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For Immediate Release  
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## VETERANS' PLACE APPLIES TO VA TO HELP CENTRAL VERMONT HOMELESS VETERANS

BARRE, VT - April 11, 2008 -- The Veterans' Place, Inc. (TVPI), a non-profit organization formed to create transitional housing and supportive services programs for homeless veterans in Central Vermont, announced today that it has filed for a federal Veterans Administration grant to purchase and renovate the former Mayo Delary Home in Northfield to house up to 26 homeless veterans and their families. If approved, the grant would also include per diem for the participants. TVPI expects preliminary VA approval to be communicated within three months.

"The Central Vermont community's tremendous positive response has been overwhelming," said Rev. Ralph Howe, Pastor, Hedding United Methodist Church, one of the organizers.

The TVPI Board of Directors is headed up by Jack McDermott and George Hutchins of Moretown, Sandy Combs of Charlotte, Richard Schroeder, Renny Azotea, Patrick Miner and Ralph Howe of Barre, as well as Chaplain James MacIntyre, Veterans and Family Outreach Team Leader, Vermont National Guard, and Richard Gray, US Dept of Labor Veterans' specialist. TVPI has received over \$3000 in small donations as a result of an appeal put out a few weeks ago, as well as monetary donations from Hedding United Methodist and the MacKenzie-Webster VFW Lodge in Barre.

In addition, non-cash contributions from community-wide partners Mayo Healthcare of Northfield, Central Vermont Community Land Trust, Black River Design, EF Wall of Barre and website developer, Onion River Web Design of Moretown have been received. The Northfield Savings Bank closed the final gap with a commitment loan for this project.

"TVPI is deeply grateful to all those who have made financial and in-kind donations for this project, as well as for all those who have been praying for it and offering guidance." Howe said.

Senators Leahy and Sanders, and Congressman Welch, Governor Douglas, and the entire Vermont House and Senate have offered letters of support, as have numerous local churches, business and charitable groups and organizations, including the state VFW and American Legion.

Norwich University has graciously offered to activate its network of alumni and to make available many resources at the college to assist the residents of TVPI. The Vermont Departments of Economic Services, Veterans Affairs, Labor, Employment and Training, and Health are prepared to be active participants with the VA Medical Center in White River Junction by preparing these veterans for re-entry into the normal workforce.

Mayo Healthcare has agreed to donate the furnishings and indicated their desire to cooperate in procurement, custodial requirements and in other ways in the future.

"We thank God for the generosity of so many people and organizations, and for the amazing ways in which the pieces of this puzzle have come together in such a short time," Howe said, "Transitional housing brings refuge to those who have suffered much for their country and now look only for a dignified and respectful way back into homes of their own. We are all blessed by this."

Howe noted that, "This is a win-win situation for Northfield and our homeless veterans. The landmark facility will be renovated and kept in use. Revenues flowing through should add to the local economy without

added significant burden to the local budgets."

Howe emphasized that, "The Veterans' Place home **will not be** an emergency 'shelter' frequented by transient persons; rather, it **will be** a 'group home' for men and women Veterans, along with their children to prepare for re-entry into normal society."

All homeless veterans participating in TVPI's programs will be thoroughly professionally pre-screened in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations to ensure that they are not a risk to themselves, others in the facility or in the community. They will be required to obtain jobs, keep substance free, participate in programs to enhance their health, mental health, employment skills, and to address chronic post traumatic stress disorder issues. There will be little traffic at the facility as it will use a van donated by Cody Chevrolet to transport the vets to and from appointments and jobs.

TVPI is still soliciting donations to make the project more viable and to provide better amenities to the veterans. To make donations, please send them to: The Veterans' Place Inc., 40 Washington Street, Barre VT 05641 or online at the TVPI website - [www.vermontveteransplace.org](http://www.vermontveteransplace.org) .

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