



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII HOSTS EVENT TO HELP HOMELESS VETERANS

*****Local stand down event is part of national effort to raise awareness of homeless veterans and provide necessary services*****

HONOLULU (October 24, 2012) – On any given night, there are almost 400 homeless veterans sleeping on the streets or temporary shelters in our community. Many have young families and are without a stable support system and need guidance to get them back on their feet. To raise awareness of the issue of homelessness among veterans, Catholic Charities Hawai'i will host a stand down event that will offer much needed services to homeless veterans including meals, clothing, medical examinations, information on veteran benefits, and employment services. Part of a national effort, the event will take place on Tuesday, October 30, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the McCoy Pavilion at Ala Moana Beach Park. Please note that attendance to this event is only open to homeless veterans.

"It is absolutely heartbreaking to hear about veterans who have risked their lives for our country and don't receive the support that they need to successfully reintegrate into society," says Jerry Rauckhorst, president and CEO of Catholic Charities Hawai'i. "Given our current world conflict, we are seeing a new wave of veterans who are struggling and need affordable housing, financial education and counseling. Through our programs and with our compassionate staff, we are able to work with each individual and their family to give them a hand up so they can achieve self-sustainability."

Catholic Charities Hawai'i supports veterans through a number of programs that provide help with locating and maintaining affordable housing, counseling and financial assistance. Catholic Charities Hawai'i joins the national effort to heighten awareness of this growing social issue. The first stand down for homeless veterans was held in San Diego in 1988 by a group of Vietnam veterans. Since then, these events have reached more than 200,000 veterans and their family members.

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-2- CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I HOSTS EVENT TO HELP HOMELESS VETERANS

The 2012 Veterans Stand Down on Oahu is more than a resource fair. The event allows multiple agencies to provide services at one site to provide coordinated care; offering tools and support to veterans and their families seeking to stabilize their housing situation.

While the stand down event is for homeless veterans only, veterans are encouraged to invite fellow veterans who need support to attend the event. In addition, the public is invited to support Catholic Charities Hawai'i and its mission of helping veterans by visiting the [website](#) or calling (808) 527-4820.

About Catholic Charities Hawai'i

Serving Hawai'i since 1947, Catholic Charities Hawai'i offers assistance to people in need, regardless of faith or culture. Long trusted in the community for their innovative and professional approach to human services, Catholic Charities Hawai'i provides much needed services through over 30 programs statewide. Catholic Charities Hawai'i is fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation. They are a partner agency of Aloha United Way and a member of the nationwide Catholic Charities USA organization. For more information please visit www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org.

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