



IMPACT!

newsletter



March
2019

How your investment is changing the future for individuals ... leading the way to life in recovery!

ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS IN LOS ANGELES



Building 205 on the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Campus will begin rehabilitation in May.

The 2018 point in time count found **3,538** Veterans experiencing homelessness in L.A. Of this number, **1,995** Veterans were experiencing chronic homelessness, meaning **50%** have a disabling condition and have been homeless for at least one year or experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years. *Step Up's work with Veterans targets this population.*

Step Up has been strategizing with private partners on collaborative efforts to end Veteran homelessness in Los Angeles by scaling housing. Between March 1, 2019 and May 2020, Step Up and its partners will rehabilitate at least five motels and Buildings 205 & 208 on the VA campus for a total of **393** new Veteran units. There are 96 potential units under review that could bring the total to **489** units, **ending homelessness for 25% of the target population** in Los Angeles County. With the current **54** units in Building 209, Step Up would be managing a total of **543** Veteran units. Step Up's VASH team has housed and currently works with an additional **137** Veterans in scattered site apartments across the in the community.

The first **173** units commence rehabilitation on March 1 with move-ins slated for October 2019.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

The #1 requested supportive service...



Unaccompanied women, the designation given to women who are alone and without partners or children, are the fastest-growing homeless demographic nationwide.

Though homelessness is not only a women's issue, there are some unique challenges facing women who are alone on the

streets. Being homeless often means increased risk of violence and victimization than the general population. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, 90% percent of women on the streets have experienced domestic and sexual violence in their lifetime.

Step Up is committed to providing housing and trauma informed care for women who are formerly homeless. Using the Housing First model, Step Up can provide a safe place, mental health services, and job assistance.

A SENSE OF BELONGING

Mutuality, safety, and respect...



Carolyn Healy (*left*) is Step Up's new AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer Coordinator. Since November 2018, Carolyn has been meeting and interviewing staff about volunteer needs at Step Up locations across Los Angeles. "I have discovered many wonderful opportunities for volunteers to work with both Step Up members and staff," says Healy. Currently streamlining the volunteer onboarding process, Healy continues, "I'm excited to help each volunteer find the right fit for his/her skill set and abilities."

Prior to Step Up, Healy taught and designed ESL (English as a Second Language) curriculum for LAUSD and UCLA. She has lived abroad in both Chile and Spain, and speaks both Spanish and English.

Step Up's volunteer webpage will be live by April in time for National Volunteer Month and will give interested volunteers access to the online application, available volunteer jobs, a calendar of events, and a list of FAQs. In the meantime, to find out about upcoming volunteer opportunities, please contact Carolyn at (310) 696-4510 ext.2245 or CHealy@stepuponsecond.org.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING & PLACEMENT

Productivity and social connectedness...



Clifton McKay

At 17, Step Up staff member Clifton McKay joined the U.S. Navy with his parent's consent. He says after being discharged, "I made some poor choices. I was sentenced to ten years in prison and ended up at Patton Hospital with a diagnosis of schizophrenia."

For the past three years, McKay has worked at Step Up's vocational program and in the Client Run Center at

Step Up on Second. He serves as a Peer Job trainer and Peer specialist, running self-help groups and assisting in recovery by sharing his own experience. "I give my testimony at various places such as the V.A. and transitional housing locations."

McKay regularly attends AA meetings, goes to the gym, and takes classes at Santa Monica College. "My goal is to become a psychologist and provide help to those who were in the situation I was in."

Learn first-hand how Step Up is ending homelessness



Join us for a Breakfast Tour of Building 209 with CEO Tod Lipka Tuesday, March 12, 8:00 am

For more information about the tours: please call Julia Salazar, Director of Annual Giving at (310) 696-4510 ext. 2210