



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 struggling to make ends meet. Our roots began with serving all who've served our country and is essential to what we do.

In 2021, FCS extended its reach to homeless veterans in Mahoning County when it opened a 10-bed facility in a rented space at 550 West Chalmers Avenue in Youngstown, OH 44511. In 2022, FCS received \$600,000 in capital funds from The Department of Veterans Affairs to further support Mahoning programming and build a new facility providing individual bedrooms and bathrooms for up to fourteen veterans. This new facility will allow Veteran's Haven to provide the necessary space, security, and dignity to single veterans of all genders as they work to obtain permanent housing and overcome addiction and other behavioral health barriers.

The 5,700 square foot building is being partially built out of storage containers, helping to reduce costs and the time it takes to construct the facility. Once complete, the new building will have fourteen bedrooms, fourteen bathrooms, a congregate kitchen, living room, therapy/meeting space, and staff offices and will be staffed 24/7/365. While the facility will be constructed out of storage containers, the end product will appear to be built of traditional "bricks and mortar" construction.

The space at 550 W. Chalmers Avenue has served us well over the past two years, but the space does not meet several emerging needs we are experiencing – specifically to accommodate female veterans, as well as to allow safer living and meeting areas for all veterans and staff. 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've Served," regardless of gender.

Funds are needed to complete this project. You can help us "Serve All Who've Served" through a donation, sponsorship, or volunteering. Please review the materials enclosed to learn more about how to get involved. With your help, FCS can build a permanent facility for Mahoning County's homeless veterans.

Thank you for your support of Veteran's Haven and the many veterans we have served throughout the years. The agency believes no veteran should ever be homeless, and with your help, we will ensure we can serve all veterans. For more information, contact Matthew Slater, Director of Development, at 330-687-8136 or [m Slater@fcsserves.org](mailto:m Slater@fcsserves.org).

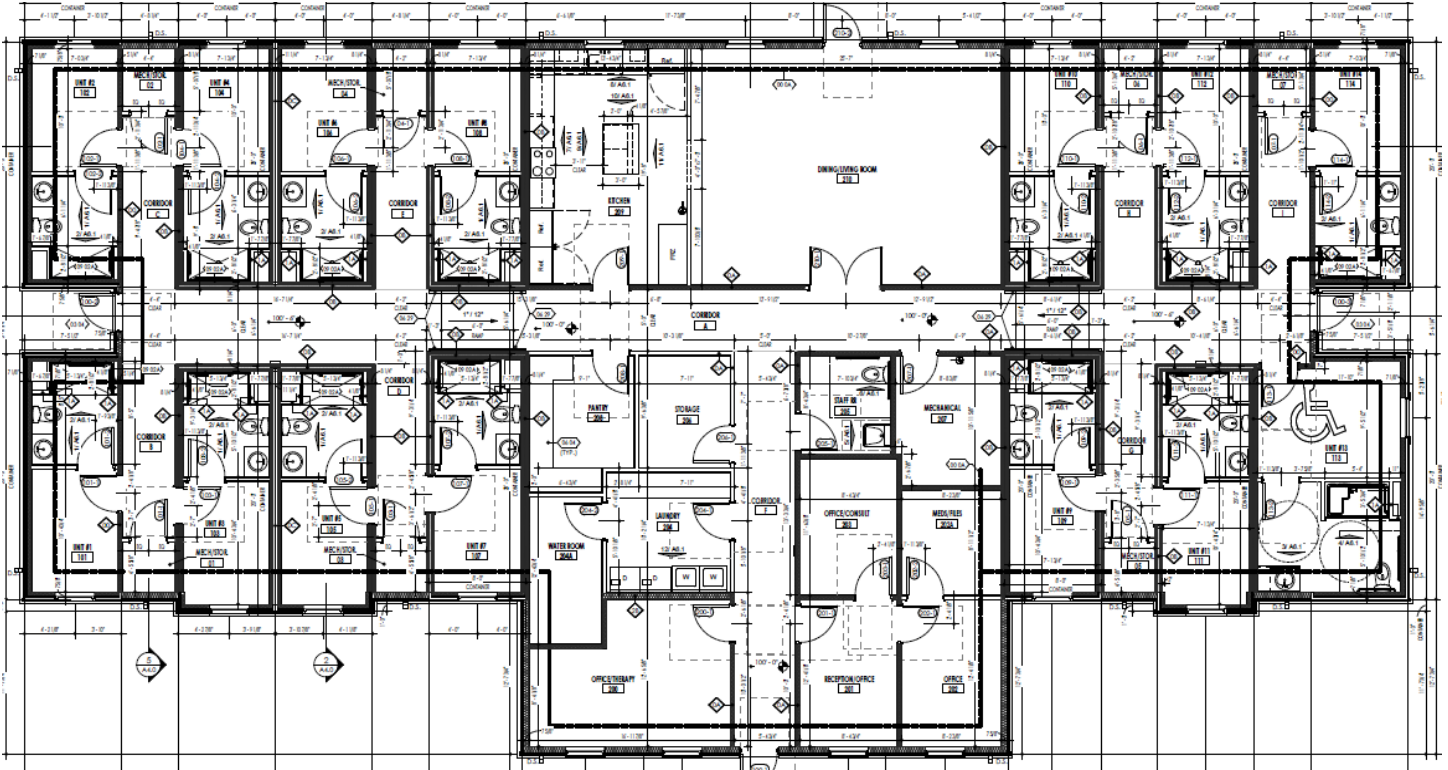
Sincerely,

Mark Frisone  
Executive Director

Matthew Slater  
Director of Development



# Our Fundraising Goal



## Budget

<b>Total Project Cost</b> .....	<b>\$1,200,000</b>
VA Grant Funding .....	\$600,000
Mahoning Board of County Commissioners .....	\$150,000
City of Youngstown Ward 1 ARPA .....	\$100,000
Fundraising Goal .....	\$350,000

**Our Goal: \$350,000**



# Community Need

Family & Community Services, Inc. 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 safe, 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.**

With your support, we can make sure that Mahoning County's female veterans who are homeless also can be served at Veteran's Haven. With your support, we will be able to build a Veteran's Haven facility that will provide individual bedrooms and bathrooms and veterans of all genders facing homelessness and addiction issues the privacy, security and dignity they deserve.



# Our Services

## A Home Away from Home

At Veteran's Haven, our facility is truly a home away from home. With a kitchen, dining room, living room, 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 the facility is built, 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 receive 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 can include 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, as well as creative arts therapy (art, music, creative writing) for 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

## Adopt-A-Room Information

All adopt-a-room donors will be recognized on our Donor Tree of Life, which will be displayed in the main living area of Veteran's Haven. All donations will be used toward the capital campaign to help us reach our fundraising goal of \$350,000.

Bedrooms .....	\$4,000 (14 total)	\$56,000
Bathrooms .....	\$3,000 (14 total)	\$42,000
Kitchen.....		\$25,000
Living Room/Dining Room.....		\$15,000
Laundry .....		\$10,000
Storage .....		\$2,000
Office/Group Room .....		\$5,000
Pantry .....		\$3,000
Offices .....	\$3,000 (3 total)	\$9,000
Staff Bathroom .....		\$1,500
File Room .....		\$2,000

**Total: \$170,500**





# Sponsorship and Donor Info

## Donor Tree of Life Sponsorship Levels

Three levels of giving will be recognized on our Donor Tree of Life, which will be displayed in the main living area of Veteran's Haven. All donations will be used toward the capital campaign to help us reach our fundraising goal of \$350,000.

- Yes, I want to sponsor the Donor Tree of Life. Select level below.**
- Bronze Leaf: \$1,000 – \$3,999
- Silver Leaf: \$4,000 – \$9,999
- Gold Leaf: \$10,000 – \$24,999
- Rock: \$25,000+

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

\*Please make check payable to Veteran's Haven.

---

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please complete and mail your contribution to:

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

Veteran's Haven 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 Veteran's Haven, 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!

## Putting Furniture Together

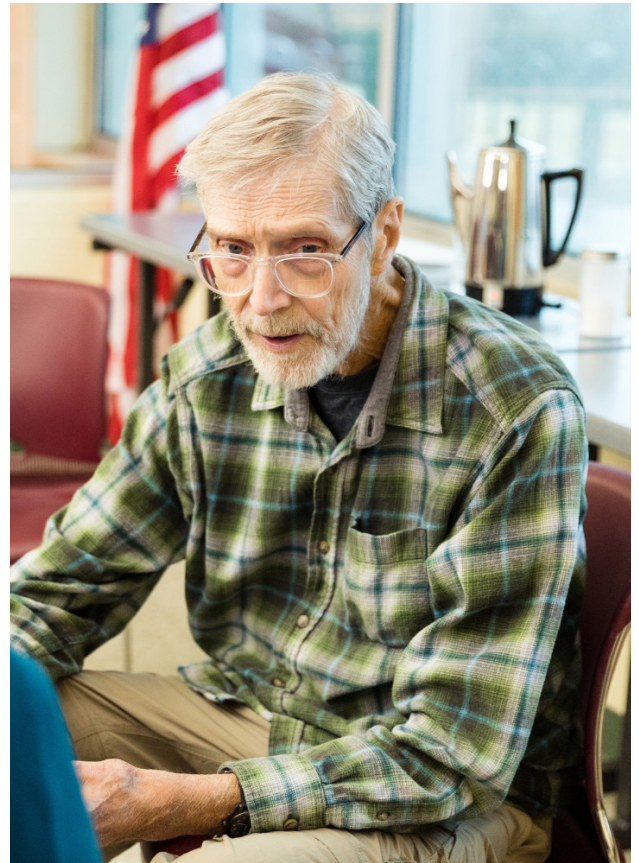
Rooms will be equipped with new furniture for our veterans. If you are handy and good at following instructions, you can help us make a veteran's room come to life.

## 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.

## Program Support

Once our facility is complete, help will be needed to answer phones, cook/provide meals, give rides to veterans, and help with other administrative tasks.



To get involved, please contact Brandi Parker at [bparker@fcsohio.org](mailto:bparker@fcsohio.org).

