



**LOCATION:**  
LOS ANGELES, CA

**SIZE:**  
110 SHELTERS

**POPULATION SERVED:**  
UNHOUSED VETERANS

**OPENING DATE:**  
OCTOBER 31, 2021

**FUNDING:**  
PRIVATE DONATIONS

## Uplifting At-Risk Veterans

**Unhoused Veterans in West Los Angeles are now safely sheltered, with a direct line to healthcare services.**

A Pallet shelter village was built on the VA West Los Angeles campus. The goal of the VA site is to improve unsheltered Veterans' healthcare outcomes, while moving them toward permanent housing solutions.

In most major cities throughout California, the number of people experiencing homelessness continues to climb. LA County's homeless population is up 13% since 2019. While the county had an increase, the percentage of Veterans experiencing homelessness in LA remained relatively flat, which according to the LA Housing Services Authority "demonstrates that more resources to house people are effective." But in California alone, there are around 11,000 Veterans still experiencing homelessness.

In Fall 2021, the VA shared the Pallet shelter village model to key stakeholder groups, including Veterans groups, Veteran service organizations, community partners, and local municipalities. From there, VA adopted a phased approach to prepare the infrastructure and receive the shelters on the West LA campus.

The project started with three shelters from AyZar Outreach in early October 2021 and soon followed with 25 more from Village for Vets that were built in two days by the Pallet deployment team and local volunteers. Not long after the initial batch of shelters were built, more arrived, including 20 from local Brentwood School.

In December 2021, two days before Christmas, Arnold Schwarzenegger personally donated \$250,000 to Village for Vets to contribute 25 of 30 additional Pallet shelters to the community.

"Today, I celebrated Christmas early. The 25 homes I donated for homeless veterans were installed here in LA. It was fantastic to spend some time with our heroes and welcome them into their new homes," Schwarzenegger wrote on Twitter.

With 32 shelters from HomeAid Los Angeles added in February, the site can now support 110 Veterans in the shelters.

The shelters are part of the CTRS (Care, Treatment and Rehabilitation Services) initiative which expands unsheltered Veterans' access to the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System with regular access to medical care, behavioral health services, and housing services to help them transition towards permanent housing.



**Connecting with a provider that can help you overcome and manage serious issues, including substance abuse and mental illness, becomes exponentially more difficult without a home. The goal of CTRS is to help move Veterans from the streets and into stable, permanent housing so that they can have their unique, individual needs addressed and move on to build lives they are proud of.**



**-MATT MCGAHRAN**  
CHIEF, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND REINTEGRATION SERVICE

## Site Features

- One hundred and ten 64 sq. ft. Pallet shelters, which include: a foldable bed, personal climate control, windows, electrical outlets to power personal devices, fire safety equipment, and a locking door
- Peer support, medical care, and behavioral health services

