

# Mary's Story



It was cold outside, a few days after Christmas. Late at night Mary went into the 24-hour Kroger in Douglasville trying to keep warm. She had lost her job, and then lost her home .... She had called DFACS to help by keeping her child for her, and they came and took him.

Mary is not a drug addict or a battered woman; she is a United States Army Veteran who spent 8 years in the military defending our country - she was willing to lay down her life for our freedom. Because she was not battered or addicted, there were no immediate resources to help her when she needed help.

The Kroger manager, Alan, talked with her, and listened to her story then allowed her to remain in the store to keep warm. The next day she found a job at the fast food restaurant next door to Kroger. After that Alan called every place in town that might offer assistance, but because she wasn't battered or addicted, nothing was available. That afternoon as he went out to the pump to buy gas he ran into Steve Schiffman, the Director of Operation Not Forgotten, a veteran



organization headquartered in Douglasville. Alan and Steve talked about the situation with Mary, and Steve said he had an apartment where she could stay for free. The place needed new carpet, and a little work, but otherwise, it was in perfect shape. Alan and Steve called Carpet Depot in Douglasville, and they immediately donated the needed carpet for the apartment, and Mary was able to move in. Because she still has no transportation, volunteers took her back and forth to work. Mary has been given a chance to get back on her feet, and as a veteran she will use this opportunity wisely. She has been reunited with her child, found a good job that will support her and her child, and also a new home.



This is how Vet Life Mission was born ... out of a serious need in local communities. No person who has served in the United States Military should ever be without care and resources. Sadly, the truth is that on any given evening there are upwards of 100,000 veterans in the United States who are homeless, and the rise in homelessness among female veterans is unprecedented. We now have thousands of young women who served our country in the Military sleeping in the streets. This is unacceptable.



## VET LIFE MISSION

**Changing the Way Veterans and Their Families are Helped.**