

VETERANS GUEST HOUSE

2008 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



Veterans Guest House located at 880 Locust Street, Reno, Nevada

**Thank you
for helping us meet our mission:**

***To provide U.S. military service Veterans and their families
with caring support during times of medical need.***

Your efforts are deeply appreciated.



**Veterans Guest House
880 Locust Street
Reno, NV 89502-0948
Phone: 775-324-6958
www.veteransguesthouse.org**

**EXHIBIT M
Senior Citizens and Veterans
(A.C.R. 35)
Document consists of 6 pages.
Entire exhibit provided.
Meeting Date: 5-8-08**

Our Story

- The Veterans Guest House provides a “Home Away from Home” for Veterans and family members during times of medical need.

- All Veterans and family members are provided a safe and comfortable place to stay regardless of their ability to pay.

- The number of Veterans who are eligible to receive our services is in excess of 120,000 who reside in the Veterans Administration Medical Center service area, half of those are outside Reno/Sparks.

- The Veterans who use the House are from as far away as Elko to the north, Sacramento to the west, Bishop to the south and Ely to the east. Family members come from anywhere in the world.



- The value of the House to our guests is immeasurable. Many of them share those feelings in such statements as “...Without you I would not have been able to spend precious time with my father in his last days....”.

- To date the majority of our guests are referred to us by the VA Medical Center but we also support other medical facilities in the Reno/Sparks area, i.e. Renown Medical Center, St. Mary’s Regional Health Center and Northern Nevada Medical Center.

- There are 12 beds available, including one room that meets ADA requirements. A continental breakfast is provided each morning and there is a television room for guests who need to just escape for a bit. Guests must be independent and self-reliant or have a caretaker with them. The House is a smoke-free environment.



As one of our guests recently wrote, “I was so confused and frightened not knowing what to do and I was so very tired from trying to hold things together. What a welcome relief to finally have a place to stay. I can’t seem to find the words to express how grateful I am to you and those who have helped to fund and build this beautiful house. Thank you just doesn’t seem like enough.”

General John P. Abizaid

2008 Annual Campaign Honorary Chair



John P. Abizaid retired from the United States Army in May, 2007, after thirty-four years of active service. After graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point, he rose from infantry platoon leader to become, at that time, the youngest four-star general in the Army. At the time of his retirement he was the longest-serving commander of United States Central Command. During a distinguished career he commanded units at every level, serving in the combat zones of Grenada, Lebanon, Kurdistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. Units under his command have included the 1st Infantry Division, a brigade in the 82nd Airborne Division, and two Ranger companies. Abizaid

worked on the Joint Staff three times, the last as Director. He studied at the University of Jordan in Amman, holds a master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University, and is widely considered to be an expert in the field of Middle Eastern affairs. As such, Abizaid was one of the first to recognize the protracted nature of the ongoing conflict against religious-inspired extremists, which he has termed "The Long War."

General Abizaid was recently named the first Annenberg Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. He works with the Preventative Defense Project at Stanford University and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He regularly speaks on leadership and international security through the Washington Speakers Bureau. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the International Institute for Strategic Studies. He currently serves as a Director of the George Olmsted Foundation and USAA. He and his wife Kathy are residents of Gardnerville, Nevada.

Why VGH Annual Campaign Necessary?

The VGH is committed to making quality facilities available to all U.S. Military men and women and their families who are undergoing medical treatment. Through the VGH organization, we are able to ensure that no one is turned away from decent living accommodations based on their ability to pay. Guests are asked to make a donation to the House but not all are able to do so. The donation request is not enough to pay the operating costs of the House. Money raised during the Annual Campaign will be used to pay operating costs so that Veterans and their families have a safe and clean place to stay.

For more information about the Annual Campaign and how you can help, contact us at 775-324-6958 or log on to www.veteransguesthouse.org.

How You Can Help

We hope once you learn about the Veterans Guest House you will make a donation for 2008 that will help us meet our mission. We also hope you will consider making this donation each year as part of our annual campaign.

1. You, of course, are the one who determines how much you are able and willing to give to the Veterans Guest House.
2. You can choose to provide that donation all at one time or we will be happy to bill you for your pledge.
3. We have an **Adopt-A-Day** program that is available should you wish to adopt a specific date in the year to recognize a veteran or family member. The cost of each Adopt-A-Day is \$100.
4. All donations of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on our **Tree of Gratitude**. Donations over time will be added together to determine the level of recognition.
5. If you have friends that would like to help us, please give the campaigner their contact information or tell them to visit www.veteransguesthouse.org.



Thank you for your time and your support.

Facts About the Veterans Guest House

- The need for this facility was identified by Chuck Fulkerson and Dick Rhyno when they spoke with a woman who had slept in her car with her children one evening while her husband was seriously ill in the VA Medical Center.
- The Veterans Guest House was incorporated Veterans Hospital Foundation, Inc. in 1991.
- In 1994 a small house was leased and opened as the "Spouse House".
- In 2002 the organization's name was changed to more accurately reflect the individuals that were using the House.
- In 2004 a new Veterans Guest House was built on the site of the original "Spouse House". The doors opened on December 1, 2004.
- During the first year of operation we had over 1700 guest nights--2.5 times the guest nights of the smaller house. In 2007 our occupancy was just under 3,000 guest nights. This is over four times the number of guest nights in our original "Spouse House".
- There is a great need for similar facilities throughout the nation and a future effort in this area has been identified by the Board.



Veterans Guest House, Inc

www.veteransguesthouse.org

(775) 324-6958

2008 FAQ Sheet

Who can stay at the Veterans Guest House (VGH)?

Veterans, active duty military personnel and family members or caretakers are eligible to stay at the House if a family member is undergoing medical treatment in any Reno-Sparks medical facility.

Are all of the veterans that are supported by VGH receiving medical treatment at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center?

The majority of the guests are receiving care at the VA Medical Center; however, veterans receiving treatment at any of the medical facilities in the Reno/Sparks area are eligible to stay at VGH and many have.

What is the service area of the VA Medical Center?

The VA Medical Center covers over 100,000 square miles of territory. This includes 12 counties in Nevada and eight counties in northeastern California, i.e. Bishop to the south, Ely to the east, Elko to the north, and Sacramento to the west. About 120,000 veterans reside in this region, with 50 percent of those outside the Reno/Sparks area.

How many guests did the VGH host in 2007?

VGH hosted just under 3,000 guest nights in 2007. This is a 25 percent increase in number of guest nights experienced in 2006. This is also about four times the number of guests served in the original house each year.

Are the guests required to pay for their stay?

Guests are asked to donate \$25 per night to VGH. No one who is eligible to stay is turned away if they are not able to make a donation. Donations from guests in 2007 were less than 50 percent of what they would have been if everyone donated the full amount.

What are the guests provided?

There are six rooms in the House with two beds in each room. Two rooms share a bathroom. One room and bathroom is American Disability Act (ADA) compliant. The guests are provided a continental breakfast and are responsible for their own lunch and dinner. There is a community kitchen that guests may use as well as a community television room.

What are the staffing requirements for the House?

We have a full-time House Manager on duty Monday through Friday. We have a Resident Manager who is responsible during the evenings and weekends and lives on site. We have an Executive Director who is responsible for the overall management of the House and for all of the administrative and fundraising functions. The House Manager and the Executive Director are the only employees who receive pay.

What does it cost to run VGH for a year?

For 2005, the total cost of operation was slightly above \$150,000. Expenses for 2006 were \$220,000 and we estimate expenses of \$265,000 in 2007. We estimate the daily cost of running the House at \$700 and that includes our mortgage payment. The expense increase goes hand in hand with our continued growth in occupancy.

Where does VGH receive its funding?

The Veterans Guest House is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All funding comes from donations from individuals, companies and foundations. VGH does not receive any federal funding.

What other fundraising activities does the VGH have?

In addition to the Annual Campaign, there is an annual radio-thon sponsored by KKOH 780. Volunteers and board members staff drink booths at the Rib Cook-off. In 2008, VGH was one of the recipients of Sheep Dip.

What is the 880 Club?

The 880 Club is an effort to find 750 individuals to donate \$880 each. With those donations we would be able to “burn the mortgage”. All money collected will go directly to pay the mortgage.

What is Adopt-A-Day?

Adopt-A-Day is one of the programs that we have to raise the funds necessary to operate the House. It is a way for individuals to receive recognition at the House on a date that is important in their life. The date can also be adopted in honor or in memory of someone special in their life. A certificate hangs in the House on that day recognizing those who Adopt-A-Day. The cost to Adopt-A-Day is \$100/day.

For more information, please contact Noreen Leary, Executive Director, at (775) 324-6958 or by e-mail at Noreen@veteransguesthouse.org.