

ORIGINAL

Program Strategies

Love Foundation (LF) is a start up non-profit organization committed to meeting the needs of American veterans which have return to the civilian population and those who will transition in the future. Through research we have discovered many issues and challenges facing returning veterans, such as, unemployment, mental disorders, lack of social network and social identity, proper job skills, alcohol and drug abuse, crime, homelessness and high suicide rate. These needs cannot be addressed totally by the Veteran Administration (VA) as many people believe. The VA is a great help in meeting the needs of veterans but the truth is Veterans Administration is overworked, underfunded and under-staffed. To successfully address issues facing veterans will take a collective effort from the American public, veterans and Veterans Administration.

Love Foundation has developed a plan that can successfully meet the needs and challenges facing veterans with the help of the American public fellow veterans and the Veterans Administration. Love Foundation will launch a fundraising campaign. The campaign will present the needs of American veterans and make the public aware of challenges veterans are forced to confront on a daily basis. We hope to make the public understand the military is the force that guards America's liberties from those who would love to see her fall. People in America have enjoyed great liberties that people of other nations can only wish for and it came on the backs of veterans. America must not forget that freedom is not free it come with a price someone died to make it possible for Americans to enjoy the liberties our nation have today. Someone said, "It is

ORIGINAL

the Veteran, not the preacher who has given us freedom of religion- It is Veteran, not the reporter who has given freedom of the press- It is the Veteran, not the poet who has given us freedom of speech- It is the Veteran, not the lawyer who given us the right to a fair trial- It's the Veteran, not the politician who has given us the right to vote”.

Once the Love Foundation and its veteran committee remind the public of challenges and issues of veterans we believe the public will rally behind the veterans and the fund-raising. We will be free to ask the American public to “Give a Vet a Buck”. If we can get one dollar from a large segment of the American population it would create a residual income funding programs which will meet veterans’ needs. The public can give one dollar a day, week, month or year. After proving this program can be successful in Memphis we like to use this model across the United States. These programs will be predominately run by veterans with hope of moving the veteran from an entitlement mentality to an empowerment mentality. It was Bill Wilson alcoholic who discover by talking to another alcoholic he could stay sober. This same principal can work in helping veterans understand they are not along in struggles to readjust in civilian life. Veterans need a place where they communicate and share their fears and hope with other veterans which will give the veteran an since of belonging, the strength and courage to face their challenges.

The love Foundation and Veteran Committee have identified a facility in the Memphis TN area which could adequately provide for needs of veterans. The facility can houses over hundred veterans with accommodations for both female and male who can come from any part of the United States as long as they served in American military. This will be a 24 hour facility

ORIGINAL

where veterans can come whenever or for whatever the problem may be. We will provide three meals daily for homeless veterans and aid these veterans in finding and maintaining stable living. We have talked with several staffing agents in the Memphis area which they stated they are willing to assist in finding temporary and permanent employment for veterans. We will also provide transportation to and from job sites. We will provide recreation which can help veterans develop a social identity and social belonging. We have spoken with some local VA and other addiction counselors and professionals which are willing to provide counseling for alcohol and drug addiction. They have committed to volunteering their service one hour a week. Finally we are committed to helping with life skills programs. Life skill programs would include decision-making often involves critical thinking ("what are my options?") and values clarification ("what is important to me?") and financial literacy and substance abuse prevention. Our program also focuses on diverse topics: career planning, communication, daily living, home life, housing and money management, self care, social relationships, work and study skills, work life.

Our long term goals as an organization is to assist veterans in starting their own business, once we help veterans establish their businesses they will hire veterans looking for work. We would assist veterans in finding affordable housing. We will partner with other organizations and providing funding for their growth. The Love Foundation has many great ideas for promoting growth among the veteran community which will empower the American veteran.

EDITED

Love Foundation Program Strategies

The Love Foundation (LF) is a nonprofit, start-up organization committed to meeting the needs of American veterans who have returned to the civilian population and those who will transition in the future. Through research, we have discovered many issues and challenges facing returning veterans such as unemployment, mental disorders, lack of social network and identity, proper job skills, alcohol and drug abuse, crime, homelessness and a high suicide rate. Contrary to popular belief, these issues cannot be fully addressed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The VA is a great help in meeting the needs of veterans, but it is overworked, underfunded and understaffed. In order to successfully address the issues facing veterans, it will take a collective effort from the American public, veterans and the VA.

LF has developed a plan that will successfully meet the needs and challenges facing veterans – with the help of the American public, fellow veterans and the VA. LF will launch a fundraising campaign which will present the needs of American veterans to the public – making them aware of the challenges veterans face every day. We hope to make the public understand that the military is the force that guards America’s liberties from those who would love to see her fall. People in America have enjoyed great liberties that people of other nations can only wish for and these liberties have come on the backs of veterans. Americans must not forget that freedom is not free, it comes with a price. Many have died in order to make it possible for Americans to enjoy the liberties they have today. Someone once said, “It is the veteran, not the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion. It is the veteran, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It is the veteran, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the veteran, not

EDITED

the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial. It is the veteran, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.”

Once LF, and its veterans committee, educates the public on the challenges and issues facing veterans, we believe the public will rally behind the veterans and our fundraising campaign. We will be free to ask the American public to “Give a Vet a Buck.” If we can get at least one dollar from individuals within a large segment of the American population, it would create residual income that will go towards funding programs that meet the needs of veterans. Individuals will be able to donate a dollar a day, week, month or year, either in person or via the internet. After proving this program can be successful in Memphis, we would like to use this model across the United States. These programs will be predominately run by veterans with the goal of moving them from an entitlement mentality to an empowerment mentality. It was Bill Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and an alcoholic himself, who realized that by talking to other alcoholics he could stay sober. This same principle can work in helping veterans understand that they are not alone in their struggle to readjust to civilian life. Veterans need a place where they can communicate with each other – sharing their hopes and fears with like-minded individuals. This will give veterans a sense of belonging as well as the strength and courage to face their challenges.

LF, and its veterans committee, has identified a facility in the Memphis area that could adequately provide shelter for veterans. The facility can house over a hundred veterans, accommodating both men and women from anywhere in the United States who have served in the US Armed Forces. This will be a 24-hour facility veterans can come to at any time, for any

EDITED

reason. We will provide them with three meals daily and help finding and maintaining stable living arrangements. We have spoken to several employment agencies in the Memphis area that are willing to assist in finding temporary and permanent employment for veterans. We will also provide transportation to and from job sites. We will provide recreational activities which can help veterans develop a social identity and sense of belonging. We have spoken to some local VA counselors, as well as other addiction counselors and professionals, who are willing to provide counseling for alcohol and drug addiction. They have committed to volunteering their services for one hour per week. Finally, we are committed to providing life skills programs. Life skills programs would include decision-making and critical thinking skills ("what are my options?"), values clarification ("what is important to me?"), financial literacy and substance abuse prevention. Our program also focuses on diverse topics such as career planning, communication, daily living, home life, housing and money management, personal care, social relationships, work and study skills, and work life.

Our organization's long-term goal is to assist veterans in starting their own business. Once we help veterans establish their own businesses, they will hire other veterans looking for work thus providing a veterans' network our organization can work with on a long-term basis. We would also assist veterans in finding affordable housing. We will partner with other organizations and provide funding for their growth as well. LF has many great ideas for promoting growth among the veterans community – growth that will empower the American veteran.