

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Samaritan Village Awarded \$970,000 Federal Grant to Support Veteran Families
Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program Supports Veteran Families At-Risk of Homeless

New York, NY (November 14th, 2012) – Samaritan Village President and CEO Tino Hernandez, LCSW, announced that the United States Department of Veteran Affairs awarded Samaritan Village a \$970,000 federal grant to continue the administration of the organization's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. Samaritan Village's SSVF program provides support services to extremely low and very-low income veteran families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

"Through this unique grant funding, we are able to help not only the veterans but also their families," Hernandez said. "Our multi-disciplinary team of professionals at Samaritan Village is seeing results first-hand. For example, they are helping young war veterans move their families from cars to permanent homes."

Samaritan Village has worked with veterans for more than 30 years. The organization is among the first in the nation to offer a residential addiction treatment service catered to the specific needs of veterans. Thanks to last year's \$920,000 federal grant, Samaritan Village began administering the SSVF program last October.

"During the first year of the grant, we were able to assist 315 veteran families who were at risk of homelessness," Steve Rockman, Samaritan Village's Vice President for Real Estate and Housing, said. "This program has become a vital resource to the New York City veteran's community, which is why this year's goal is to provide services to 400 veteran families."

The goals of the SSVF program are to reduce homelessness among low-income Veteran families in New York City by providing support services, securing housing placements and increasing housing stability. Services of the SSVF program include case management, temporary financial assistance, housing counseling, legal service referrals, benefits advocacy, mental health counseling, daily living services, personal financial planning, employment and vocational assistance, health referrals and transportation services.

"This program is a unique collaboration between the federal government and community based organizations across the country. SSVF enables the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to reach millions of service veterans who are at-risk of homelessness." Rockman said.

To benefit from the SSVF program, individuals must meet the following criteria.

- Veteran Status. An individual who has served in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, who was activated for at least one day is considered an eligible veteran. The veteran does not need to have served in a combat zone, yet they must have served outside of their state of residence. Veterans who were dishonorably discharged do not qualify.
- Very Low-Income. The veteran's household income must not exceed 50% of the area median income for NYC.
- Homeless or At-Risk of Homelessness. Veterans who are currently homeless or at an immediate risk of becoming homeless.

To make a referral to the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program or to learn more about eligibility, call Samaritan Village at 212.586.1270.

SAMARITAN VILLAGE

Samaritan Village, Inc. is a not-for-profit social services provider offering an array of quality programs including residential and out-patient treatment for drug and alcohol dependency, specialized programs for veterans including treatment for post-traumatic stress disorders, and services for homeless individuals and seniors. Serving more than 4,000 men and women each year, Samaritan Village offers health care, mental health care, addiction treatment utilizing evidence-based practices, housing and employment assistance. Most notable, Samaritan Village developed the nation's first residential treatment program exclusively for women veterans. Samaritan Village operates 22 facilities throughout New York City and in upstate New York as well as several annex shelters. For more information about Samaritan Village visit www.samvill.org or call 718.206.2000.

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