

## Household Goods Recycling Ministry (HGRM)

Household Goods Recycling Ministry (HGRM) was nominated by the Bedford Health Care for Homeless (HCHV) Program to receive the Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Service to Homeless Veterans. This non-profit agency located in Acton, Massachusetts supplies almost new used furniture and household supplies for homeless veterans in need. HCHV staff conducts several hundred outreach contacts with homeless veterans over the course of a year's time and a large portion of these veterans are referred to HGRM for help with furnishing a first apartment or shared living space in transitional housing. The agency is extremely welcoming to our veterans, respecting both their service to our country and their human dignity at a time when they are somewhat ashamed of their circumstances.

Perhaps the best testament to the quality and tenor of HGRM's concrete assistance and philosophical approach is the story of one of our veterans. He is a skilled furniture and cabinet maker and he was so moved by the manner in which he was helped and the goods that were available at the agency, he has decided to volunteer at HGRM and help rebuild and repair the high quality furniture that needs just a little tweaking to be put back into service. The veteran says that this is one way he can keep the cycle of giving going and he is happy to do so. We think it also beautifully illustrates the spirit of this award because it supports the collaborative and reciprocal nature of true generosity and charity- namely that it is in giving back that we receive.

## Jewish War Veterans, Post 64

The Jewish War Veterans, Post 64 located in Las Vegas, Nevada was nominated for the Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Service for Homeless Veterans by the Las Vegas Community Based Outreach Clinic for Homeless Veterans. The Jewish War Veterans, Post 64, a group of World War II veterans, made a commitment to help homeless veterans. This benevolent organization contributed the much needed funds to our meager resources. They have provided food, clothing, transportation and rental assistance since the onset of the program. In 2000, with the establishment of the grant and per diem program, there was frequently a need to assist veterans until they were admitted into the per diem program. This became the framework of the "Independence Day Program". The program is solely funded by the Jewish War Veterans through the sale of "poppies". The program rents rooms from a local hotel, which started with two beds has now increased to six. This program allows up to ten days of emergency housing with food and transportation provided while veterans wait to be admitted to per diem/transitional housing programs, return to work or placed immediately after discharged from the hospital. Over the last five years, more than 563 veterans have participated in this program at a monthly cost of over \$1200.00. There has been an 80% success rate with accomplishing the initial goals of either entering programs or returning to work.

Post 64 and their wives remain highly involved in the day to day operation of the program and work closely with the CBOC team. They are dedicated, hard working, and compassionate. The Community Based Outreach Clinic is eternally grateful to this organization for the tremendous amount of time and financial support that they have given our homeless veterans and our program.