

Care Connections for Heroes gets underway

Local businesses band together, starting May 24, to help Minnesota Military Veterans in need

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EAGAN, Minn. (May 6, 2011) — Local businesses are teaming up to help raise funds for Minnesota Military Veterans in need. Every year, more than 10,000 veterans contact the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) with questions or looking for support.

According to the Wilder Research Study on Homelessness in Minnesota, on any given night, an estimated 669 Veterans are without a home. It's also estimated that many veterans are on the verge of a crisis that could lead to homelessness.

These men and woman, who honorably served their nation and defended our shared values, now struggle in their own country, state, and communities. Many live on the street, suffering from physical and/or mental issues, staying outdoors because their military training enables them to do so. Too often they delay seeking help. Today, along with the current economic hardships, we are faced with new challenges such as unaddressed medical and mental health including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injuries. These cases are on the increase as more veterans return home from Afghanistan and Iraq.

“The needs vary, but the fact remains, too many Veterans are struggling,” says Jason Engler, market manager for TDS Telecommunications Corp. “More veterans are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan to face unimaginable challenges. These are people that protected our country, fought for our country, they are heroes. Now, they need a little help to get back on their feet.”

Creating “Care Connections for Heroes,” TDS is teaming up with Tee it up for the Troops, Hot Hotel Deals.com, Hilton Garden Inn Eagan, and Clear Channel stations KFAN, KDWB, K102 and KTLK. The businesses will be raising funds all summer long for MACV, an organization dedicated to assisting Minnesota Veterans regain stability in their lives.

MACV's StandDown, an annual outreach event, will be held on Aug. 2-3 this year. It's just one of the many events Care Connections for Heroes is supporting during this campaign. During the two-day event, more than 700 veterans are expected to receive free services, including:

- Connection to benefits
- Housing referrals
- Mental health services
- Legal assistance
- Employment counseling
- Clothes and personal care items (soap, shampoo, etc.)
- Haircuts, meals and more.

The **Care Connections for Heroes campaign starts on May 24** as part of TDS Tuesday at Midway Stadium during the St. Paul Saints home game. All season long, monetary donations will be collected at Saints games during every TDS Tuesday at Midway Stadium. The campaign culminates at the Tee it up for the Troops event on September 9.

“Every Tuesday when the Saints play a home game, we’ll be on hand collecting donations to help local Veterans in need,” Engler says. “We hope Saints fans will support our efforts to help our heroes. Together, we can truly make a difference.”

In addition to collecting donations at Saints games, organizers are hosting an online auction. The auction offers hotel and restaurant certificates for personal use; they can also be donated to a veteran and his or her family. All auction proceeds will support Care Connections for Heroes.

For more information, access to the auction or to support Care Connections for Heroes, visit www.tdsbusiness.com/minnesota and click on the Care Connections for Heroes section of the web page.

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About TDS

TDS Telecommunications Corp. markets communication services to business and residential customers in 30 states through its brands TDS Telecom® and TDS Metrocom®. With 1.1 million access line equivalents in service, TDS Telecommunications Corp. connects customers to phone, broadband, and digital television service in hundreds of rural, suburban, and metropolitan communities. TDS Telecommunications Corp. is the eighth-largest wire line company in the nation; employing approximately 2,500 people. The company is headquartered in Madison, Wis. Visit www.tdstelecom.com and www.tdsbusiness.com for more information.

TDS Telecommunications Corp. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Telephone and Data Systems, Inc. [NYSE: TDS, TDS.S] Telephone and Data Systems, Inc., a Fortune 500® company, provides wireless, local and long-distance telephone and broadband services to nearly 7.2 million customers in 36 states through TDS Telecommunications Corp. and U.S. Cellular® [NYSE: USM], its 83-percent owned wireless subsidiary. Founded in 1969 and headquartered in Chicago, Telephone and Data Systems employed 12,300 employees as of Sept. 30, 2010. Visit www.teldta.com for more information.

About Tee it up for the Troops

Tee it up for the Troops was established in 2005 by the family and friends of a soldier who enlisted in the U.S. Army after September 11, 2001. When the son was asked by his father what he needed, the son responded by asking his father to do something for the soldiers and their families back home. *Tee it up for the Troops* was created to honor that request and to recognize the needs of all veterans who have served and continue to serve this great nation. *Tee it up for the Troops* is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. For more information, visit www.teeitupforthetroops.com.

About Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) is a 20 year-old nonprofit organization that exclusively serves veterans in crisis and those who are experiencing homelessness. MACV’s Mission: to provide assistance throughout Minnesota to positively motivated veterans and their families who are homeless or experiencing other life crises. MACV accomplishes its mission by providing services directly or in collaboration with other service agencies through three regional offices located in Duluth, the Twin Cities, and Mankato. MACV is a 501c3 non-profit organization that is approved by the Minnesota Charities Review Council . Visit www.mac-v.org.

About HotHotelDeals.com

HotHotelDeals.com offers hotel deals, specials and packages at a variety of locations throughout the state of Minnesota. Conveniently located near restaurants, shopping, and area attractions, HotHotelDeals.com has the perfect location for your next getaway! Metro locations include Bloomington, Eagan, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, New Brighton, Shoreview and St. Louis Park. Outstate locations include Austin, Fairmont, New Ulm, Rochester and Willmar.

Hilton Garden Inn Eagan

The Hilton Garden Inn of Eagan, Minn., is conveniently located just five minutes from the Mall of America on the Southwest corner of Interstate 35E and Cliff road. Their convenient location puts you at a comfortable distance from everything the Twin Cities has to offer without the hassle. The Hilton Garden Inn Eagan offers deluxe accommodations, friendly service, and relaxed atmosphere, which is exactly what you deserve during your next visit to the Twin Cities. Our diverse amenity package is certain to please the productive executive or the lounging leisure traveler. The Hilton Garden Inn Eagan, "Everything Right Where You Need It!"

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