



Portland
Housing
Bureau



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305 Disabled Veterans Find Homes:

Community Called Upon to Welcome 305 Veterans into their New Homes

Everyone deserves a place to call home, especially the men and women who have served our country.

Yet hundreds of military veterans are homeless in our community because of poverty, job loss, a tight rental market and physical or mental disabilities that were often the result of trauma experienced while they were serving. Help is available through federal vouchers that provide rent and social support for veterans. But too many vets can't take advantage of these vouchers. The bureaucratic and financial hurdles for veterans were too great. In this community, Veterans Assistance Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers were underutilized.

That's why Operation 305 was created. Operation 305 is a community effort convened by the Portland Housing Bureau, with Home Forward, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Multnomah County and many community partners. The group was determined to rapidly get VASH vouchers in the hands of veterans. The vouchers, funded by the VA and U.S. Housing and Urban Development, are administered by the VA and Home Forward.

Since tackling this challenge on Veterans Day, 2012, Operation 305 has succeeded in connecting veterans to all of our community's available vouchers, placing 305 veterans in permanent homes. The effort was achieved through better coordination, outreach and raising \$40,000 from the city of Portland, Multnomah County, Home Forward and United Way to help vets over these hurdles with application fees, transportation and other uncovered needs. Now, our community has received another 55 vouchers to place veterans in a permanent home.

To welcome these veterans into their new homes, Operation 305 is asking community members to donate items for Welcome Home kits. Click [here](#) for a list of household items to drop off at Bud Clark Commons Day Center, 665 N.W. Hoyt St., 24-hours a day, through the end of July.

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