

## **Salvation Army's Veterans Housing Program & Daytona Beach Streets Team**

### Veteran's Housing

The VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF), begun in October of 2012, has served approximately 800 Veterans who were homeless or at a high risk of homelessness in Volusia County. The goal is to have zero homeless veterans. The Salvation Army expects to report by this October a functional zero rate of homelessness for veterans in Volusia County. A functional zero report for Volusia County means that 24 or fewer veterans are being shepherded through a rapid rehousing program.

There is some time lag between being identified and being placed in housing, so having some people in the process still allows for the functional zero designation. That lag time is accepted to be emergency shelter within 48 hours and permanent housing within 21 days. The Salvation Army appears to be meeting the required goals for this federally funded program. Over a million dollars a year (\$1.4 million), has been allocated for these services.

### Streets Team for Chronically Homeless

The City of Daytona Beach, with community support and funding, began a program with the Salvation Army to serve the chronically homeless in 2008. Since that time, 334 homeless men and women have been served by the Daytona Beach Streets Team Program. Of those 334, 203 have graduated, or 61% made a successful transition off the streets.

The program provides participants with work readiness training, job placement, and housing. Their work readiness training is volunteering to clean up the streets in Daytona Beach 5 mornings a week. Each morning they are out working in their distinctive green Streets Team T-Shirts. They reside at the Salvation Army in the city and eventually graduate to their own or supportive housing.

The City began funding the Streets Team directly in January 2010. Including the current fiscal year, the City has paid the Salvation Army a total of \$200,000 for 5 years for maintenance of our streets and public areas. In return, the program has provided the City with approximately \$200,000 in volunteered work hours for maintenance and cleaning every year. The program is scheduled to continue in the next budget year.

Streets Teams are done in other cities throughout the country and provide a way for chronically homeless men and women to change their lives. It is an opportunity to collaborate directly with agencies that serve this population.