



**New Mexico VA Health Care System
Department of Veterans Affairs**

NEWS RELEASE

**Contact: William Armstrong
Public Affairs Specialist
(505) 256-6495**

**For Immediate Release
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Event to Benefit Homeless and Returning Veterans

ALBUQUERQUE – Anyone wanting to get a healthy outdoor workout while helping homeless veterans is invited to participate in the 2016 VA2K Walk & Roll on May 18 in Albuquerque.

The sixth annual event, sponsored by the New Mexico VA Health Care System (NMVAHCS), will happen from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 18 at U.S.S. Bullhead Memorial Park, located at 1606 San Pedro Dr. SE.

This year's VA2K will be a community-wide event, encouraging people to walk, roll or run two kilometers (1.24 miles), and also to support homeless veterans with donated items. Suggested donations include mops, brooms, trash bags, toilet paper, door mats, shower curtains, pots and pans, dishware, bedding, and bath towels.

This year's VA2K is expanding, and also will feature a "Welcome Home" event for veterans returning from combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those attending will have an opportunity to learn about several different VA programs that are helping veterans, including the Transition and Care Management (TCM) Program. Formerly known as the OEF/OIF/OND Care Management Program, the TCM Program provides care and case management not only for those veterans who served in combat supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation New Dawn, but also for post 9/11 veterans who need care management.

A local band, "Sweet Spot," will provide live music, while the Veterans Integration Center will offer free food for participants. Service organizations from throughout the community have been

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invited to set up information tables.

The NMVAHCS Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program is organizing the dual event, and provides homeless veterans with access to social service providers, treatment programs and offers them clothing assistance. For more information, please contact Taryn Alvarez at (505) 256-2784, or Stephanie Saldivar, 2016 VA2K Chairperson, at (505) 265-1711, extension 2057.

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