our community, and for ensuring that no veteran is left behind.

Budget

Total Project Cost	\$1,500,000
VA Grant Funding	\$1,000,000
Fundraising Goal	\$500,000

Our Goal: \$500,000



Community Need

Family & Community Services, Inc. (FCS) is leading the charge on housing all veterans who find themselves homeless, including females. In fact, female veterans are the fastest growing homeless population. And they are dealing with unique challenges like military sexual trauma. FCS believes that we have a duty to respond to all veterans and their children in need and is committed to providing services that accommodate the needs of all genders.

Our facility renovations will allow us to serve the growing population of female veterans in addition to providing private bedrooms and bathrooms for all veterans.

This will help us meet the two major needs of female veterans that are often unmet:

1. Safe, transitional housing to reside in while searching for affordable permanent housing.
2. Programming that targets the specific needs of homeless female veterans and their children.

Female veterans are the fastest growing homeless population.

They have grown from just 2% of the homeless population to 8%.



Only around 40% of female veterans receive any benefits from The Department of Veterans Affairs paints a bleak picture of our Country serving all veterans.

With your support, we can make sure that Summit County's female veterans who are homeless also can be served at Valor Home. With your support, we will be able to transform Valor Home from serving veterans in congregate bedrooms with shared bathrooms to a facility that has individual bedrooms and bathrooms, allowing for more privacy and the ability to house men and women together.

A Home Away from Home

At Valor Home, our facility is truly a home away from home. With a large kitchen, dining room, living room, meeting rooms, and private outdoor area, residents can tend to their daily needs and start to get their lives back on track in a comfortable, welcoming environment. After renovations are made, each veteran will also have their own private bedroom and bathroom. Staff are available on site 24/7 to provide support and resources for those who need it. Veterans also have access to a fully stocked pantry where they can access food, household supplies, and toiletries.

Support Plan

While at our facility, veterans meet weekly with staff for the first 12 weeks to establish goals that help the veteran work toward permanent housing and address other needs they may have. This includes signing up for VA benefits, accessing food and medical assistance, obtaining employment or other forms of income, and coming up with a housing plan.

Therapeutic Groups

Therapeutic Groups include an employment integration group, a psycho-educational group for stress management conducted by SUMMA's stress center, as well as creative arts therapy (art, music, creative writing) for both veterans.

Weekend Retreats to the Red Bird Center

The Red Bird Center (RBC) is a multi-cultural healing center located in Guernsey County, OH. The Center is run by Shianne Eagleheart, a licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor, with over 30 years of experience working with people in trauma, including 10 years of experience working with veterans in trauma. During weekend retreats, veterans have the opportunity to participate in Native American based healing ceremonies such as healing circles, welcome back home ceremonies, healing lodges, medicine walks, and witnessing the modern day healing story of The Wounded Bear.





Sponsorship and Donor Info

Donor Tree of Life Sponsorship Levels

Three levels of giving that will be recognized on our Donor Tree of Life, which will be displayed in the main living area of Valor Home. All donations will be used toward the capital campaign to help us reach our fundraising goal of \$500,000.

Yes, I want to sponsor the Donor Tree of Life. Select level below.

\$5,000 – Liberty

\$10,000 – Equality

\$ 25,000 – Valor

Yes, I want to make a one-time donation. Enclosed \$ _____

*Please make check payable to Valor Home Summit

Company Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please complete and mail your contribution to:

Trisia Allerton at 705 Oakwood Street, Suite 115, Ravenna, OH 44266

Valor Home is a program of Family & Community Services, Inc. As a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. Please consult with your tax advisor to determine advice in this regard. All contributions will be acknowledged by a receipt from Valor Home, which may be used for tax filing documentation.

Volunteer Opportunities

Help us serve all who have served by volunteering your time. We are in need of volunteers for the projects below. Whether you come with a group or would like to volunteer individually, your skills and time will make a huge impact on our project!

Painting New Rooms

We will have 36 rooms that need a fresh coat of paint. We'll provide supplies and equipment, we just need a few helping hands.

Putting Furniture Together

Rooms will be equipped with new furniture for our veterans. If you are handy and good at following instructions, you can help us make a veteran's room come to life.

Landscaping

The final project will be completing the landscaping at our facility. We'll need help with cleaning up existing beds, planting new flowers or shrubs, and laying mulch.

