1. **What is a Veteran?**
   - Under federal law, a veteran is any person who served honorably on active duty in the armed forces of the United States. (Discharges marked general and under honorable conditions also qualify. But not dishonorable.) This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

2. **What is affordable housing?**
   - Policymakers and advocates call housing “affordable” when a household pays no more than 30% of its total income for housing costs (rent or mortgage payment, insurance, taxes, and utilities). In Marin County, CA and the North Bay, CA, it can be upwards of 50% plus.

3. **What does precariously housed mean?**
   - Persons about to lose housing due to eviction, lack of money, or being forced out of current housing and have no other place to live.
   - Persons housed and living temporarily with family or friends - often called “couch surfers” because they lack the resources or support networks to retain or obtain permanent housing, who were not, presumably, immediately homeless prior to living with family or friends.
   - Persons who are housed but have moved frequently due to economic reasons and/or living in severely overcrowded housing. (From Marin County, CA)

4. **What does the term homeless actually mean**
   - People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided. The only significant change from existing practice is that people will be considered homeless if they are exiting an institution where they resided for up to 90 days (it was previously 30 days), and were in shelter or a place not meant for human habitation immediately prior to entering that institution.
   - People who are losing their primary nighttime residence, which may include a motel, hotel, or a doubled up situation, within 14 days and lack resources or support networks to remain in housing. HUD had previously allowed people who were being displaced within 7 days to be considered homeless.
   - Families with children or unaccompanied youth who are unstably housed and likely to continue in that state. This is a new category of homelessness, and it applies to families with children or unaccompanied youth who have not had a lease or ownership interest in a housing unit in the last 60 or more days, have had two or more moves in the last 60 days, and who are likely to continue to be unstably housed because of disability or multiple barriers to employment.
   - People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, have no other residence, and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing. (The US Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) definition of homelessness as of 1/18/2012)

5. **Who is BlueStar Family Homes**
   - About BlueStar Family Homes (BFH): BFH, based in Novato, CA, is part of a nonprofit network of experienced developers of affordable communities. We are dedicated to providing veterans, their families, especially single mothers and their children, with secure communities and the support services they deserve and need to thrive. Contact us at 415-897-7744 bluestarfamilyhomes.org.
   - We are a EIN 48-1269135, a nonprofit 501(c)(3)
FAQ

6. What your donation can provide?


- Your $100 buys a bedroom door to a child’s room. That door opens to a child’s room that provides the safety and security they need to have a fair start on a good life.
- Your $100 helps a family afford a desk where a child can focus on his or her homework, undisturbed in a quiet place.
- Your $500 buys a new front door to a safe, affordable apartment!
- Your $10,000 buys 100 new bedroom doors.
- Your $500 helps to keep rent affordable for a working mother so she can put food on the table.
- Your $250 helps reduce working vets’ utility bills so she can purchase school books and supplies to help her children succeed at school.
- Your $75 helps secure a playground on site so a veteran mother’s children can play near home under a parent’s watch.

7. What we are specifically doing with the startup money in creating a business?

Thank you for your interest and donations! With these initial start-up funds we are going to ultimately save veteran families and their children from homelessness. To do this we will need to:

- Develop the company infrastructure, brand, website, and implement outreach campaigns for donors.
- Refine our business strategy for launching new vet housing projects
- Interview veterans to better understand their specific local needs, especially single mothers with children
- Work with local service organizations to identify veterans in need of affordable housing
- Collaborate with veteran service organizations on best practices for housing development
- Team up with local governments to determine interest in partnering on new vet housing
- Examine local agency policies that encourage non-profit housing developers to bring affordable veterans rental housing to those communities
- Identify and take steps to secure land and buildings appropriate for renovations/development for veteran housing
- Work with planners and engineers to determine best methods for repurposing and renovation of existing buildings
- Analyze overall financial feasibility of the proposed housing development project
- Determine best practices to access patient capital from foundations and other sources
- Identify and collaborate with finance partners to provide funding for the actual housing development

For more information please return to our Press page: bluestarfamilyhomes.org/press