

Brothers and Co-Workers,

The Mid-Year Convention (January 17-19, 2019) will be here before we know it. This year's Community Service / Heart of the Community Project is a joint project of the LOOM and WOTM in support of Vetshouse, Inc.

The Vetshouse, Inc is a 501 c 3 dedicated to helping homeless Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces in order to facilitate their return to gainful, independent, responsible, and productive lifestyles. Their 12-month residential program provides housing, food, clothing, counseling and other assistance to homeless veterans of the US Armed Forces in order to facilitate their return to gainful, independent, responsible and productive lifestyles. They have a success rate of 70 percent, which is a high success rate for similar types of programs. Their goal is to bring awareness to Hampton Roads of the current plight of homeless veterans, including the 4,400 homeless women veterans in our community on any one night. According to HUD, "women veterans are four times more likely to become homeless as their civilian counterparts". Vetshouse Inc. is located in Virginia Beach, Virginia and currently consists of 6 homes, five for men and one for women. Their mission is to admit, as residents, those homeless VETERANS, who have successfully completed drug or alcohol rehab and who are committed to getting their lives back together. They offer a one-year program and supply housing, food, clothing for one month. They work to get these veterans identification (lost on the streets) and offer computer training, and counseling. They assist veterans in obtaining employment, and within the first month of residency, they begin paying assessments, based on a step basis of length of residency. Drug tests are periodically given to residents, those who fail, are immediately dropped from the program. By the end of the year, they are successfully employed, contributing to a savings account and able to find their own place to live. Their motto is "**Giving a hand up, not a hand out**".

In support of the Vetshouse, Inc we will be collecting monetary donations, non-perishable food items, toiletries, paper and cleaning products, adult bicycles and gift cards to Walmart or K-Mart during our Mid-year convention. All checks are to be made payable to **Vetshouse, Inc. DO NOT make your checks payable to the VMA, Moose Charities or the Hostess Chapter.**

Chapter's you can give your monetary donations to Connie Jacobs, WOTM Community Service Chairman or turn them in during any March of Checks. Just make sure they are made payable to **Vetshouse, Inc.** There will be an area set up to collect your donations of non-perishable food items, toiletries, paper, and cleaning products. Your monetary donations should be listed on your form 114 as Community Service donations. If your Chapter voted to purchase items to donate you can count that dollar amount, the CHAPTER used to purchase your donations. Individuals who purchase these items **ONLY** count their hours and miles on the form 114.

Lodges, Districts, and Moose Legions can give your monetary donations to Dwayne Whited, LOOM Heart of the Community Chairman or leave with Paula at the registration table. Make sure your donations are made payable to **Vetshouse, Inc. DO NOT make your checks payable to the VMA or Moose Charities.** There will also be a designated area for your donations of items. Please turn in your donations as early as possible during the conference as we would like to make the presentation to a representative from Vetshouse Inc. during our meetings.

Let's make this Community Service project the best joint project we have had to date. Our Veterans need us, **remember they have GIVEN US so much more than we can ever give them in return.**

Fraternally,

Connie Jacobs and Dwayne Whited

Virginia's Community Service Chairmen / Heart of the Community Chairman

## Vetshouse Inc. Donations

- **Monetary Donations** All checks are to be made payable to **Vetshouse, Inc.** DO NOT make your checks payable to the VMA, Moose Charities or the Hostess Chapter.
- **Non-Perishable Food Items**
- **Toiletries**
- **Paper and Cleaning Products**
- **Adult Bicycles**
- **Gift Cards to Walmart or K-Mart** in order to buy meat, bread, potatoes, milk etc. for newly arrived Veterans

**Chapter's** you can give your monetary donations to Connie Jacobs, WOTM Community Service Chairman or turn them in during any March of Checks. Just make sure they are made payable to **Vetshouse, Inc.** There will be an area set up to collect your donations of non-perishable food items, toiletries, paper, and cleaning products. Your monetary donations should be listed on your form 114 as Community Service donations. If your Chapter voted to purchase items to donate you can count that dollar amount, the CHAPTER used to purchase your donations. Individuals who purchase these items **ONLY** count their hours and miles on the form 114.

**Lodges, Districts, and Moose Legions** can give your monetary donations to Dwayne Whited, LOOM Community Service Chairman or leave with Paula at the registration table. Make sure your donations are made payable to **Vetshouse, Inc.** DO NOT make your checks payable to the VMA or Moose Charities. There will also be a designated area for your donations of items. Please turn in your donations as early as possible during the conference as we would like to make the presentation to a representative from Vetshouse Inc. during our meetings.

Please contact Dwayne Whited at [dwaynewhited@yahoo.com](mailto:dwaynewhited@yahoo.com) or Connie Jacobs at [concettarjacobs@aol.com](mailto:concettarjacobs@aol.com) with any questions.