

## STARTING YOUR OWN “RV’S FOR VETERANS” PROGRAM

Five years ago, my son saw a motorhome sitting in the driveway of one of his customers. It had been abandoned by tenants, and the home owner had been trying for months to get rid of it...no paperwork, no pink slip, stuck in a driveway with flat tires.

My son suggested we show it to one of our homeless veterans who we’d working with on the streets. He figured out how to get a tow truck to drag it out of the driveway, and have it taken to a spot were he could work on it. He then went to the DMV and did the paperwork to make it legal.

Hence, the “RV’s for Veterans” program was born! To date, we have passed on 80 motorhomes, fifth wheels, travel trailers and cars. All have gone to homeless veterans but a few ...when there isn’t a homeless veteran who is in need of what we’re being given, we ask another homeless person if they could use it (with donor’s approval). We only take RV’s in good shape with pink slips. They must be currently registered (or on non-op), have no leaks, and run well. We don’t fix up damaged RV’s.

This program is simple ~ no meetings, money exchanging hands, or liability incurred. Just a heart for homeless veterans, a telephone, and a computer. We look for people who want to donate RV’s (using Craig’s List/ads in local newspapers or magazines, or post fliers about town in churches/businesses/VA Offices, or word of mouth. We keep track of our local homeless veterans and simply connect them with the potential donor. The donor goes with the veteran to the DMV, signs off on pink slip, transfers title, and it’s done. The veteran obtains insurance, and away they go with their own little home on wheels.

Many veterans receive benefits, but often it's not enough to pay rent and other living expenses. Some veterans don't qualify for assistance offered by the VA. Some veterans need to live alone due to PTSD, etc. and *this should be their choice*. Many *like* being mobile.

### A simple gift from one person to another.

**TAX DEDUCTION:** Because of restrictions by the IRS, we don’t give tax deductible receipts. The donor can go on line and get his own form to submit with tax returns.

**PARKING:** There are many mobile home parks with RV spaces. There are also private, and public state and national campgrounds where disabled veterans pay half the camping fee. There are numerous private clubs all over the country (Elks, Moose, American Legion, etc.) where members can park indefinitely for a low monthly rate. Some military bases even offer parking.

**If you have a heart for helping homeless veterans, start your own program!**

**Call Becky with questions at 805/234-5478**

