

June 18th, 2014

NFARS 914th Security Forces Squadron volunteer at house for homeless Veterans

Lockport, NY – With a goal toward honoring and improving the quality of life for America’s brave Veterans, advocates for Veteran and Military service, and Veterans themselves, members of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station 914th Security Forces Squadron donated their home improvement skills to assist in the renovation of Niagara County’s first Veteran-exclusive housing for disabled & homeless Veterans.

Captain Van Vohland, MSgt David Buell, SMSgt Clifford Brown, MSgt Marty Davis, MSgt Will Storey, MSgt Robert Starr, SMSgt Chris Laufer, and SSgt Justin Weiser stepped away from their law enforcement duties for a day to volunteer with S.E.R.V. Niagara as part of a community service project, and also volunteered additional off duty time. Home renovations included laying carpet, installing trim, tile work, removing old and installing new electrical fixtures, repairing stairs, and painting.

S.E.R.V. Niagara is a not for profit that provides for the needs of Veterans and their families. Their primary focus is providing housing specifically in Niagara County. With the highest concentration of homeless Veterans (per capita) in New York State, Veteran-only housing is very much needed in this county and S.E.R.V. Niagara is the first to provide it.

In March of this year, the organization purchased two properties in the City of Lockport. The two properties, only doors down from one another, provide housing for two different groups of Veterans: the first, scheduled to open in July, is to house seven male homeless Veterans. The second, serves as apartments for homeless Veterans and their families. “We are very proud to be serving two different Veteran populations simultaneously,” says Jennifer D’Andrea-Terreri, Founder and Director at S.E.R.V. Niagara. “Selflessly sacrificing themselves as defenders of our freedoms, our Veterans, as well as their families, deserve to have access to every resource available. And whatever resource is not available in this area, we aim to present it.”

Residents in both houses will have access to all the services and programs that S.E.R.V. Niagara has to offer, which include transportation assistance, Creative Arts Therapy, CASAC scholarships, life skills workshops, family programs and more. The Foundation holds true to its mission to S.E.R.V.; Support, Empower, Respect Veterans and their families.

“We share S.E.R.V. Niagara’s vision and passion to make Veterans top priority,” says Captain Van L. Vohland, Operations Officer for the 914th Security Forces Squadron at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. “Their efforts to care for the needs of our local Veterans and the families serve as an inspiration to us all and we want to assist in any way we can.”

For more information about the foundation, its mission and ways to get involved visit www.servniagara.org

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