

To Help Our Women Veterans

Thank you for the million-dollar grant! I am very excited to use it to help women veterans and their children. I believe that we should honor the women that have sacrificed so much to protect our great country, especially since less than 1% of Americans have served.

Our women veterans are special, and have special needs, so I will use this grant to create a safe community neighborhood of homeless veterans with \$500,000. \$300,000 will be used to hire a staff that will include everything they need, from psychologists to fitness coaches. Lastly, I will use \$200,000 to create a K-12 academy for the children that will include elite immersion programs, tutoring and coding classes. Florida Hall of Fame Recipients Elizabeth “Budd” Bell and Mary Brennan Karl inspired my plans. Bell helped women, children, mentally challenged and the disadvantaged, which unfortunately, describes many of today’s women veterans. Karl created a Vocational School during World War II and gave many opportunities for work, which I hope to do for veterans.

Like Mrs. Bell, I will help disadvantaged women veterans and children at my community vocational school. It will be a safe, supportive community sheltering up to 500 homeless women veterans and their children in 100 three-bedroom apartments. The staff will help them get back on track, to include a rehabilitative counselor, psychologist, masseuse, fitness coach, acupuncturists and chefs. The psychologist would meet with each woman weekly to address their needs. Did you know 1 in 5 women who are veterans have experienced sexual trauma? There are many things needed to help them go back out into society to work and live without mental illnesses.

My safe house will be like Mrs. Karl's Vocational School. The facility walls will be colorful, and there will be many murals. Beautiful trees will decorate the yards, and flowers and sculptures would be visible from every point of the facility. The school and academy will sit at the top of a hill where they can watch the ocean crash against the shore. Cobblestones will lead up a steep bending trail towards a beautiful bronze gate providing security.

Military children sacrifice a lot, I know from experience. I will give them an elite immersion program for Mandarin Chinese, French and Spanish. These are key languages today, and it would benefit the children greatly by putting them ahead with another language. I will also teach computer coding to students from age 8, because technology is the future. This will set the children up for a better career and future.

Most importantly, I will have the highest technological resources for the sciences and arts at our technology academy. While their mothers are being trained and brought back into society with a new skillset for employment, the children will achieve new educational proficiencies to them prepare for the workforce. We look forward to you attending our grand opening in a year. Again, thank you for helping us change the lives of veteran women with this important grant!