5th Annual
Women Veterans Alliance
Unconference Oct 11-13

Veterans Connect @ the Library in conjunction with the California State Library is sponsoring 10-15 women veterans for this amazing opportunity.

Join us for our 5th Women Veterans Alliance Unconference in Monterey. Imagine connecting with your sisters! Feeling inspired by engaging speakers. Tasting delicious food. Relaxing & laughing, healing & growing all in one weekend. Includes a Kids Retreat! We love service dogs and spouses!

PLEASE LET YOUR VOLUNTEERS AND VETERANS KNOW!
10-15 SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!
DEADLINE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

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Do you have something to contribute? Please email wolfe@plpinfo.org

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From Homelessness to Housed
Thanks Veterans Connect @ the Library!

Today we are sharing a “good news” story with you about how a homeless Vietnam era Air Force veteran at one California library was helped by their Veterans Connect group of staff and volunteers.

Ron had spent the last decade or so, as a senior, living in an inexpensive apartment above a garage on the property of his friends. Once they became too old to keep their home, Ron found himself without a place to live. There were simply no such affordable rental situations in Southern California.

Ron happened upon the library when he began to live in his car. He would spend the day parked at the library because he felt safe and the people were friendly as were the staff inside the building. When he discovered the Veterans Connect @ the Library office, they quickly worked to help connect Ron with his benefits. He was able to apply for and receive a VA pension. He received new eyeglasses (which were sadly damaged in the process of living in a small car) and free prescriptions.

“I come up several times a week. Sometimes you need someone to talk to. They have a lot of veterans who work here and we have something in common. They definitely point you to the right direction. They've done a lot of things and just a friendly voice sometimes saying "it's a long process but you're making progress and things will get better" helps. You feel like someone is on your side. That's the big thing. Someone is going out of their way to help you."

As you know, we do not always hear what the impact of our interactions has been on the veterans and families that come to see us. In this case, we received this email from the library: “I don’t know if you remember Ron from our Veterans Resource Center. He had been living in his car and came into the library for cool air when he saw the Veterans Resource Center banner. Our volunteers connected him to local services (for food, groceries, showers & a mailing address) and got him set up with CalVet. We also put him in contact with our local VA Outreach specialist. Long story short. . . . Ron signed the lease on his brand new apartment today! He made sure to stop by the library this afternoon to share pictures of his new home.”

Thank you for your service, staff & volunteers - you are changing lives! For more stories, check out our evaluation here: https://calibrariesforveterans.org/files/Vets_Connect_Eval_2018.pdf
STATISTICS

REMINDER: August 2019 statistics are due September 7th. Here is the NEW statistics link for FY 19/20 (July 1, 2019-June 20, 2020):

If you still have statistics to enter for FY 18/19 (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019) visit: https://bit.ly/2O5ru4T

Please check out the VA's resources for mental health and suicide prevention available here:
https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/

Are your copies of the 2019 California Veterans Resource Book flying off the tables? Order more copies here:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5KJMP8G