

# Bay Pines VA Healthcare System

## Homeless Stand Down

Bay Pines, FL

### DVNF helps southern Florida veterans beat the heat!

The town of Bay Pines is a beautiful place. With perpetually balmy weather and palm fronds dangling over every street, this coastal Florida town is idyllic. Yet for the homeless veterans of Bay Pines, daily life is anything but peaceful. In 2017 the state of Florida had the second highest rate of homelessness amongst veterans - and the area of Bay Pines was no exception to this trend.

Aware of this ongoing crisis, DVNF partnered with the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System to support their Stand Down for Homeless Veterans on April 14th. In its eighth year, this incredible stand down seeks to empower disabled and homeless vet-

erans in the Bay Pines area. Situated in the picturesque courtyard of the C.W. Bill Young Medical Center, the stand down offered court and legal assistance, employment help, army surplus, hair grooming and even feet washing!

In its efforts to support the Stand Down for Homeless Veterans DVNF sent Program Coordinators Lauren Hellendall and Blaine Mulugeta to the event. Lauren and Blaine were able to distribute multiple pallets of hygiene kits, first aid kits, clothing, sanitary wipes, sunscreen and more to the almost 600 veterans in attendance. DVNF was exceptionally grateful for the assistance of volunteers from the

VA Medical Center and Home Depot in distributing these needed items.

Upon filling up an army surplus bag with DVNF items, 81-year-old veteran Edwin Potter remarked "What [DVNF] is doing is truly worthwhile". Like many other veterans at the event, Mr. Potter grabbed a few travel size sunscreens as they were a popular item to beat the sun and heat. According to event organizer Edgardo Solivan seasonal items were exceptionally appreciated and there was "no sunscreen left, much needed in Florida!" at the conclusion of the event.

## Veteran Homelessness in Florida

2,817

**Total veterans experiencing homelessness on a given night**

50%

**Percent of total homeless population who are veterans**

50%

**Percent decrease in veteran homelessness since 2011**



Beginning at 9 am veterans were guided through a plaza where they were able to visit the tables of participating organizations and receive resources. Truly homeless veterans were given red wristbands and were immediately able to receive free army surplus. Veterans were also provided food and unique services like feet washing and hair grooming.



With the help of many generous volunteers DVNF staff were able to distribute almost \$109,000 of clothing, Care Kits, sanitary wipes, first aid kits and shoes to veterans attending the event. Special thanks to our friends at Home Depot!







**\$108,773**

**BAY PINES,  
FL**

<b>PALLETS</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>VALUE</b>
Care Kits	192	\$9,959
First Aid Kit 185 pcs	210	\$12,300
Socks Adult Assorted Sizes Hotsox Brand	712	\$8,544
Men's Sleep Pants Flannel	444	\$4,831
Men's Clothing ONS Brand	377	\$55,796
Women's T-Shirts 2 Pack	276	\$1,932
Cleansing Cloths Witch Hazel	1,440	\$8,323
Bag Canvas Multi Pockets Black	100	\$6,198
Sunscreen SPF 30 Coppertone Brand 30ml	500	\$891

