



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND WELCOMES VETERANS TO THEIR NEW HOMES AT THE “CABIN IN THE WOODS” HOUSING PROJECT AT TOGUS**

#### ***Cabin in the Woods will provide permanent housing for homeless Maine Veterans and their families***

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 | AUGUSTA, ME** – Join the Volunteers of America Northern New England on Friday September 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am at Togus VA Medical Center as we celebrate Maine veterans moving into their new homes at the Cabin in the Woods housing project.

There are 16 one-bedroom and five two-bedroom 550-square-foot cabins, as well as office and community space. The project, on 11 acres obtained through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Enhanced-Use Lease Program (EUL) is an important component of both VA's mission to end Veteran homelessness and the departments overall asset management program. Through the EUL program, VA out-leases underutilized real estate under its jurisdiction or control to the private sector for up to 75 years for the purpose of developing supportive housing for homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families. Cabin in the Woods is the first of its kind in Maine that provides permanent housing for both male and female veterans.

Special attention was given to maintaining a rustic, wooded private setting for each of the cabins, according to Volunteers of America. Though they are in a wooded setting, they are also within walking distance of health services at the 500-acre Togus campus outside of Augusta.

#### **WHAT:**

- Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Cabin in the Woods project where we'll celebrate veterans moving into their new homes. Cabin in the Woods is a collaborative project led by Volunteers of America, with the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Maine Healthcare System, Maine Housing, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Bangor Savings Bank, TD Charitable Foundation, Home Depot Foundation and Northern New England Housing Investment Fund.

#### **WHEN:**

- Friday, September 21, 2018 at 10:00 A.M.

#### **WHERE:**

- GPS Address to Togus: 810 Eastern Avenue, Augusta, Maine 04330
- Detailed directions to Togus VAMC: <https://www.maine.va.gov/locations/directions.asp> then follow the Volunteers of America signs to the site.

**WHO:**

- Richard Hooks Wayman, President and CEO, Volunteers of America Northern New England
- June Koegel, Executive Vice President and COO, Volunteers of America
- Dan Brennan, Director, Maine State Housing Authority
- William Burney, Field Office Director, US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Ryan Lilly, former Director Togus VA Medical Center
- Mark Winter, Representative for Senator Susan Collins
- Teague Morris, Representative for Senator Angus King
- Aaron Pierce, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Congresswoman Chellie Pingree

**Media Contact:** Jill Valley-Orlando [jill@knightcanney.com](mailto:jill@knightcanney.com) 808.271.3624