



Veterans Day is observed Monday, November 11, 2019

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



Elks Care, Elks Share

Members of Santa Monica Elks Lodge 906 (pictured) recently dropped by the West L.A. Veterans Affairs Campus to deliver the 100 microwaves, 100 pillows, 56 hygiene kits, and books they donated to Building 209's Veteran residents. Exalted Ruler Jaynee Roszhart said, "We apply for grants each year through the Elks National Foundation, a giving charity whose mission is to help kids and Vets." The Elks pledge, "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Elks Lodge 906 first learned about Step Up through one of their members, Santa Monica firefighter and retired Marine, Jason Walker. Said R.A. Pickett, Elks' Past Vice President, "We were looking for an organization in Santa Monica and when we saw Step Up's mission, we knew it would be a great fit." A great big thank you to the Elks for their generous donation and their commitment to end Veteran homelessness and to keep Veterans stable in housing!

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



It was over a year ago Step Up member Deborah M. (pictured) last slept in a home and longer since she slept in her own bed. As a survivor of domestic violence and with no family to rely on, Deborah lived in her car. Last month, Deborah was offered permanent supportive housing in San Bernardino. Once her housing situation was established, she was able to move on to her next goal.

Deborah's resiliency has made her a role model in the face of adversity. Recently, she was asked to serve on a community board dedicated to finding solutions to end homelessness. Her voice will be heard on the importance of supporting individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: TESS CLAIR



Following her retirement in 2011, Tess Clair (pictured) embarked on her second career (and first love), an active and diverse program of volunteerism. Tess has assisted with programs and events sponsored by Step Up at Building 209 on the West L.A.s Veterans Affairs Campus. Tess's husband, John, served honorably in Vietnam so veteran concerns are of significant importance to her. She has been a sustaining donor to Step Up for many years.

Tess is committed to serving people who are experiencing homelessness. She volunteers as an intake and triage specialist at The People Concern's facility in Santa Monica. She serves on the City of Santa Monica's Taskforce Committee on Homelessness. Step Up appreciates all Tess does for Step Up and other agencies. If you are interested in following in Tess' footsteps and volunteering with Step Up, visit www.stepuponsecond.org and click on Volunteer!

A SENSE OF BELONGING



Howard P. (pictured) calls Building 209 on the West L.A. Veterans Affairs Campus "a place I can call home." Growing up in Southern California, he left a violent household as a young adult to serve in the Army. He did three tours, including Vietnam. Howard is learning to live with his PTSD. He experienced 12 years of homelessness because of alcoholism until he found Step Up. He is clean and sober and attends AA meetings

four times a week. Howard P. is a valued member of Step Up's Vocational Peer Training Program as part-time caretaker of Building 209.

Howard's grown sons, daughters, and younger sisters know he is alive and well. "My grandkids now know their granddad. They're so excited I'm on Facebook." The future is looking bright for Howard. He looks forward to saving up and taking a European Cruise so he can visit Spain. He promises he will post those pictures on Facebook.

Élephante

BEACH HOUSE · SANTA MONICA
CALIFORNIA

Thanksgiving Fundraiser

100% of the proceeds benefit Step Up!

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Pumpkin Ginger • Salted Maple Buttermilk

Baked by former Sqirl Pastry Chef
Sasha Piligian

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Starting November 10th