



A veteran-focused shelter will open on Wednesday, Veterans Day, at First Congregational Church, downtown, providing emergency shelter for up to 13 homeless veterans and seven companion animals.

# Veterans Focused Shelter Opening

## Low barrier model addresses housing crisis

A Portland-based non-profit will provide emergency shelter services for up to 13 homeless Veterans and seven companion animals starting on Veterans' Day.

Do Good Multnomah, in partnership with several community organizations, has developed a model that creates synergy between neighborhood groups, faith communities, and the business sector to address Portland's homelessness crisis in an immediate and focused way.

The Do Good Veterans Shelter, located at First Congregational Church, 1126 S.W. Park Ave., will be the only low-barrier, Veteran-exclusive shelter for men in the city, and one of only a few Portland shelters to allow companion animals.

Shelter staff will help the veterans navigate through the available housing and employment resources offered by other service providers. The shelter will be free of charge.

Church members will coordinate volunteer efforts, but religious belief or church affiliation is not a requirement to participate. In addition to the support received from the city of Portland and Multnomah County, initial funding for the shelter's Veterans' Day launch was provided by US Bank.

"This kind of shelter depends on the support and good will of many people," said UCC Senior Minister, Michael Ellick. "Each of us has different gifts to bring to the table. We are honored to work with Do Good Multnomah and to open our building to our neighbors who sleep outside."

Mayor Charlie Hales said providing shelter for Veterans and their companion animals provides compassionate transitional shelter as the city works to get all of our homeless Veterans into housing.

"Thank you Do Good Multnomah, First Congregational, and US Bank for partnering with government to benefit some of our most vulnerable neighbors," Hales said.

Veterans in need of housing assistance or emergency shelter are also encouraged to call 2-1-1.



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