



## ABOUT OPERATION NOT FORGOTTEN VET LIFE MISSION

### Mary's Story

Operation Not Forgotten is an all-volunteer program of our non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, Life Renewed International. Our mission is to measurably improve a veteran's quality of life in these areas: mental, emotional, social, and spiritual. Operation Not Forgotten works through Vet Life Communities, a network of peer-based support meetings that can be in-person, virtual, or a hybrid of both types of meetings. - veterans helping veterans, families helping families. We offer the tools necessary to address issues, including PTSD and suicidal ideation, to help veterans and their families.

We also have a ministry to homeless veterans called Vet Life Mission. An example of a veteran who benefitted from Vet Life Mission is Mary (name changed to protect anonymity)



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 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 the manager 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. He and Steve talked about the situation with Mary, and Steve said he had an apartment where she could stay. 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.

After Mary moved on, the apartment flooded, and needed renovation. Water-proofing was done pro bono by Aqua Guard. As Home Depot's Veteran Project of the Year, we were given a funds for materials to redo the apartment. West Metro Church in Douglasville gave sacrificially. Additionally, many businesses and individuals with various skills volunteered to help to renovate the apartment.

No person who has served in the United States Military should ever be without care and resources. Vet Life Mission is trying to do their part to offer hope and a home to our veterans.