

AUGUST ... Volunteerism ... The hidden resource



NECHV President and CEO, Larry Fitzmaurice

Volunteers provide NECHV with vital support in fulfilling our mission to “extend a helping hand to homeless men and women veterans” assisting us in transitioning our veterans back into a fully independent life-style. From basic meal service, to training and tutorial support, our volunteers assist the organization in a number of capacities.

This assistance takes many forms including:

- Daily meal service to our clients
- Help with maintaining our building
- Holiday entertaining
- Special fundraising events
- Major building renovations
- Teaching in our Veterans’ Training School
- Food donations
- Clothing donations

Sometimes we have a need for more regular and long-term assistance, such as in July, when NECHV became a first time recipient of the **AmeriCorps*VISTA** program – a one year service award. VISTA, a national service program, is an acronym for “Volunteers in Service to America.” Through this grant award, a new volunteer coordinator has joined us. Her task is to help build capacity for our highly active volunteer program. VISTA’s mission is to help create systems and solutions that assist sponsored agencies in “moving people out of poverty.” Modeled after the Peace Corps and implemented in 1965, VISTA has recruited more than one million community volunteers and has helped to raise over \$183 million dollars in funds and in-kind contributions for “anti-poverty” issues. NECHV is proud to become a participant, and grateful to the **Corporation for National and Community Service** together with **Boston Cares**, our local sponsor, for this much needed assistance and active support.

Also in July, NECHV became the local recipient for the national “**Heroes at Home**” program through **Sears Holding** and **Rebuilding Together Boston**. Under this award, NECHV’s “Clothing Store” will undergo an extensive upgrade this Fall, through an all-volunteer effort, to prepare the store for a new training initiative that will be designed after a professional retail model.

Not only will the store be managed by volunteers with retail merchandising experience, but also our clients will receive specific training through our Veterans’ Training School and field application of these skills by working at the store.

Located on the basement level of our facility, the store provides free clothes, accessories and toiletries to the veterans served by the Center. The store is 100% supported through in-kind contributions from the community, and is currently managed exclusively through volunteer support of both our in-house veterans as well as community volunteers, under the supervision our Director of Operations. To learn more about how you can make an “in-kind” donation, please view the page link at: <http://www.nechv.org/inkinddonation.html>

For information on how you can make contributions of your time and talent, please view the page link to NECHV volunteer services at: <http://www.nechv.org/volunteeratnechv.html> Our special thanks to the many groups and organizations who have generously given their time during the first half of this year. We’re grateful for all of your support!

Please note: None of our endowment funds are invested with investment advisors. Our modest endowment is invested in CDs and all are covered by FDIC insurance.

AND ...

Thanks, as always, to our Board for their support, the Gold Star Mothers, staff, volunteers and all of our generous benefactors. And, to our respected clients, **keep up the good work that you are doing and take advantage of what is offered here including the training programs. Stay strong and persevere!**

Larry

Laurence D. Fitzmaurice
President and CEO