

Dear Community Partner,

Family & Community Services, Inc. (FCS) has served veterans and their family members since World War II. In 2021, FCS extended its reach to homeless veterans in Mahoning County when it received a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to open a 10-bed transitional housing facility named Veteran's Haven. Veteran's Haven started in rented space at 550 West Chalmers Avenue in Youngstown and, in 2024, relocated to 2611 Homestead Ave. in Youngstown.

In 2022, FCS received \$600,000 in capital funds from The Department of Veterans Affairs to create a standalone Mahoning County transitional housing facility for homeless veterans. While our past and current space has served us well it does not meet several emerging needs we are experiencing – specifically to accommodate female veterans and to allow safer living and meeting areas for all veterans and staff. This new facility, with its individual bedrooms and bathrooms for up to fourteen veterans, will be a life-changing resource. It will allow Veteran's Haven to provide the necessary space, security, and dignity to single veterans, regardless of gender, as they work to obtain permanent housing. Our staff provides programming and referrals to assist veterans in overcoming any houseing barriers. 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. The renovations will now allow FCS to "Serve All Who've Served," regardless of gender.

Funds are required 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. Contact Matthew Slater, Director of Development, at 330-687-8136 or mslater@fcsserves.org for more information.

Sincerely,

Tark

Mark Frisone Executive Director

Matthew X. Stake

Matthew Slater Director of Development



# **Our Fundraising Goal**



### **Budget**

Total Project Cost	\$1,474,000
VA Grant Funding	\$600,000
Mahoning Board of County Commisioners	\$150,000
City of Youngstown Ward 1 ARPA	\$100,000
Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati	\$224,000
Adopt-A-Room Goal	\$250,000
Naming Rights for the Building	\$150,000

## Our Goal: \$400,000



## **Community Need**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates that 35,574 veterans are homeless on any given night. Over the course of a year, at least twice that many experience homelessness. Only 7% of the general population can claim veteran status, but nearly 13% of the homeless adult population are veterans. In 2023, homeless veterans increased by 7% from 2022. According to HUD's Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress, this increase is the first time the number of homeless veterans increased since 2019-2020.

Family & Community Services, Inc. (FCS) is leading the charge on housing all veterans who find themselves homeless in Mahoning County. Last year, the program received over 50 requests for housing assistance. Over 75% of those veterans who exited the program exited into permanent housing. While the program was successful, the current space was not designed for transitional housing to serve veterans of all genders. With female veterans being the fastest growing homeless population complicated by the fact that many are also dealing with unique challenges like military sexual trauma, FCS believes that we must respond to all veterans, regardless of gender.

To solve this issue, our new facility will allow us to serve the growing population of female veterans and provide private bedrooms and bathrooms for all veterans, regardless of gender. The creation of this new space will allow all veterans to have the space, privacy, and dignity needed to end their housing crisis.

With your support, we can make sure that all of Mahoning County's veterans who have served us will be served regardless of gender.



20% of the male homeless population are veterans. Veterans make up 7% of the total US population.



### **Our Services**

#### A Home Away from Home

At Veteran's Haven, our facility is truly a stepping stone to veterans reaching their housing goals. With a large kitchen, dining room, meeting rooms and private outdoor areas residents can tend to their daily needs and start to get their lives back on track in a comfortable and welcoming environment. After renovations are made, each veteran will also have their own private bedroom/bathroom suite. 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 Planning**

While at our facility, veterans meet weekly with staff for the first 12 weeks to establish goals that help the veteran work towards permanent housing and address other needs they may have. These assessments are on-going and are conducted collaboratively in a client-case management relationship. Wrap around services may include; signing up for VA benefits, accessing food and medical assistance, obtaining employment or other forms of income.

#### **Therapeutic Groups**

Veteran's Haven offers multiple types of therapeutic groups in which veterans are highly encouraged to attend while receiving services. These groups are conducted by licensed professionals and include psychoeducation, employment integration, creative arts therapy and music therapy.

#### **Access to Other Mainstream Services**

As part of the permanent housing plans established with each veteran, they are also informed of other veteran based mainstream benefits that may help them reach their long term housing goals. Veterans are often engaged with Supportive Services for Veteran Families and/or HUD-VASH in which separate collaborating case managers are available to meet with them on site and help them with their housing search.







### **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 \$192,000.

#### **Totals**

Naming Rights for The Building\$150,000 (payable over 5 yea	rs)
Bedrooms \$5,000 (14 total) \$70,000	)
Bedrooms	- 1 Adopted!
Bathrooms	)
Kitchen\$26,000	ADOPTED!
Living Room/Dining Room\$15,000	ADOPTED!
Laundry	)
Storage	)
Office/Group Room\$15,000	)
Pantry \$5,000	
Offices \$10,000 (3 total) \$30,000	
Staff Bathroom\$4,000	
File Room	

#### Total: \$400,000





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.