



Helping Local Heroes, The Evanston Vet Center Partnered with Northwest Compass to Serve Up Mobile Meals for Nearly 100 Veterans

The Evanston Vet Center teamed up with Northwest Compass to successfully distribute pre-packed food boxes to nearly 100 veterans in Evanston and Chicago, including residents of Volunteers of America, Hope Manor.

Mount Prospect, IL – April 28, 2017

If you're on time—you're late! Early, before most people get their coffee, Evanston Vet Center Military/Veteran Outreach Specialist, James Harkins, and JeHoon Lee, MSW – UIC Intern, and veteran, were ready to meet the van from James Lovell to pick up pre-packed food boxes from Northwest Compass Food Connection for the inaugural Veterans Satellite Food Pantry.

Northwest Compass volunteers worked alongside Interns to pack close to 100 boxes, which The Evanston Vet Center distributed to veterans, including Volunteers of America, Hope Manor residents. Hope Manor is one of the first large-scale supportive housing developments geared toward helping Chicago-area veterans build new skills and help them on the path to long-term self-sufficiency.

The Veterans Satellite Food Pantry is the brainchild of Lee. Serving his second year MSW Internship with James Lovell Vet Center in Evanston, Lee is impassioned by the needs of local area fellow veterans. After serving his previous year's Internship with Northwest Compass Food Connection program, Lee understands the Food Connection mission of serving our neighbors. Connecting heroes with healthy food options seemed like a no-brainer to Lee, who approached Harkins at the Evanston Vet Center. The pair then brought in NWC CEO, LeRoy Messenger.

"We are proud of this partnership, which allows us to expand the reach for our NWC Food Connection program and gain a new perspective on serving area veterans," says Messenger. "Serving the homeless, hungry and heroes in our community is at the heart of NWC's mission."

About The Evanston Vet Center

The Vet Center offers free, confidential counseling to eligible veterans and their families. The goal of the Vet Center is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach and referral services to eligible veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-service transition. For more information, visit www.vetcenter.va.gov.

About Northwest Compass, Inc. Legacy Corps

In partnership with AmeriCorps, Northwest Compass Legacy Corps provides support services and education to veterans of all wars, military family members and their caregivers of all ages. For more information, please visit <http://northwestcompass.org/how-we-help/legacy-corps/>

Media Contact:

Dr. Cheryl Novas, PhD, Managing Director, Partnership & Development, Northwest Compass
cnovas@northwestcompass.org | +1 847 637 0969

###





At Northwest Compass, loading up the van for inaugural run of Veterans Satellite Food Pantry.



Setting up at the Evanston Vet Center



Welcoming Veterans!