#### Department of Connecticut VFW Auxiliary

#### "GRATEFUL HEARTS SERVING OUR VETERANS"

Department President Cheryl Costello-Pelkey's Project

## **HOMELESS VETERANS**

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# **Homeless Veterans Bulletin 2**

## **Homeless Female Veterans in Connecticut**

Based on the organization's success and the current needs of homeless Veterans, ABRI/Homes for the Brave expanded its programs to serve female homeless Veterans. <u>Female Soldiers:</u> <u>Forgotten Heroes</u> is the first community-based transitional supportive housing program dedicated to homeless female Veterans in the State of Connecticut. This program opened in November 2011.

The PFC Nicholas A. Madaras Home is Connecticut's first and only community-based transitional home exclusively for Women Veterans experiencing homelessness and their young children. Housed at the Madaras Home, which opened in 2011, are ten beds for Women Veterans and four beds, when available, for their young children.

Since opening in 2011, the program helps Women Veterans by meeting their needs for a safe, secure home, adequate food, and by empowering residents to move forward with their long-term goals: obtaining permanent housing, achieving financial stability, and working toward greater self-determination. Each resident works with a Case Manager to develop personal, housing, and employment goals and is encouraged to participate in the Vocational and Education Programs. ABRI vocational staff coach residents in the job search process, including resume writing, interview techniques, computer training, and other life skills.

