

2015 Forks After Action:

Total seen	101	
Veterans	101	22 Female
Homeless veterans	10	2 Female
Volunteers	42	

Assured Hospice:

Total Seen	17
Action Taken	1

Just preparing for the future. I will be helping a vet to find a hospice service in Sedro Wooly.

Clallam Transit:

Total Seen	31
Action Taken	10

I handed out information and applications for Regional Pass.

I spoke with numerous military veterans , one lady had 26 years in the Coast Guard.

I've driven Transit Bus for over 13 years and have heard of the "stand downs" but have never gone to one. Very impressed with is being done for our vets. Thank You!

Concerned Citizen's:

Total Seen	10
Action Taken	4

Barber:

Total Seen	30
Action Taken	30

This was a great experience. Everyone I met was a memorable experience. Thank you.

Dental Screening:

Total Seen	10
Action Taken	10

The need was for mostly denture issues.

A male veteran came from the forest where he has lived for 30 years and received services. He lives over 30 miles back away from the 1st road.

Phyllis Hopfner arranged for 10 slots at a local dentist and we filled them all.

Department of VA Homeless Outreach:

Total Seen	12
Action Taken	6

DSHS:

Total Seen	8
Action Taken	4

My computer died and I needed an electrical cord to reach the outlet. Cheri found me a cord and another gentleman helped me find duct tape so I could tape the cord down. A man named Mike Anderson brought honey for us to try. He told us stories about raising bees as well as other interesting stories about his life.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve:

Total Seen 8
Action Taken 0

Really enjoyed the many sea stories.

Forks Abuse Program:

Total Seen 32
Action Taken 4

Made two appointments for help with ID theft.

A veterans wife explained issues they recently had with identity theft and will be coming to the office to try to resolve those issues.

A veteran sat down for 15 minutes and shared his history of military, college, corrections employment and now is retired and volunteers.

I talked to a veteran whose care giver took his debit card and cleaned out his bank account.

Forks Community Action:

Total Seen 7
Action Taken 1

Health Screenings:

Total Seen 18
Action Taken 18

Services provided:

Consults_____4
Blood pressures-----9
Blood sugars-----3
Distance vision checks_ 4
Reading glasses/cases/sun glasses

Service Providers: Dr. Pat Tracy and Dr. Ed Hopfner

An observation by Dr. Ed Hopfner:

There were fewer medical visits than at previous Forks Stand Downs. Also, the “problems” were not critical or urgent. The availability of optometry and fitting of appropriate lenses was utilized by several patients -- a big help as these folks are easily lost in the system.

As I recall, the last Stand Down in Forks was also “slower” than previous years. I believe what I am seeing is that there are an ever increasing number of VA medical vendors/services at each SD with an increasing success rate of enrolling veterans into the VA health care system. Thus fewer medically needy veterans.

It may be early, but we may be able to say that this is evidence of the success of our Stand Downs. A 100% success will occur when we see no veterans.

Legal:

Total Seen 32
Action Taken 12

Advice on marriage dissolvent. Provided information to get it started and scheduled him to appeal at clinic to finish.

We handled issues on credit card fraud, child support, child custody and 2 for personal injury.

My HealthEvet:

Total Seen 21
Action Taken 8

Helped several people “find the feature they needed on their accounts. Reset passwords.

New Leash on Life:

Total Seen 23
Action Taken 8

Great job this year, more space in all rooms!

NW Veterans Resource Center:

Total Seen 25
Action Taken 25

Helped a suicidal vet. We took her directly to mental health care, made a verbal agreement not to do harm to herself. We will follow up with provider as needed. It was a great event and we have ideas for future events from needs generated by veterans.

Peninsula Community Behavior Health:

Total Seen 9
Action Taken 2

Addressed awareness of mental health services/options and provided supportive handout materials. It was great to see more service providers and new veteran faces walking around. Great job as always.

Peninsula Housing Authority:

Total Seen 28
Action Taken 7

Possibly provided permanent low-income affordable housing for at least 4-7 homeless veterans.

The stand down itself was one memorable event after another. Love! Love! Love! This stand down. Everyone does a great job with all the organization, etc. Thank you for ALL your hard work.

Planned Parenthood (Breast, Cervical, Colon Program):

Total Seen 23
Action Taken

The Housing Authority knows some women who may qualify for this program and they took some brochures to hand out. I hope I'll hear from some potential clients to help. It was always good to hear that almost all of the veterans have had their colonoscopies and if they have not yet, that their doctors have recommended them. One man had just had his first one and said that it was much easier than he had thought, so he was telling all of his friends to have theirs done, too. This is an amazing, comprehensive, caring event that is so significant for so many people. Thank you for your dedication and commitment.

Red Cross:

Total Seen 45
Action Taken 25

Spend time explaining why we need family disaster supplies and plans, equipment, and people. We are ready for the next stand down.

Sarge's Place:

Total Seen 57
Action Taken 30

We saw specifically 10 homeless veterans.

Tons of referrals... 2 with denture issues, medications secured, and a suicidal veteran was aided.

A Vietnam veteran who lives in the woods came in and we got him services and clothing and tarps.

I veteran is going to be housed.

Senior Information and Assistance:

Total Seen 25
Action Taken

Several referrals to our Senior Legal Clinic.

Serenity House:

Total Seen 20
Action Taken 5

Referral for electrical assistance.

Referral for shelter for women.

Educating American Legion Chaplin about available services.

Very impressed with the coordination with other service providers.

VA Healthcare Sign-UP:

Total Seen 21
Action Taken 10

VA Homeless Veteran Outreach:

Total Seen 7
Action Taken 3

Referred on to Sarge's Place. This was a great stand down. Keep doing what you are doing.

VetConnect:

Total seen 11
Action Taken 11

Referred all vets to the help they needed.

Explained to a veteran how to apply to Peninsula College-how to request previous transcripts.

Assisted a severely disabled veteran and wife find clothing for themselves and family. Very gratifying to help this family.

WorkSource:

Total Seen 22
Action Taken 3

Good event, well organized not as cramped. Very relaxed atmosphere. Great food.

Clothing Room:

The numbers are down which I think is a positive. I believe Sarge's Place has been a blessing for our homeless Vets. I also think that with all of the help they have received the past few years from Voices has made a difference. I hope the day comes that we are not needed any more.

Total Seen 62
54 Veterans
7 Dependents
8 Homeless
2 living in tents in the woods
1 living in a car
1 couch surfing
4 in temporary housing

Comments:

It was a good day at the Stand Down in Forks last Thursday. Though I did not stay at any single vender table for any length of time, I was able to help several vets find the services they needed. A couple of examples ...

I assisted an elderly homeless veteran, in his early eighties, who wanted an introduction to Cheri Tinker with Sarge's Place and to Tammy Sullenger with the County Veteran's Relief Fund, so he could learn about his options for assistance in finding suitable shelter that would meet his needs.

Another was a young homeless veteran that after talking with the only service provider he thought might be able to help him with his particular housing issues and learning they could not help him, he was about to leave feeling depressed and without hope. I talked with him briefly about his issues and immediately

introduced him to a combination of three other providers that should be able to resolve the issues together, and have him in stable housing within days. He left the Stand Down with hope and a smile on his face.

Many good things happened on this day. Thank you for the opportunity to help.

In total, I spoke directly with 4 homeless Veterans about staying within our shelter at Sarge's Place. All four met with Olivia Reiber, who evaluates them and refers them to our program. Of that, two were referred to our program....one of which will be moving in with his cat Sarge on June 1st.

The Stand Down afforded the following for Vets that day:

- Emergency tooth situation was fixed for a Veteran who was in considerable pain (whom we could not get care for in the community otherwise).
- Homeless Vet moving to Alaska for work who aided with stand down set-up...received waterproof jacket and pants, prescription from the doctor and some direct assistance from the VA to receive future care with physical rehabilitation for his hip (which had just been replaced)
- Tree Vet who has been living in the woods for 30 years came to the stand down with a friend. He received boots, wool socks, underwear, flannel shirts, tarps and dental care referral through VIMO in PA. He had NEVER been to a stand down before, it was a huge issue that he came in and saw what we could offer. He was incredibly grateful and will tell other Vets.
- Veteran who has been waiting on a status of his service connected claim was able to find out his status (letter is being mailed), he was relieved to know that.
- Connected a homeless Veteran with Vietnam Vet that wants a caretaker on his property at the Hoh....this might work out beautifully for the Vet who has a hard time living around others.
- Had a chest freezer donated to Sarge's Place from a Vet working the Stand Down
- Aided a Veteran to get glasses through the VA system
- Connected female Veteran to resources in Port Angeles for her and her children
- Clarified eligibility issues for me while seeking information for a Veteran. I was grateful they were there.
- VA fleece jackets and suitcases were distributed to the Vets at Sarge's Place, they were incredibly grateful for the items.

Made deep and meaningful connections with different providers for the Veterans at Sarge's Place. It is good to meet face to face with other service providers and VA workers to create clarity in what we do, how we provide for Veterans and who we are serving.