



Veterans Guest House Expands

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Wednesday, August 15th 2018, 9:23 pm PDT by Chris Buckley

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"We now have almost 17,000 square feet between the two of them, 33 beds total," said Noreen Leary, Veterans Guest House CEO.

It's a home away from home for veterans and their families that are in town for medical treatment. For some, it's just the help they need." Paul Bellia, who currently lives on his boat in Panama, has been staying there off and on for the last six months.

"I came in for a VA checkup and found out I had stage 4 prostate cancer," Bellia said. "I've been here at the 'thank goodness' guest house ever since because of the ongoing treatments. I was just telling one of my roommates that without this place I would have been destitute, it would have been impossible to even go through the treatment let alone find a place to stay that's affordable. This place is magic - there should be more of them."

The \$4.4 million expansion was funded by a caring community.

"Everything from a \$20 donation to a \$1 million donation to the campaign, and everywhere in between," Leary said.

There's still room to grow.

"We've designed this in a way we can expand easily to the east," Leary said. "So we've planned as best we can for our future to make sure our veterans are cared for."

There are plenty of common spaces in the new home, designed to foster community and strength for all that come through these doors.

"It's a great thing, it really is," Bellia said. "Whoever sees this, give money to this - it's a worthwhile cause, it really is. There's so many people much worse than I am - I'm considered bad - and I just feel for them."

There's a grand opening and open house there on Saturday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come down, take a tour and see firsthand what this community helped to build.

For more information, visit their website here: www.veteransguesthouse.org