

## **FAIRFIELD ROTARY CLUB**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: MEMORIAL DAY PARADE DONATIONS FOR **HOMES FOR THE BRAVE**

On Monday, May 31, The Fairfield Rotary Club will have a truck preceding the start of the Memorial Day Parade in Fairfield, collecting non perishable items to be donated to the “**Homes For The Brave**” in Bridgeport. There will be marchers walking along the parade route collecting items which can include canned goods, coffee, powder creamers, twin size sheets, pillows, towels and any toiletries. For a full list of requested items, go to [www.homesforthebrave.org](http://www.homesforthebrave.org). For late comers, the truck will also pass through the parade route at the very end of the parade.

Since opening its doors in 2002, ABRI/*Homes for the Brave* has provided safe housing, [vocational training](#) and [job placement](#), mental health and addiction services, and life skills coaching to help individuals, especially Veterans, leave homelessness behind. To date, the organization has worked with more than 550 individuals.

Veterans represent 26% of America's homeless population.<sup>1</sup> 1 out of 3 homeless men, who sleeps in a doorway or alley in our communities, has worn a uniform and served the United States.<sup>2</sup> In Connecticut, between 3,000 and 4,000 Veterans do not have homes.<sup>3</sup> The most effective programs for homeless Veterans are community based, nonprofit, Veterans helping Veterans groups.

ABRI/*Homes for the Brave*'s mission is:

*To serve as a national model of psychosocial rehabilitation that emphasizes veterans, and encompasses collaboration with community partners to provide a comprehensive, seamless array of services to individuals struggling with homelessness and behavioral health problems.*

Homes for the Brave is 42 bed transitional housing facility which also offers intensive case management and vocational services. The program is open to homeless male veterans and non-veterans. The program works in collaboration with community groups, especially the US Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Connecticut Healthcare System (VA CT), Chemical Abuse Services Agency (CASA), and the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). ABRI/*Homes for the Brave* focuses on individuals who demonstrate a motivation to live and work in the community.

**Please remember to bring whatever items you can and make this a memorable day for our veterans.**