



Atlanta Regional Housing Forum

Addressing Veterans Housing Issues

December 5, 2012 9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Loudermilk Center, 40 Courtland Street, Atlanta, GA 30303

Agenda

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome & Introductions
Bill Bolling, Atlanta Community Food Bank
- 9:35 a.m. Addressing Veterans Housing Issues
Fred Wacker, The Home Depot Foundation
- 9:45 a.m. Panel Discussion
- 11:45 a.m. Adjourn

Panelists

Leonard Adams

President and CEO, Quest35 Housing

Doug Faust

Executive Director, Decatur Housing Authority

Susan Lampley

Project Officer, Office of Mayor Reed

Jenifer Turner Reid

Deputy Network Homeless Coordinator
Veterans Administration (VA)

Coming to the December 5
Atlanta Regional Housing Forum?

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Please Consider Donations of
Non-Perishable Food Items
for Atlanta Community Food Bank

AND

Household Items for Donation
to Previously Homeless Veterans
Transitioning to Housing!

According to the Veterans Empowerment Organization (VEO), 2,000 veterans already reside on the streets of Atlanta. Simply providing shelter is not the answer to our homeless veteran problem. We are indebted to the service of these veterans and we need to provide an environment where they can thrive in our society. With thousands of veterans returning to Georgia and the US from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (OEF/OIF) over the next several years, the number of veterans in urgent need of housing and other support is expected to increase. By planning ahead and preparing the necessary supportive services and housing options, we can, working together as a regional team, minimize homelessness and solve it as it becomes apparent in the region.

The Atlanta Regional Rapid Response team was formed to respond to the VA's national challenge for metro areas to house 100 homeless vets in 100 days. The Atlanta team met and exceeded the national challenge by housing 138 veterans in less than 100 days! Atlanta's effort was featured on a national webinar hosted by HUD. The team includes representatives from the VA, HUD, DeKalb Housing Authority, Decatur Housing Authority, Atlanta Housing Authority, United Way, Project Community Connections, and the Office Mayor Reed. This regional team is now focused on its goals for 2013 to house 300 more homeless vets with VASH vouchers by December, 2013.

The panel will present information on current efforts to connect Atlanta area veterans to quality, affordable housing through VASH and other initiatives. Confirmed panelists include:

Leonard Adams - President and CEO, Quest35 Housing. Q35 offers a spectrum of housing and supportive services to veterans ranging from emergency and transitional shelter to rental and homeownership. Quest35's development arm includes consulting services along with acquisition, rehab and new construction.

Doug Faust - Executive Director, Decatur Housing Authority. Doug is widely experienced in affordable housing, resident relocation, and redevelopment efforts. His agency has successfully housed over 140 veterans to date through the VASH voucher program. Doug and his DHA team understand the challenges and opportunities associated with this important housing effort.

Susan Lampley (Invited) - Project Officer, Innovation Delivery Team, Office of Mayor Reed. Susan led the Mayor's efforts to assemble the Rapid Response Team and is on point for the Mayor's Homelessness Initiative. Susan will provide an overview of the Atlanta team's activities and successes to date along with an outline of the goals for 2013.

Jenifer Turner Reid - Deputy Network Homeless Coordinator, Veterans Administration. Jenifer is the lead regional VA rep for the VASH program. For our panel discussion, Doug Faust will provide the Housing Authority perspective, while Jennifer will provide the VA perspective regarding VASH, related services, etc.

The 2012
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Atlanta Community Food Bank!

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