

Silver Star Vision Provides Hope to Homeless Veterans

Battle Creek, MI – (January 9, 2009) Fryling Construction is honored to be a part of an incredible program that could provide permanent solutions to Homeless Veterans. Medallion Management has teamed with Fryling Construction for a heartfelt project to assist Veterans Affairs in housing the homeless. The community development project will be named the Silver Star after the Army Medal of Honor.

Medallion Management is a property management company that specializes in non-profit consulting and joint ventures. Marvin Veltkamp, CEO of Medallion Management's vision is to provide an apartment living community that will assist homeless veterans in becoming healthy; physically, mentally, and emotionally. His mission is to effectively assimilate veterans back into healthy independent living.

The alarming number of homeless veterans has inspired this project. Still today, war veterans are in need of aid. Many Vietnam veterans are forgotten, and still haven't fully recovered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The problem originates from veterans who lack holistic health care on their return. Where physical healthcare was provided, occupational healthcare was not, leaving the mental and social well-being of some veterans very unstable. Many homeless veterans have spiraled into a lonely, unhealthy, and mentally disabled state, where they've lost site of returning to the life they had before being in the service.

The Silver Star is the second of its kind. The Saint Leo Campus for Veterans in Chicago, IL has been housing homeless veterans since November 2005. Marvin plans to follow similar efforts; to provide supportive services and counseling to veterans with a goal of self-sufficiency.

Medallion Management has chosen to build on the campus of the Battle Creek Veterans Affairs Medical Care Center. This campus specializes in mental care. The Enhanced Use Lease Program from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs allows Medallion Management to lease the property long-term. These leases are important in that they keep the proceeds in the Department of VA, whereas if property were sold, it would be pooled into the general U.S. government fund and not spent on our veterans.

Fryling Construction is privileged to team with Medallion Management on this admirable project. Much consideration is going into the construction of the apartment development to ensure a safe and warm environment to promote a healing community. Green-building efforts will be incorporated during the construction of the seventy-five unit, three-story apartment building. Green Construction will not only reduce the overall maintenance costs and rental rates, but it will also promote a healing environment and advance healthy living for the veteran tenants.

The design of the building is important because it is necessary to create an environment that strongly encourages community involvement, and to draw the veterans out of their rooms. Many of the homeless have become accustomed to isolation, and most of the programs are group-orientated to push socialization and to build friendships. A main focus of the group programs will be on creativity, which activates the creative parts of the brain and will further stimulate rehabilitation. Such activities like gardening, cooking, pottery, artwork, etc. have been proven to add to the quality of life.

The Silver Star VA Home will include non-profit special needs care providers on site. Assistance will be given to help veterans fill out the proper paperwork to receive aid from the Department of VA. Physical healthcare will be provided as well as a comprehensive counseling process. The VA Home will offer many supportive services with the goal of making each tenant independent by requiring each veteran to seek, obtain, and maintain employment. Veterans will be charged a very reasonable fee for rent, and will maintain strict guidelines about sobriety as a condition of occupancy. Tenants are free to come and go as they wish. The main focus is to fill the home with veterans, starting with the homeless, although, space for the non-veteran homeless and other mentally disabled persons may be available.

Fryling Construction broke ground on the Silver Star VA Home last week, and plan to complete construction by the end of Summer 2009. Marvin Veltkamp and the rest of the team at Medallion Management hope not only for success on this project, but for this to be a catalyst for many more communities to come.

More information about the Department of Veterans Affairs can be found at www.va.gov.
For more information about Medallion Management visit www.medallionmgmt.com.

Fryling Construction, a division of Wolverine Building Group, is a Grand Rapids based general contractor with more than 60 years of experience in the construction industry. Serving clients throughout Western and Central Michigan, Fryling specializes in multi-unit structures, historic renovations, tenant build-outs, and storefronts.

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