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Solution Topic

Topic: Communities should help end veteran homelessness

Position: communities have the power to help people in need. The community can help with fundraisers, providing housing, or providing work to veterans in need. The government provides funding to the veterans affair department to help veterans, but ultimately the community needs to be able to come together and help out veterans. Donations are needed and appreciated, but people don’t need money to help make a difference.

Why are these people homeless: There are many veterans that struggle from PTSD and the percentage of homelessness is low for veterans, however, the percent that is homeless is often due to the fact that they have no family or friends to turn to. There are times when they don’t qualify for certain programs and thus don’t have any other method to get by.

My solution would be to get the community involved. The VA does offer help both financially and mentally, however you have to fit the criteria in order to be accepted into the program. I have done some research and found that when the community helps veteran homelessness the rates go down. This has been the case in 3 states and I believe it was 8 communities where they successfully ended homelessness in their communities.  Most of the time these veterans often suffer from PTSD or some sort of mental health issue that prevents them from adapting to their new environment. They bring back the memories from the war and are unable to let them go. This of course is not everyone's situation and there are those that are able to get past it. Another issue is that there are more women veterans who are homeless than men simply for the fact that there are no resources to help them and their children. Many VA shelters don't allow children and thus women have to turn to programs such as welfare just like other women despite their mental health issues regarding PTSD. Although, many do suffer from such illness those that are homeless don't have family or friends to turn to.

Counter Argument: Why should the community help end veteran homelessness shouldn’t that be left to the government?

There is only so much the government can and is willing to do to help veterans stay away from the streets. The government already provides a budget for veteran services and although that is not enough to help all veterans it does help some. Overall, it is up to the community to help the veterans in need in any way possible. Helping out does not necessary mean giving veteran services donation, but offering housing, jobs, or even spreading the word of veterans in need.

Counter Proposals: The city should build more housing for veterans and provide more programs to help them get their life back together.

Although this seems a better alternative to most people rather than volunteering and helping out, there is only so much money that the government gives to veteran programs and services. Building more housing would not only require funding, but most likely finding a location that not only the community would allow, but the city as well. As we have seen in the past many communities don’t like the idea of homeless housing being built in their communities because of the possible increase in homelessness in the area. The community would only give so much before they no longer want to give any more and thus it won’t be a reliable source of funding.