



August 24, 2012

**SAINT PAUL STILL HAS “VASH” OPENINGS  
 (“Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing” Vouchers)**

Dear Friends,

If you are in contact with homeless veterans who have ties to St. Paul, we want you to know that not all of the “VASH” vouchers awarded to the St Paul PHA have been spoken for yet.

HUD awarded VASH vouchers to the St. Paul PHA over the last three years. We now have a total of 125, including the last 40 that just came a few months ago. VASH vouchers are specifically for Long-Term-Homeless veterans. Now over 100 veterans have leased an apartment with their voucher or are “shopping” for a unit to rent with it. However, our goal is to have 100% of the VASH vouchers utilized at all times, as well as developing a sufficient waiting list to handle turnover. Additionally, the PHA wants to be well positioned for future VASH awards, so once again, fully utilizing this precious resource is our priority.

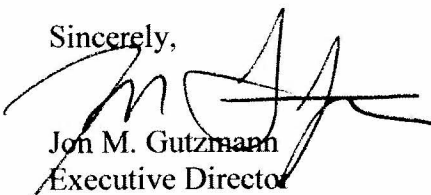
Staff at the Minneapolis VA Health Care Systems’ Mental Health-Homeless Programs continue to refer homeless vets to the PHA and we are reviewing their eligibility right now. (The PHA cannot take VASH applicants directly – they have to be referred by the VA.) We can still use 20-25 more referrals, as of now.

You can help the PHA and our partners at the VA get the last of the VASH vouchers under lease and keep them in use by referring potentially eligible homeless vets to the Mental Health-Homeless Programs unit at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center (612-467-1771). Staff from the VA team are doing regular outreach at several sites in St. Paul including the Dorothy Day Center, the Union Gospel Mission and the Salvation Army, so you can refer homeless veterans to those sites or directly to the VAMC.

If you have questions about VASH, feel free to call Jordan Huckleby at the PHA (651-298-5265, [Jordan.Huckleby@stpha.org](mailto:Jordan.Huckleby@stpha.org) ).

Thanks for your help with this important mission, using all of the available VASH vouchers to help homeless vets get the services and safe, affordable housing they need.

Sincerely,



Jon M. Gutzmann  
Executive Director

cc: Jonelle Draughn, Coordinator, Health Care Systems Mental Health-Homeless Programs