



Putting Veterans First Since 1992
NEW DIRECTIONS *for* **VETERANS**

Hopes for 2025: A Message from Our Director

Dear Friends and Community Partners,

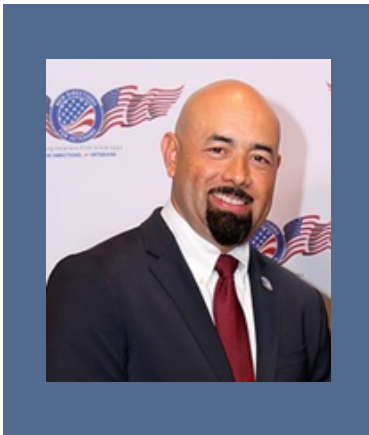
On behalf of New Directions, I truly hope that you and your family were not impacted by the wildfires. New Directions was close to the Palisades Fire, but thankfully, not impacted, and we have been able to ensure continuity of care for the veterans who depend on us.

In reflecting on 2024, I and the team could not be more grateful for your friendship and support. Last year, it enabled us to enhance care for 847 veterans that depend on our organization to help them make a profound difference in their lives.

Working together, we are able to serve as a beacon of hope for veterans facing homelessness, substance use disorder, and in need of mental health care. Many of the veterans who depend on us do not have family to help them rest and recover. With your support, not only are we able to provide safe shelter but a lifeline offering stability and purpose. Every veteran's journey is unique, but one constant remains: transformation is possible. Through housing, counseling, and aftercare, we've witnessed life-altering changes that renew confidence and rebuild lives. In the months ahead, we aim to deepen our impact by enhancing our programs and furthering partnerships. Collectively, we can provide the tools, resources, and unwavering support our veterans deserve.

In community, we will continue to transform lives one at a time empowering men and women who served in the military to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

With deep gratitude,

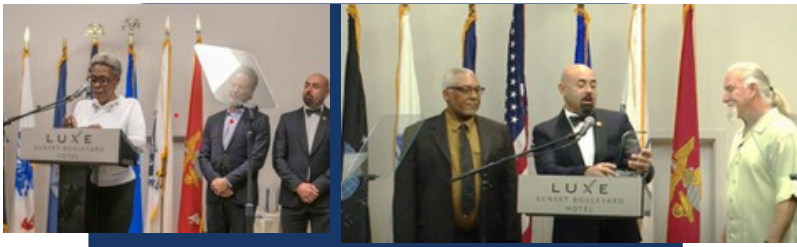


Leonardo Cuadrado, M.B.A.
Captain (Retired)
United States Marine Corps
Executive Director

To learn how you can help enrich
the lives and wellbeing of veterans
[CLICK HERE.](#)



2024 Honoring Our Heroes Gala



Pictured left top to right: Joy Brickhouse, Darryl Mosby Sr., Leo Cuadrado, Daniel Martin, Steven Weber, Gina Elise and Pin-ups For Veterans, Councilmember Traci Park

Aligned with Veterans Day, we held our Honoring Our Heroes Gala on November 8th, at the Luxe Hotel on Sunset Blvd. During the ceremony we were honored to present our program alumni: Joy Brickhouse with the Female Hero of the Year Award, and Darryl Mosby Sr. and Daniel Martin with the Male Heroes of the Year Award.

Accomplished actor, director, and producer, Steven Weber, served as Master of Ceremonies; and Los Angeles City Councilmember Traci Park, 11th District, was the Keynote Speaker. Sponsors of the gala included the Johnny Carson Foundation, Occidental Entertainment, Modern HR, Make My Day Beautiful, Aerospace Corporation, Monarch Art and Wellness Foundation, and Walt’s Construction.

Gina Elise and Pin-ups for Veterans volunteered to welcome guests during the silent auction and cocktail reception. This was then followed by a banquet dinner, live auction, and ceremony where our heroes were honored. Our Female Hero of the Year, Joy Brickhouse credits NDVets help in a critical time in her life; and she is “grateful for the kindness and respect that has been provided to me, and I will always be grateful.”

We thank all of the charitable donors, staff and volunteers as we work together to enhance the lives of veterans. Your commitment ensures veterans the care, dignity and respect they deserve. See you next year!

Mayor Bass Visits NDVets to Strengthen Partnerships for Veterans

On November 15th, we were honored to welcome Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and LA City Councilmember Traci Park, 11th District. We were thrilled to have them tour our facilities, including an in-depth look into the Neurofeedback Clinic. Mayor Bass appreciated the opportunity to meet veterans in our program, as well as alumni and staff.

Mayor Bass is a champion against the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles. During her visit we discussed the opportunity for increased collaboration, including the creation of a community action table. Together we can prioritize access for veterans on a path to sustainable and permanent housing.

Mayor Bass hopes that this can be accomplished by reducing bureaucracy and cutting red tape. We are grateful for her time and the opportunity to collaborate with her about important issues affecting our veteran community.



Photos Courtesy of the Office of the Mayor of Los Angeles



Connecting Veterans to Opportunity

Veterans Stand Down

On December 5th, Los Angeles City Councilmember Traci Park, 11th District, in collaboration with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Veterans Alliance for Leadership and Recognition (LADWP VALOR), conducted a veteran resource fair at New Directions.

The event, served over 200 veterans, including agencies such as the Red Cross, Los Angeles Metro, Office of the Mayor, and Los Angeles Public Library. Veterans were able to access medical information, mental health care resources, workforce development, winter attire and along with other essentials.

“The resource fair is important for veterans because it gives them the opportunity to learn more about services and resources available to them in the community. Our team is honored to be able to provide veterans with resources that will be impactful to them,” Scott Brumer Director of Development, NDVets.



American Legion Ronald Reagan Palisades- Post 238

One of our most meaningful supporters is American Legion Ronald Reagan Palisades Post 238. Their commitment to the veterans in our program is deeply appreciated.

On Veterans Day, they welcomed our residents to the Post for a celebration. The event included a luncheon, live band, and gift distribution. Veterans were interviewed to discuss their experiences serving in the military, and life after, including at New Directions. They also held a Thanksgiving dinner which veterans in our program appreciated in comradery with their fellow servicemembers.

Thank you to American Legion Ronald Regan Palisades Post 238 for making this possible, and sending love and hope from our community to yours.



Spreading Holiday Cheer

Catching Joy at NDVets

Thank you to Charla King, founder of JoyCatchers and the team of volunteers for their commitment to veterans in our program and spreading Christmas cheer.

JoyCatchers is a nonprofit community organization founded to bring Christmas cheer to adults. Primarily the organization aims to uplift marginalized groups including, seniors, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, those with chronic illness, and the homeless.

"A JoyCatchers tree is much more than a tree. It is a means to "catch the joy" of the holiday season and share it with those who may be alone, lonely, or ill during a season when much of society is in a celebratory mood,"
Charla King.

Residents had fun decorating their own trees and placing them throughout the building, brightening up the halls with some holiday cheer.



Rudolph's Reindeer Rally: Elks Lodge Brings Holiday Cheer to NDVets

On December 23rd we held our Holiday Gift Celebration. At the festive event residents enjoyed holiday music, snacks, while staff distributed gifts from community residents, corporations and neighboring nonprofit organizations. We want to send a special thank you to the Shelter Partnership.

Volunteers from Redondo Beach Elks Lodge #1378, led by Elizabeth Dye, PAVP, Veterans Services Programs, joined us to distribute cold weather attire and other items they graciously donated. We are grateful for their commitment to issues our veterans face and look forward to strengthening our partnership in the future.



Permanent Supportive Housing and MacArthur Field

In September we celebrated the opening of our newest Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) at MacArthur Field, located on the West LA VA Campus. Constituting as Phase 1, it includes 75 mixed-use units, with special accommodations for those experiencing chronic homelessness, disability concurrent with homelessness, and those ineligible for VA Healthcare. We are proud to provide safe shelter to those who have served our nation.



Community Outreach and Education: --- A Commitment to Support Victims of Violence

In 2024, Ren Ross, Director of Project Management (NDVets), presented at The California Endowment regarding the opening of MacArthur Field PSH and the progress that still can be made to ensure veterans receive the care and safety they deserve. These efforts include a heightened awareness of Military Sexual Trauma (MST) and prevention of Domestic Violence (DV) while living in permanent supportive housing.

MST is a tragedy, and often rarely reported. According to the Pentagon, 24% of female and 1.9% of male servicemembers are affected; but independent data shows that the number could be over 2.5 times higher. Many survivors of MST feel institutional betrayal and do not use VA healthcare services often due to a variety of barriers. These obstacles include, military culture and lack of supportive response and the issue that VA facilities are primarily male, leading many female victims to feel unsafe on campus. Our organization is committed to helping victims feel protected on campus, encouraging them to apply for permanent supportive housing and utilizing the resources they deserve.

To increase awareness and decrease victimization, we are proud to be a part of a coalition with local organizations including: Casa de la Familia, LGBTQ Center Long Beach, YWCA Long Beach, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. We hope that by partnering with these organizations we can heighten policies and procedures in regards to DV reporting. We are committed and will continue to strive for the safety and security of veterans with community partners.



Looking Ahead

Transforming the Lives of Veterans in 2025

As we begin the new year, New Directions for Veterans (NDVets) is more committed than ever to enhancing the lives and well-being of veterans across Los Angeles County. 2024 held significant milestones and we are focused on deepening our impact.

In 2025, we aim to increase access to Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), addressing the ongoing challenges of homelessness and mental health care for veterans, while ensuring that every veteran has an elevated quality of life. We are committed to enhancing safety, security and healing for those who have bravely served our nation. We do not stand alone and in collaboration with community partners will reduce barriers to build safer, more inclusive communities. Our collective impact creates opportunities for veterans to connect, heal, and thrive. Together, we will continue to create lasting change and provide our nation’s heroes with the dignity, care, and respect they deserve. As we move forward, we invite you to reach out, to support this vital mission. Let’s continue to work together to make a difference—one life at a time.

