



**\*\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY \*\*\***

## **THE HOME DEPOT TRANSFORMS VETERAN HOUSING FACILITY IN LOCKPORT**

***Store volunteers partner with The Service Collaborative of WNY and S.E.R.V. Niagara to provide safe housing for local veterans***

**WHAT:** On September 11, Team Depot, The Home Depot's associate-led volunteer force, will work together with The Service Collaborative of WNY and S.E.R.V. Niagara to transform homes at 571 & 589 Walnut Street, Lockport. The renovations will be completed in order to provide safe and comfortable homes to local Veterans and their families. In addition to the housing element, the homes will be used as programming locations to assist in becoming self-sufficient.

This effort in Lockport, NY is a part of The Home Depot's fourth annual Celebration of Service campaign, when Team Depot volunteers put their talents to work to transform more than 1,000 homes for veterans across the country from 9/11 to Veterans Day.

Volunteer projects throughout the day will include:

- **Interior & exterior renovations to S.E.R.V. Niagara homes located at 571 & 589 Walnut Street**
- **Landscaping & beautification to both properties.**

**WHO:** Spokespeople available for interviews during the event include:

- Founder, local Veteran volunteers, Representatives from various Veteran agencies
- Jason Brotea, Team Depot Captain & Rob Bertone District Manager Buffalo Home [ORGANIZATION SPOKESPERSON], [ORGANIZATION NAME]
- Guy Kancar, The Home Depot veteran volunteer

**WHERE:** S.E.R.V. Niagara  
571 & 589 Walnut Street, Lockport, NY  
[www.servniagara.org](http://www.servniagara.org)

**WHEN:** Thursday, September 11, 2014  
8:15AM-4:00PM  
**8:00-9:00 am: Volunteer sign-in, coffee & doughnut breakfast**  
**9:00 am: 9/11 memorial ceremony & remarks by THD, SERV, TSC & Invited guests\***  
**\*Interview opportunity following ceremony**  
**9:30 am-12:30 pm: Volunteer projects begin, led by team captains.**  
**12:30 – 1:30 pm: LUNCH**  
**1:30 pm-4pm: Volunteer projects resume**

**CONTACT:** For more information, please contact [TeamDepotPR@homedepot.com](mailto:TeamDepotPR@homedepot.com)

**FAST FACTS:**

- 180 VOLUNTEERS
- Jennifer D'Andrea-Terrerri (Founder S.E.R.V. Niagara), Van L. Vohland (S.E.R.V. Niagara board member and Veteran Major in USAF)



- Veteran resident/tenant will provide interview if requested, name TBA
- 2 buildings almost next door to each other (single family home & multi unit)
- \$31,000 in funding from The Home Depot Foundation
- approx. 20,000 veterans in Niagara County; 2,000 veterans are homeless and/or disabled; there are 895 documented homeless veterans in Niagara County.

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For more about Team Depot's activities throughout Celebration of Service, follow Team Depot on Twitter [@teamdepot](https://twitter.com/teamdepot) and like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/teamdepot](https://www.facebook.com/teamdepot).

#### **About Giving Back at The Home Depot**

Since the first The Home Depot store opened in 1979, giving back has been a core value for the Company and a passion for its associates. Today, The Home Depot, in partnership with The Home Depot Foundation, focuses its philanthropic efforts on improving the homes and lives of U.S. military veterans and their families and aiding communities affected by natural disasters. Through Team Depot, the Company's associate-led volunteer force, thousands of associates dedicate their time and talents to these efforts in the communities where they live and work.

Since 2011, The Home Depot Foundation has invested more than \$80 million to provide safe housing to veterans, and along with the help of Team Depot volunteers, has transformed more than 12,000 homes for veterans. To learn more and see Team Depot in action, visit [www.homedepotfoundation.org](http://www.homedepotfoundation.org).

#### **About The Service Collaborative of WNY and the Western New York Regional Volunteer Center**

The Service Collaborative of WNY (TSCWNY) creates opportunities for all individuals to serve their communities, challenging them to turn their ideals into action and their passion into positive change. Through transformational service and civic responsibility, we are designing a sustainable future for our nation's communities. In conjunction with the New York State Volunteer Generation Program, New Yorkers Volunteer and the Corporation for National & Community Service, VolunteerWNY serves as the hub for volunteer activity for Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Allegany Counties. VolunteerWNY is an initiative to promote volunteerism across the region. VolunteerWNY collaborates with the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County to provide critical training and resources to expand the capacity of local volunteer organizations. These resources will help organizations recruit, manage, support and retain individuals to serve in high quality volunteer assignments.

For more information visit [www.TSCWNY.org](http://www.TSCWNY.org) and [www.VolunteerWNY.org](http://www.VolunteerWNY.org).

#### **About S.E.R.V. Niagara**

S.E.R.V. Niagara was founded in 2012. The mission is to S.E.R.V. - Support, Empower, Respect, Veterans and their families. S.E.R.V. Niagara primary objectives are in providing permanent supportive housing for veterans and their families and establishing Niagara County's first veteran-exclusive self-run therapeutic housing unit(s). In addition to the housing programs for Veterans, S.E.R.V. Niagara also provides: Creative Arts Therapy, Family Support Services, Food, Clothes, Hygiene Products, CASAC Scholarships, Horse Therapy, Transportation Assistance, Veteran Support Services, Wish Program, various life skills workshops and more. With our programs and the supportive efforts of Veteran Mentors, community partnerships, therapeutic programs, and spiritual enrichment, we work cooperatively to help restore the confidence that is necessary to overcome public and personal barriers, and improve developmental, social and overall life skills. Together, we support and encourage every one of our veteran heroes to reach their full potential.

For more information visit [www.SERVniagara.org](http://www.SERVniagara.org) and [www.facebook.com/SERVniagara](https://www.facebook.com/SERVniagara)