



New Housing Complex for Homeless Veterans in Ventura

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VENTURA, Calif. -A group of homeless veterans will soon have a place to call home. The City Center in downtown Ventura off Thompson Boulevard used to be home to a rundown roadside motel, but now it is home to 16 families, and once the next phase of the project is done it will also be home to 14 veterans who are currently homeless.

“Living here has been amazing. There are so many resources for all the residents here, like classes and job training. There is so much support, it has just been awesome,” said City Center resident Serena Gonzales.

The City Center is a transitional living facility that helps people get back on their feet and off the streets. Right now The City Center houses 16 families, made up of 18 adults and 23 children. But soon the complex will be expanding with a wing for homeless veterans.

“They are our heroes, our war heroes. They are the ones that fought for our freedoms and we are going to be able to take eight of our rooms and house 14 veterans,” said The City Center Executive Director Jim Duran.

“It is a wonderful project. We have thousands of veterans in Ventura County at any moment experiencing mental health issues. We feel the organization is well-suited to address those individual needs,” said Jason Meek with the Turning Point Foundation.

“It is transitional living for them and they are going to have a person on site 24-7 as a case manager and as someone to oversee to make sure they are doing well. There are going to be meals for them; they are going to be taught and helped on how to get employment,” said Duran.

The program’s goal is for the veterans, in the next 12 to 24 months, to be transitioned into regular society and be self-sufficient.

“It is going to be great for them because they are no longer going to be homeless. They are going to be in a place. They can get on their feet and move forward,” said Duran.

While the units are being built, all of the furniture that will go into the units will be stored in PODS that were donated.

“It’s a service to the community. It’s a way of giving back and it helps the veterans that have served our country,” said Al Jonas with PODS Tri-Counties

In the next couple of weeks, Seabees from Naval Base Ventura County will finish building the rest of the rooms with supplies donated by Home Depot.

The goal is to open the complex in the next month.

PODS Tri-Counties says it will donate \$1 to The City Center for every new "like" it receives on its Facebook page.

[To learn more about the different ways to donate to The City Center click here.](#)