



CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS AND AT&T DONATE PHONES, GIFT CARDS & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS TO HOMELESS VETERANS IN MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS (November 11, 2015) – As the country celebrates Veterans Day, Cell Phones For Soldiers and AT&T continued its mission of connecting America’s bravest to the people they love and to the opportunities they deserve.

[Cell Phones For Soldiers](#) and long-time supporter AT&T donated cellphones with a year service, a catered dinner, funds for gas and food gift cards, and needed household items like sheets, pillows and towels to benefit homeless veterans being served by the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) in Minneapolis.

AT&T volunteers served a meal to the veteran residents and spent time in conversation learning about family, past experiences and more.

“The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans has made a tremendous difference in the lives of veterans,” said Robbie Bergquist, co-founder of Cell Phones For Soldiers. “We applaud their work and hope the invaluable donations can positively impact the brave individuals who have sacrificed so much for our country.”

AT&T is committed to serving the communities where it operates, and in 2014 alone, employees and retirees volunteered more than 5.6 million hours of time in their communities. Since 2007, AT&T, the AT&T Foundation and AT&T’s customers have donated more than \$4.6 million to support Cell Phones For Soldiers.

“For over 100 years, AT&T has been committed to showing our support for our troops and our veterans each and every day,” said Paul Weirtz, president of AT&T Minnesota and a Marine. “We are very proud to support MACV’s mission to provide a helping hand to our homeless veterans and help them get back on their feet.”

Since 1990, the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans has provided services to homeless veterans or those experiencing a crisis that could lead to homelessness.

“The challenges faced by homeless veterans or those in crisis are complicated and when facing them alone, often insurmountable,” said Kathleen Vitalis, president and CEO of the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans. “Donations like these offer them hope as they work at rebuilding their lives and it reminds them that people care. May our hands never be so busy that we can’t reach out. Thank YOU for reaching out today.”

Cell Phones For Soldiers is a national nonprofit focused on the communication needs of troops and veterans. For 11 years, Cell Phones For Soldiers has served as a lifeline for America's bravest. Its [Helping Heroes Home](#) program provides one-time emergency needs to help veterans transition to post-combat life. From cellphones to use for job searches, to computers for communication with family, these tools assist in the fight to improve the lives of veterans.

For more information, please visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com.

Media Contacts:

Erin McCloskey
Cell Phones For Soldiers
erin@aspirecommunications.org
(336) 207-5222

Jessica Erickson
AT&T
jessica.erickson@att.com
608-692-5340

ABOUT CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS INC.

Cell Phones For Soldiers is a national nonprofit dedicated to providing cost-free communication services to active-duty military members and veterans. Founded in 2004 by Robbie and Brittany Bergquist, then 12 and 13 years old, Cell Phones For Soldiers has provided more than 216 million "Minutes That Matter" to servicemen and women. Since 2012, "Helping Heroes Home" has provided emergency funds for more than 2,800 veterans to alleviate communication challenges as well as physical, emotional and assimilation hardships. For more information, visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Google+](#) and [Pinterest](#) pages.

About Community Engagement at AT&T

At AT&T, Community Engagement means engaging our employees to build healthy, connected and thriving communities where we live and do business. Employees are focused on three key issues: improving educational outcomes, building sustainable communities and promoting the responsible use of technology. Last year, AT&T employees and retirees volunteered more than 5.6 million hours of time in community outreach activities worth more than \$126 million and pledged more than \$36 million for charities of their choice through employee giving. Employees also committed to more than 47,000 sustainable choices through Do One Thing (DOT), which invites employees to make small, everyday choices that add up to a big positive impact for themselves, the community and/or the company.

About Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been assisting veterans since 1990. Each year MACV receives more than 25,000 contacts, inquiries and requests from veterans across the state. The mission of MACV is to provide assistance throughout Minnesota to positively motivated veterans and their families who are homeless or experiencing other life crisis. It is estimated that 1% of the veterans in this state, or close to 4,000, will experience an episode of homelessness, or an event that could lead to homelessness this year. MACV is there to assist. Many homeless and veterans' organizations recognize MACV's transitional and permanent housing programs as a model for the nation. We have a passion for serving those in Minnesota who first served us. **For more information visit www.mac-v.org**

###