

October 27, 2014

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Cooking Up New Life for Homeless Veterans Friday October 31 at Historic Rosslyn Hotel Apartments

Los Angeles – Marcus Hunter wanted green and white sheets. He changed his mind at the last minute and selected a soft cream print for his bed at SRO Housing Corporation’s Rosslyn Hotel Apartments, where he and 50 other chronically homeless veterans have just moved in.

A Navy veteran, Hunter is one of 75 chronically homeless veterans slated to move into new homes and new lives at SRO Housing Corporation’s newest residential property, the Historic Rosslyn Hotel. Hunter received a welcome basket with cleaning supplies and other essentials. Soon, he will receive even more.



AT&T Pioneers, an all-volunteer group of retired AT&T employees, have selected this group of veterans to receive specially packed “Welcome Kits” with pots, pans and kitchen utensils. The kits will be presented to the veterans in a gathering at the Rosslyn Hotel on Friday October 31, 2014.

SRO Housing Corporation Chief Executive Officer, Anita Nelson, praised the volunteer effort to support veterans. “We are impressed that the AT&T Pioneers group has made such a significant effort to help us welcome these veterans to their new homes.”

SRO Housing Corporation is recognized as one of the largest organizations providing affordable housing for low-income and homeless individuals in the Western United States and provides housing to more than 2,300 men and women in SRO Housing Corporation properties in downtown Los Angeles.

WHO: 75 chronically homeless veterans

WHAT: “*Essential Kits of Love*” Welcome Kits for homeless veterans who have just moved into new homes at SRO Housing Corporation will be distributed by AT&T Pioneers, an all-volunteer organization of retired AT&T employees who support efforts to end veteran homelessness in Los Angeles.

WHEN: Friday October 31st at 10:00am

WHERE: Rosslyn Hotel Apartments 112 W. 5th St. Los Angeles, CA 90013

WHY: “*When you leave the military, you feel like an orphan. You went from a job that had a purpose of helping people and you come back and you don’t have a mission. In the military, in war, if I do this, whether I live or die, I know I’m helping someone.*”

Aaron, formerly homeless Iraq War veteran, resident of Rosslyn Hotel who moved in on Sept 29th.

AT&T Pioneers is a network of volunteers who move those in need from adversity to achievement. “The group has been working together for over a hundred years now,” says Marsha Garnett, AT&T Pioneers Pacific Chapter President, “and the positive impact we’ve had on the lives of the people we serve is immeasurable. We’re confident in our ability to continue making the world a better place, starting right here. We are deeply connected to the unique needs of our community and to meeting those needs through grassroots projects and programs.” The group ended 2013 with 3.9 million hours of volunteer service.

The Pacific Chapter Pioneers, in support of the Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden’s “Joining Forces” initiative for Veterans to end veteran homelessness, selected a community service project “**Veterans Essential Kits of Love**” **75 welcome kits of necessary household items such as (first aid kits, dishes, cookware, towels, sheets, pillows, cleaning supplies, hygiene supplies), to present to the veterans when they move into their new homes.** The kits will be presented to SRO Housing Corporation Veterans who have been homeless at the Rosslyn Hotel Apartments on October 31, 2014.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to thank these men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our freedom.” Says SRO Housing Corporation CEO Anita Nelson, “They are moving in now as we prepare to celebrate the opening of the Rosslyn Hotel Apartments, our 30th housing site. It is an historic property built in 1923,” says Nelson, “The building is a treasure that will provide 264 beautiful studio apartments to homeless and low-income residents. Nearly half of the apartments will be dedicated to persons with disabilities and chronically homeless veterans.”

The building was acquired by SRO Housing Corporation in 2010 and the final touches are currently being completed on a full historic restoration. Despite the challenges of living in a construction site, affordable housing is so scarce in Los Angeles that some former residents opted to stay despite a relocation offer. “People who have been homeless or who live with a disability still deserve the simple comforts of home. A clean, safe place to live, a place they are proud to call home.”

About SRO Housing Corporation: SRO Housing Corporation is a community-based, nonprofit organization founded in 1984. We provide the full continuum of affordable housing (Emergency, Transitional and Permanent Supportive Housing) to over 2,300 men and women in safe, clean, private units with on-site supportive services in downtown Los Angeles. **Over 9% of our residents are Veterans who have served in the military.** We are celebrating 30 years of service to Los Angeles and preparing to open our 30th residential property, the Rosslyn Hotel. It is an historic building that will provide housing to Veterans and people with disabilities. **Mission:** SRO Housing Corporation is dedicated to building a vibrant community for homeless and low-income individuals. We pursue a mission of community revitalization by providing clean, safe, and affordable housing; managing public spaces; and administering needed supportive services.

About AT&T Pioneers: The AT&T Pioneers is a non-profit network of about 287,000 AT&T employees and retired volunteers who effect immediate, tangible change in our communities every day. For over 100 years we have initiated volunteer-led efforts and today we continue to build on the 3.9 million hours generated in 2013 that have been dedicated to helping others. We focus on education, military, veterans, environmental, seniors, health and human services and projects. We are committed to helping move those in need from adversity to achievement.

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