

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pathways For Change to Open a Residential Treatment Home For Women Veterans Suffering From PTSD

\$200,000 grant from Dugas Family Foundation provides solid base for project, but additional donations are needed to complete the work.

PENSACOLA, FLA. (March 23, 2017) – Thanks to a generous contribution, Pathways for Change has taken a large stride towards its latest goal: providing much-needed treatment for women veterans who have sacrificed for our country.

On February 23, Pathways For Change was the recipient of a grant from the Dugas Family Foundation. The Foundation pledged to match, dollar for dollar, up to \$200,000 in contributions toward the purchase of the Clinton Cox Residential Treatment Facility, a home for up to 12 women veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

This amount springboards PFC towards the \$525,000 needed for purchasing the home, providing a full-time director and house mother and paying for the annual cost of operating the facility.

The comprehensive, 18-month treatment program will provide a therapeutic community where women veterans receive individual counseling, outpatient substance-abuse treatment, benefits assistance and education and vocational training. Each woman will also be assigned a mentor. All of the services will be designed so that each veteran is given the greatest opportunity to transition to a sober, stable environment and, in some cases, back to their families.

Thousands of brave women who served in Iraq and Afghanistan have been diagnosed with PTSD, a reaction to a terrifying event or to being repeatedly exposed to danger. PTSD can severely affect a person's ability to function. It can be acute, chronic or delayed, beginning months to years after the trauma. Sufferers may relive the traumatic event, or in some cases, the veteran can be plagued with guilt for surviving an event when others did not.

These brave veterans have made unimaginable sacrifices to protect our freedoms. Yet, military veterans account for 23 percent of the nation's homeless population (according

to the *National Coalition for the Homeless*). According to the 2015 American Community Survey data, 21.7 million veterans are women, or about 9 percent. Of that 21.7 million, up to 12 percent are homeless. A higher percentage of women veterans have a service-connected disability, have no personal income, and are in poverty.

Pathways For Change is committed to providing a secure community and a strong foundation for continued healing where each veteran can focus on putting her life back together.

The Dugas Family Foundation is a significant commitment, but matching dollars are needed to reach our goal. Please go to www.pathwaysforchange.org and donate today. Let's not leave a single dollar on the table that will help in the healing of our heroes!

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About Pathways For Change

Pathways For Change (PFC) is a Pensacola, Florida nonprofit organization founded in 2005 to provide social, educational and spiritual assistance for individuals impacted by poverty, substance abuse and lack of education. Dedicated to its mission of "Changing Lives, Reducing Crime, Building Futures," and working in partnership with more than 30 community organizations, PFC offers an extraordinary continuum of services that include residential substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, play, music and art therapies for children who have experienced severe trauma.

Its addictions treatment program is a successful legal sentencing option that includes mental health counseling, case management and educational training, and assures 100% employment upon graduation. The groundbreaking Men's Residential Treatment (MRT) program has reduced repeat offenses of participants by 70%, and saves local tax-payers more than \$600,000 each year.

PFC also provides education, vocational and Christian counseling services for financially struggling individuals and families through The Family Center, and transitional services at the Clinton Cox Residence, a 12-room, state-of-the-art facility where clients prepare themselves to transition from drug/alcohol dependency to reentry into society as productive members.

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