

SOUTH FLORIDA'S AT-RISK VETERANS BENEFIT FROM \$1 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT AWARDED TO OPERATION SACRED TRUST

Carrfour Supportive Housing serves as lead applicant for Department of Veterans Affairs-funded initiative.

MIAMI, FL – November 7, 2012 – Help is on the way for thousands of U.S. military veterans returning to South Florida from combat overseas as four local organizations team up to ease the transition for soldiers coming home. With support from a new \$1 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Carrfour Supportive Housing – Florida's largest nonprofit affordable housing developer – Operation Sacred Trust (OST) is leading the effort to provide housing assistance and supportive services for thousands of struggling veterans in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties.

The goal of Operation Sacred Trust – a collaborative initiative between four Miami nonprofit groups Carrfour Supportive Housing, PAIRS Foundation, Henderson Behavioral Health, and Neighborhood Housing Services of South Florida – is to end homelessness among at-risk veterans and their families living in South Florida by helping them move into stable, affordable housing.

"Operation Sacred Trust is making a life-changing impact in the lives of thousands of South Florida Veteran families," said Stephanie Berman-Eisenberg, president/CEO of Carrfour Supportive Housing, the lead applicant in the VA grant. "The new dollars granted by the VA will provide Carrfour and our partner organizations with the resources necessary to broaden our reach into the community."

Under the new grant, funded by the VA's <u>Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program</u>, Operation Sacred Trust will provide veteran families with outreach, case management, and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits including, health care services, daily living services, personal financial planning services, transportation services, child care services, and housing counseling services. In addition, OST may also provide time-limited payments to third parties (i.e. landlords, utility companies, moving companies, and licensed child care providers) if these payments help veterans stay in or acquire permanent housing on a sustainable basis.

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About Carrfour Supportive Housing:

Carrfour Supportive Housing is a nonprofit organization established in 1993 by the Homeless Committee of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. Carrfour develops, operates and manages innovative housing communities for individuals and families in need through a unique approach combining affordable housing with comprehensive, on-site supportive services. As the leading not-for-profit provider of supportive housing in Florida, Carrfour has supplied homes for more than 10,000 formerly homeless men, women and children since its founding. Learn more at www.carrfour.org.