



A special public/nonprofit partnership
WESTCARE FOUNDATION, INC.
and
THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
(WDVA)



WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM



**Washington Soldiers Home, Orting, Washington.
~ Betsy Ross Building ~**

Purpose: The WestCare Foundation, through a partnership and lease with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, will renovate the Betsy Ross building on the Soldiers Home campus to provide much needed services to women veterans.

A portion of the Albert O'Connor Building will be used as an administrative headquarters for WestCare's Women Veterans Program and WestCare's Rural Veterans Coordination Program.

The renovation of the Betsy Ross building will be the first step in creating a Women Veterans Program at the Washington Soldiers Home. Beginning in May, residents, staff and visitors will see construction work including:

- Replacing the roof
- Installing a lift in the common room
- Painting the interior of the building
- Updating wiring, sprinklers, alarms, and installing Wi-Fi capability
- Updating the HVAC system
- Installing new flooring, counters, cabinets, and faucets in each bedroom
- Purchasing new furniture for the bedrooms and common rooms.

WestCare is working closely with WDVA to ensure this partnership and lease agreement conform with Washington labor laws, rules, and agency policies.

The Women Veterans Program will be funded entirely by WestCare and will be modeled after the Building 9 Program at the Washington Veterans Home, Retsil. This means that WestCare's policies regarding admission, background checks, case management, reporting requirements, security, and all policies and procedures will meet all federal and state requirements.

WestCare hopes to open the Women Veterans Program in August or September of 2015. Details regarding eligibility, enrollment, funding and ancillary services are being worked out and WestCare will update this factsheet as new details are available.

Construction questions can be directed to Mr. David Ensworth, Fitzhouse Enterprise Project Manager, (702)339-9932. Programmatic and WestCare related questions can be directed to John Lee, WestCare VP, (360)529-1592.

Program Goals and Outcomes

The desired outcomes of the WestCare Women Veterans Program include:

1. **Improving** members' outcomes related to participation in regional VA and Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs rehabilitation, counseling and housing programs.
2. **Increasing awareness and use** of practices demonstrated to improve health, wellness and independence.
3. **Reducing barriers** to individual stability, health and independence.
4. **Increasing awareness** and promoting entrepreneurial and career opportunities available to Veterans.
5. **Establishing sustainable** community connections, mentors and coaches.
6. **Reducing dependency** on pharmaceuticals and other substances and the development of complementary and alternative methods to manage stress, pain and anxiety.
7. **Empowering members** to be effective advocates for themselves and fellow Veterans.
8. **Giving back** to the community through service.