

MACV NEWSLETTER - August 2021

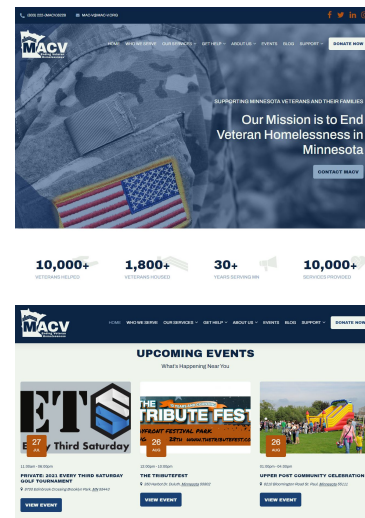


We have a new website!

After months of hard work gathering feedback, research, and test-driving, MACV is proud to announce the launch of our new website!

Launched in early August, the new mac-v.org has expanded features, a clean and updated look, and entirely new sections like our volunteer portal. We would love to hear what you think as you explore what we have to offer.

Thanks to the dozens of staff, consultants, and others who came together to make this update possible. As always, MACV appreciates the support from our donors which make these projects possible.



MACV in the news

Every Third Saturday Breaks Ground on New Expansion

Our organization is very proud of [Every Third Saturday](#) as they broke ground last month with the new expansion of their headquarters and Veteran gathering space. The new building is going to be an amazing facility for serving our local Minnesota Veterans.

[Read More Online](#)



YardHomes Expands Housing Options for MACV

MACV is excited to share an update about our collaborations with other agencies combating homelessness in Minnesota. [YardHomes](#), headquartered in New Brighton, builds prefabricated "tiny homes" for a variety of purposes. Their initiative to partner with area nonprofits, named Y-HELP, seeks to



address the affordable housing crisis by constructing accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, for individuals affected by housing instability.

Click the image to see how Y-HELP works for Veterans.



Mark Cross: The Way Home

The first thing Mark Cross asked when he told us his story was not for himself, but a friend. Mark, a Navy Veteran in his sixties, has spent his life thinking of others and how to help those he cares about the most.

In fact, the reason he became homeless in Minnesota was because of his commitment to the care of a loved one. The mother of his children had terminal cancer, and asked Mark to help her. After moving between St. Paul and Chicago numerous times since 2019, Mark found himself living in hotels and eventually out of a tent when COVID-19 hit. Want to learn what happens next? Check out the full story at the [MACV blog](#) or watch the [Video Interview Here](#).



Volunteer with MACV

Volunteering with MACV connects you with our vibrant community while contributing to the end of Veteran homelessness in Minnesota. If you would like to volunteer or receive notifications of potential opportunities, click the link to update your contact information and complete a short survey to let us know more about your individual or group skills.

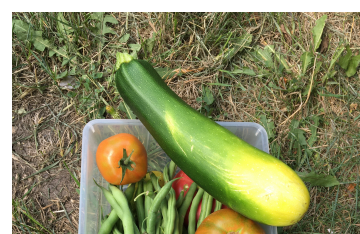


[Sign up to volunteer](#)

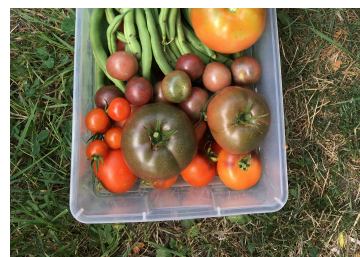
Partner Spotlight: Veteran Community Garden

MACV wants to recognize the wonderful partnership between our team in Southern Minnesota and the Veteran Community Garden established by Minnesota State's Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence. SMCA's Veterans in Ag initiative offers numerous avenues for engagement with older and younger Vets alike. One of their most recent projects, the Veteran Community Garden, showcases the working relationship between staff members like Program Coordinator Nathan Hanel and MACV Employment Specialist Mark Bullen.

The Garden, a 10x20 foot plot in Mankato by the Loyola school campus, operates in conjunction with South Central College. Mark Bullen explains, "It really reaches two groups.



Older Veterans can safely connect during COVID-19 while younger Vets can learn about working in ag.” Working in agriculture goes way beyond farming. Transportation, food service, farm supplies, and other industries all play a role in the agricultural industry. The Veteran Community Garden serves as an entry point for Veterans who want to learn more about the possibilities awaiting them in the ag sector. Bullen explains, “Trainers have taught courses on natural pest control, we would bring Master Gardeners in to teach about various topics.”



While the garden is open during limited hours, Mark hopes to see them extended soon so that working Veterans can more easily participate in the Garden’s activities. We congratulate the Veterans Garden crew for such a solid beginning and look forward to years of collaboration ahead.

MACV 101: Living Doubled Up

Doubled up: The Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness explains, “‘Doubled up’ refers to an individual or family who is unable to maintain independent housing and is forced to stay with friends or family members, often in overcrowded conditions.” Common examples include a family sharing a bedroom in a relative’s house, or an individual “couch surfing” at various friends’ apartments while looking for their own place.

Are people living in a doubled-up household homeless? Depends on who you ask. HUD does not consider doubled up living homelessness. Most human service organizations and even other government agencies do consider it a form of homelessness. This disagreement may seem like a small technicality. However, it has very real impacts on the assistance available to people in doubled up living situations even though they have extreme housing and even personal safety instability.

Who is most likely to be doubled up? Certain groups are more likely to live doubled up. Single, low-income moms with limited education are the most common demographic seen in this arrangement. Certain cultural and ethnic groups are also more likely to have this arrangement, with Native American communities topping the list in Minnesota.

How do we reach the “hidden homeless?” Many of the ways we engage with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness are simply ineffective when working with doubled-up Veterans. General community awareness is the best way for families and other underserved households to learn about MACV and other homeless-focused services. Other human service organizations, churches, and schools can let people who are struggling know about us. Underserved groups like Native American communities also benefit from this approach, with personal experiences and testimonials playing a big role in building trust with MACV and our providers.

Can I help doubled up Veterans? Absolutely! One of the most powerful ways you can help is to simply talk about MACV at your next PTA meeting, American Legion event, or on social media. You never know who’s listening!

Want to learn more? Read a recent piece from the [New York Times about the hidden homeless](#) , or visit the [Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness](#) .

MACV Out and About

We received a generous donation from J. Longs! This wonderful partnership going on with them for five years running now. The out pouring support we receive from the staff at J. Longs is absolutely amazing!! We are so grateful for their partnership and support they show for the local veterans in need! Thank you!



J. Longs Donation and Richard Bohatty Partnership



What a great opportunity to thank American sportsman, patriot and friend of MACV Rich Bohatty. He hosted an incredible banquet for Veterans in Dellwood on Tuesday 8/17 — we were honored to present a MACV challenge coin to him in appreciation for all he has done.

Upcoming events

The Tributefest: [26 August 2021 - 28 August 2021](#)

AUSA 22st Annual Golf Tournament and Fundraiser: [30 August 2021](#)

YardHome ADU Ground Breaking: [31 August 2021](#)

State Fair Military Appreciation Day: [31 August 2021](#)

Mankato Project Community Connect: [31 August 2021](#)

2021 Chaska Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Golf Tournament: [01 September 2021](#)

Lavender Online Silent Auction STARTS!: [09 September 2021](#)

9/11 Day of Remembrance Event: [11 September 2021](#)

2021 Tee It Up for the Troops Golf Tournament: [13 September 2021](#)

Night Light Gala: [05 November 2021](#)

For more events, check out our [Upcoming Events](#) page at www.mac-v.org.

Donor spotlight

Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless

This year, [Open Your Heart](#) has awarded MACV with a \$10,000 grant to continue our work with helping unsheltered Veterans. Thank you for your support and generosity over the years and continuing to reaching out in ways that help those who need it most!



Trademark Title Services

As a [locally owned company](#), their desire to deliver exceptional service is enhanced giving back to support those who served our county. We are thankful for the \$10,000 in gifts this year, allowing our team to create unique solutions for each unsheltered Veteran we help.



United Way of Northeast Minnesota

MACV is thrilled to receive a donation from the [United Way of Northeastern Minnesota](#). Their contribution of \$5,000 helps us serve Veterans living up north, and we appreciate the remarkable support. Thank you!



Fond Du Luth Casino

The [Fond Du Luth Casino](#) has been giving to MACV over the past 10 years, with total gifts just over \$17,000 through points donated by their players! We appreciate the steady support and thank you for your continued generosity!



Thank you to last month's donors

Annual Gifts over \$50,000

Bob Woodruff Foundation
National Guard Support Our Troops Fund
Minnesota Masonic Charities
City of Duluth

Gifts over \$5,000

Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless
Jerome J and Ursula Choromanski Family Foundation
United Way of Northeastern Minnesota

Gifts over \$1,000

Gifts over \$100 cont'd.

Marsha Dale and William Hanson Household
David Benson Household
Ronald & Debra Schultz Household
Williams Household
Tom Cochran Household
The Cristiani Family Charitable Fund
Thomas Kivel Household
Darren Maturi Household
Randall Wehrle Household

Ronald and Bonnie Loidolt Household
 Fond Du Luth Casino
 Ed Hondl Household

Gifts over \$100

Kowalski's Markets - Eagan
 T.R Martin Household
 Ronald Trach Household

Richard Wilson Household
 David Gengler Household
 Phil Gerber Household
 Keith & Katherine Zumbrunnien Household
 Sheila Laughton Household
 Timothy Johnson Household



You can help end Veteran homelessness

Hope is on the horizon. Many of us are looking to the months ahead with hope for renewing the parts of life we put on hold for the past year.

Minnesota nonprofits and schools are working hard to help keep us healthy, meet basic needs, and gather around common goals, interests, and experiences. They are also addressing the long-term economic impacts of the pandemic, which puts even more Veterans at-risk of homelessness.



Donate today

Visit our website

Our mailing address is:

1000 University Avenue West
 St. Paul, MN 55104

This email was sent to sriffe@mac-v.org. If you no longer wish to receive these emails you may visit our subscription preference center to modify your [Email](#)

[Preference Center](#) or [Unsubscribe](#) at any time.

©MACV All rights reserved. Copyright ©2021

[CAUTION EXTERNAL]