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Veteran Stand Down Against Homelessness

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in partnership with Goodwill Industries of Lower South Carolina and Palmetto Warrior Connection is holding its 16th Annual Stand Down Against Homelessness Friday, Oct. 30 at the VA Community Resource and Referral Center, 2424 City Hall Lane, North Charleston, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event includes a Veteran Listening Forum with the VA director from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

The event will offer medical screenings and assistance, clothing, food, haircuts, and legal counseling for hundreds of homeless Veterans in the greater Charleston area. Job assistance and opportunities to speak with local employers will be available for those seeking work. The focus of the event is on Veterans who are living on the streets or close to it. The goal is to get Veterans the resources they need to get back on their feet.

“This year we have decided to move the location of our Annual Veteran Stand Down Against Homelessness to our new VA Community Resource and Referral Center,” said Stand Down Chairman Dr. Hugh Myrick, Chief of Mental Health at the Charleston VA Medical Center. “This center opened in June 2015 and serves our homeless Veterans and Veterans who are at risk of homelessness year round. Events like our Veteran Stand Down are wonderful and serve our community members in need, but it is important to remember that these Veterans need our help every day and this center helps us accomplish that goal.”

The Community Resource and Referral Center provides full wrap around services for homeless Veterans, including a walk-in clinic, eligibility and enrollment, short and long term case management, assessment for transitional and permanent housing, telehealth services to our VA outpatient clinics, and educational groups. VA staff work side by side with community partners like Goodwill, One 80 Place,

Family Services Inc., Veterans Benefits Administration, and many more at the center to provide Veterans the support they need to find transitional and permanent housing.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is the only Federal agency that provides substantial hands-on assistance directly to homeless persons. The mission is considered essential for VA as they strive to eliminate homelessness amongst those who have served our nation.

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ABOUT THE RALPH H. JOHNSON VA MEDICAL CENTER:

Located in historic downtown Charleston, SC, the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center is a tertiary care teaching hospital providing the highest level quality care from cardiology to neurology to primary and mental health care for more than 67,000 Veterans along the South Carolina and Georgia coast. The Ralph H. Johnson VA is rated a 5-Star medical center, the highest possible rating according to VA's Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning Value (SAIL) model, and is the sixth fastest growing VA in the U.S. for percentage patient growth. This rating, which ranks the Charleston VA in the top 10 percent of VA medical centers nationwide for quality of care and efficiency, was first achieved by the Charleston VA in October 2014. The Charleston VA is also ranked in the top 10th percentile according to the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS). HEDIS is an independent review that measures performance of 90 percent of America's health plans and facilities in both the public and private sector on dimensions of care and service. The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center is a center of excellence for robotic surgery and orthopedics, and is a recognized leader in Tele-Mental Health providing care for Veterans throughout the Southeast. The 149 bed hospital includes six community based outpatient clinics, a 20 bed nursing home, women's health, and the full range of inpatient and outpatient care including Medical and Surgical Intensive Care. The VAMC provides more than 700,000 outpatient visits and approximately 4,300 inpatient stays annually. The VAMC has an annual budget of \$359 million, research funding of more than \$20 million, and more than 100 principle investigators participating in approximately 300 research studies. For more information, visit www.charleston.va.gov.