

Alfred J. Thomas Home for Veterans

Donation Wish List

For more information, call (201) 336-6325.

Kits

Welcome Kit

Backpacks/messenger bags (new only), day planner or calendar, pens, notebooks, journal

Toiletries Kits

Tooth paste, tooth brush, shampoo, soap, comb, razor, shaving cream, comb/brush, small bag to hold items and a set of towels

Laundry Kits

Laundry bag/duffle, detergent, spot remover, dryer sheets

Bedding Kits (new only)

Comforter (full size) and pillow

Kitchen Kit

Reusable shopping bag, non-perishable food items like peanut butter, crackers, meals in a can, pasta/sauce, cereal, etc

Holiday Meals

During the holidays (Thanksgiving, December, Spring) we provide a holiday meal to the residents at the house.

Items needed for donation include: Prepared Food (including turkey/ham, sides and desserts) and holiday-themed decorations/tableware.

Summer Barbecue

During the warmer months, we host a few barbecues so the house residence can invite family and friends to socialize in a positive environment. Your donation of food store gift certificates, sodas, paper goods, and other barbecue-themed items help us present an opportunity to develop important social skills.

Individual Items Needed for Donation

- Educational software
- Pots and pans (new, no non-stick)
- Stackable plastic containers (i.e., Rubbermaid)
- Cleaning supplies (dishwashing liquid, all purpose antibacterial cleaners, bathroom/toilet foam spray, toilet bowl cleaner, dusters, oven cleaner, cleaning gloves, air fresheners, antibacterial wipes)
- Liquid hand soap
- Paper goods (paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, napkins)
- Gift cards to: Wal-Mart, ShopRite, Visa / Bank cards

Please note:

- We only accept new clothes and it must be previously discussed with the Alfred J. Thomas Home for Veterans team concerning what sizes the veterans need.
- We are not permitted to accept furniture.

Who We Are

The Alfred J. Thomas Home for Veterans is a partnership between the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the County of Bergen, and Community Hope. It has been in operation since 2003 to provide an opportunity for chronically homeless male veterans to rebuild their lives in a supportive environment. This is the only facility of this type in Bergen County, which provides safe and stable transitional housing with professional supportive services.

Our Philosophy and Goals

The intent of the Alfred J. Thomas Home for Veterans is to provide safe, affordable housing to homeless veterans. This program of transitional housing allows resident to learn coping skills to effectively deal with life stressors, support substance abuse recovery, as well as to find and maintain jobs and develop financial stability.

The professional staff collaborates with the residents, utilizing the available resources, supports and their strengths. We believe that involving the residents, and looking at their individual needs and goals, results in more successful outcomes. The following are some of the goals that our program strives to achieve with each of our residents:

- Increase quality of life with the long term goal of independent living
- Identify strengths and individual goals to be able to create a realistic service plan
- Encourage vocational or educational training
- Assist with job search and employment retention
- Educate about any outstanding debt management or legal issues
- Help reduce or manage any mental health or medical symptoms

What We Do

The furnished, handicapped accessible facility offers up to eight male veterans the following:

- Private bedroom and storage unit
- Two living rooms with entertainment and leisure equipment
- Shared full kitchen
- Laundry on-site
- Outdoor living space
- On-street parking
- Easy access to mass transit
- Close proximity to shopping, banking, recreation

Staff provides ongoing case management to assist the resident with attaining their individual goals, such as: financial stability, job placement, recovery health and overall wellness. The average length of stay is 6-24 months.

Our Referrals

Individuals may be referred from a variety of sources including:

- Self-referrals
- Family
- Shelters
- Community organizations
- Hospitals
- County representatives

At a Glance

The facility is licensed by the NJ Department of Community Affairs as a Boarding Home. The property is owned by the County of Bergen. Funding in part for this program is received from the County of Bergen, Department of Human Services.