

(WEST PALM BEACH, FL)--- Congressman Allen West (R-FL) and Congressman Ted Deutch (D-FL) joined together in support of Palm Beach County veterans Friday to officially announce the award of a nearly \$1 million federal grant given to a local organization to help struggling veterans get back on their feet.

Faith*Hope*Love*Charity will receive a \$964,000 grant to assist approximately 600 members of the veterans community. The money will have a major impact on establishing temporary housing and providing resources to get veterans back to work.

"This is not a hand out, but a hand up," said Faith*Hope*Love*Charity (FHLC) Director Roy Foster. "I'm filled with emotion today knowing how much this money will truly make a difference in the lives of our veterans returning home."

The grant will provide housing and rehabilitation for veterans as well as allow FHLC to open satellite offices in Belle Glade and Jupiter, Foster added.

"Our veterans in Palm Beach County now have the resources to provide real, permanent solutions," West said. "As a 22-year Army veteran, I personally know the struggle my brothers and sisters in arms experience when they transition out of a war zone back to civilian life. Many of the wounds they have are not always physical, but they are there. They deserve our unwavering support to help them succeed after returning from serving their country."

Congressman West was joined by Congressman Deutch as they presented a check to Faith*Hope*Love*Charity at the organization's Palm Springs, Florida office. More than 75 members of the veterans community and distinguished guests, as well as members of the media, were on hand for the presentation.

"The award of these federal dollars to Faith*Hope*Love*Charity is a testament to the outstanding work performed by this organization on behalf of South Florida's veterans," Deutch said. "I am thrilled to see efforts at the federal level translate into real help for struggling veterans in our community. We have a responsibility as a nation to ensure that no American who dons the uniform of the United States becomes a forgotten hero after their mission is complete."

Iraq veteran Paul McCaw along with his wife and son, also shared their story.

"I got out of the Army more than a year ago and I have struggled to figure out what is next for me," McCaw said. "Faith*Hope*Love*Charity has been a blessing to me and my family in helping us start over and find stability. I'm here to tell you that we, as veterans, need your support."

More than 20,000 veterans in Palm Beach County live below the poverty level. Faith*Hope*Love*Charity serves more than 600 cases a year.

"We see cases like McCaw daily," Foster said. "This money will assure them housing, job training and a path to a successful future. This grant is a symbol to them that their country is here for them."

Faith*Hope*Love*Charity's (FHLC) mission is to reintegrate veterans and their families back into the community so they are able to sustain independent living. FHLC works in conjunction with the Palm Beach County Veterans Administration Medical Center and the Department of Veterans Affairs to serve veterans with PTSD, physical disabilities, and traumatic brain injury. FHLC focuses on finding veterans permanent housing and employment.

FHLC Palm Beach County facilities:

Stand Down House- serves homeless male veterans, many struggling with PTSD and traumatic brain injuries.

First Stop Housing Program- provides short-term housing and supportive services to reintegrate female veterans and their families back into the community.

First Stop Veterans Resource Center- provides services to at-risk veterans, including assistance in navigating VA system, medical benefits, employment, counseling, support groups, permanent housing and educational benefits.

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