



## OPERATION STAND DOWN NASHVILLE, Inc.

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### EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2004

2004 was another great year of expansion and success for Operation Stand Down Nashville, Inc. (OSDN). On behalf of the OSDN Board of Directors, the OSDN Staff and the veterans we support, I would like to thank our many supporters and contributors for their donations, efforts and assistance on behalf of those who have honorably served our country and are now in need. Our goal is to assist the community in reestablishing ties with its veterans. We do that by coordinating and matching the aid provided by various organizations in Nashville with the needs of veterans, especially those on the streets. Because of the tremendous backing from numerous individual and organizations for Operation Stand Down, I believe we are succeeding. An example of our success was being recognized by The Frist Foundation and The Center for Nonprofit Management as a Finalist in their 'Making a Difference' Category of awards for nonprofit organizations. All of us are extremely proud of this honor.

**Staff:** The OSDN Staff is reaching out and serving more veterans than ever before. Our staff has stabilized at 12 full-time positions plus 13 part-time positions. Staffing and organizational efficiency was increased with the implementation of formalized position descriptions. Service Teams were formed with defined duties and goals. Monthly reports provide a variety of data and statistics on the services we provide and the veterans we serve.

**Housing:** OSDN continued exploring methods for increasing housing. A grant from the US Dept of Veterans Affairs provided funds to install water sprinklers in our three large houses. Each of our six houses meets all local, state and national Life Safety Code requirements. Appropriate operating permits from the City of Nashville have been renewed each year. The OSDN Board of Directors voted to increase housing and purchased two additional houses. This increased our bed availability from 30 to 38 beds. This is an increase from 3 to 7 beds for women veterans and an increase from 27 to 31 beds for male veterans.

**Employment:** Demand for our employment services continues to be very high. Our Employment Specialists are doing a great job meeting and/or exceeding all performance goals for all grants. During 2004, 326 veterans found full-time employment through the OSDN Employment offices. We continue to average a 66% employment rate – two-thirds of veterans seeking employment are gainfully employed through OSDN Employment Specialists. Another statistic of which we are very proud is that 70% of those we assist finding employment have remained employed at least six months. The average income of veterans obtaining employment through OSDN in 2004 was a little over \$10.00 per hour.

**Transitional Housing Program (THP):** Our THP for men and women veterans has a 40% success rate which exceeds the National average for similar programs. We are also very proud of the fact that 75% of our graduates remain living responsibly six months and longer after successfully leaving our program. We also added a program for veterans entering our THP called 'Return to Life'. It is a 30 day training program combining life skill courses, group discussions and job readiness training. Classes are taught primarily by community volunteers. This course together with our House Mentor Program provides a tremendous amount of support to veterans in their return to responsible living.

**Funding:** We are very proud that 85 cents of every dollar given to OSDN goes toward providing direct support to the veterans we serve.

- OSDN was again selected as a United Way Partner Agency for 2004 - 2005.
- The Department of Labor grant was renewed for 2004 - 2005 for \$300,000.
- The VA approved OSDN for continuance in their Per Diem Program.
- The US Dept of HUD grant was renewed for \$50,000 for 2004 - 2005.

**Event:** The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Operation Stand Down event returned to the National Guard Armory after three years at the TN State Fairgrounds. The event was held November 19-21, 2004. Services were provided for 282 veterans. There were NO incidences or problems during the event. In addition to all the usual services including medical exams, legal reviews, benefit information, food, fun and fellowship, some of the highlights include:

- 282 veterans received new socks, underwear and t-shirts.
- 69 veterans filed new claims for veteran benefits. 11 reopened claims.
- Six veterans were immediately accepted into substance abuse treatment.
- Over 100 participated in the TB Elimination service with Metro Public Health.
- Over 100 veterans completed Intake Applications for employment assistance.
- Over 250 veterans got haircuts.
- 160 received a full set of clothes and a winter coat Sunday morning.

There were many positives from this Stand Down. One of the biggest each year is the number of veterans who had been helped during previous Stand Downs returning as volunteers and service providers helping their fellow veterans. They were among the tremendous number of volunteers, over 450, who provided love and caring support continuously throughout the event. Many folks commented how proud they were to see Stand Down back at the National Guard Armory.

**Office Facilities:** OSDN continues to receive great support from Nashville's Metropolitan Department and Housing Authority (MDHA). Because of their support providing low-cost office and administrative space to OSDN, we are able to channel a great deal more of our resources to providing more services and support for veterans.

**Budget and Financial:** For 2004, the OSDN Board of Directors approved a Budget of \$759,000. The Board is considering a budget for 2005 of \$773,000. For managing income and expenses, the OSDN accounting system has been fully automated under the guidance of our CPA using QuickBooks for Nonprofit organizations. This has been a tremendous help providing timely, detailed financial reports for OSDN staff, board members and grantees.

**2005 Plans:**

- Purchase two more houses, both to be ¾ transitional housing for men.
- Obtain diversified funding sources and increase funding to support all goals including obtaining more housing and provide more services and support.
- Broaden outreach activities to include additional one-day mini Stand Downs focusing on medical, legal, clothing, etc.
- Enhance the possibility for client success through increased case management activities.
- Continue to be a leader in the community providing and/or coordinating quality care and services for veterans.

All of us at OSDN are excited about the future. Continuing to provide and/or coordinate quality services to those who have served our country is our sole purpose. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support from so many people and organizations.

*Bill Burleigh*

William J. Burleigh  
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army, Retired  
Executive Director

*“Since 1993, helping the community reestablish ties with its veterans.”*