

Inventory of the

**Midwest Shelter for Homeless
Veterans**
Wheaton, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 312

INTRODUCTION

Robert Adams, president of the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, donated the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans Records to the Regional History Center on May 24, 2011. Additional paper records were donated at later dates. Electronic files were transferred via email in September 2011.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 0.25; 14 digital files (373 KB)
Number of containers: 1
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 312

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection consists of the records of the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans of Wheaton, Illinois from 2008 to 2012. It contains minutes, financial records including reports and tax information, contracts with outside services, home care licences, informational pamphlets, newsletters, applications for potential residents and donation forms. Though the meeting minutes are not complete, the newsletters and informational pamphlets well document the shelter's goals and progress, as well as programs throughout the year. Of particular note are the application forms for potential residents. It provides a detailed description of the application process and expectations for the residents.

The collection is organized by record type, and then chronologically within each folder. The order of the materials was determined by the order in which they were received.

Electronic records may be accessed in the Center's reading room.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans was founded and incorporated in 2000 by Robert "Doc" M. Adams as a transitional housing program for all veterans. The facility provides food and shelter, aid in locating full time work and medical care, counseling services, and the skills necessary to live independently. Adams, a licensed clinical social worker and a US Navy combat veteran of the Vietnam era, conceived of the idea after seeing a similar program in Boston in 1997. In 2004, Dirk Enger of Winfield, a Marine combat veteran of Desert Storm, joined Adams in exploring the possibility of opening a shelter in DuPage County. In 2005, the Board of Directors was developed and that fall MSHV leased a single family home in Wheaton to become the first shelter.

In November 2005, the Wheaton City Council granted MSHV a special use permit, and a zoning change to use the property as a transitional housing program. In January 2006, the City of Wheaton Group Care Home Commission issued a license to MSHV to operate a group care facility upon purchase of the property. In February 2006, the DuPage County Community Development Office awarded the MSHV a \$300,000 grant through the Federal Community Development Block Grant program to use for a capital expenditure for the property. The property was purchased in June 2006, and in the fall the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs awarded MSHV a capital grant to aid in the purchase of the home, as well as a van for outreach and shelter transportation purposes. A full-time Case Manager and House Manager were hired and trained, and doors were opened to veterans on January 08, 2007. A grand opening was held on January 20, 2007 with 250 people in attendance. The Board of Directors officially named the shelter the *LCpl Nicholas Larson Home for Veterans*, in memory of a Wheaton native who was killed in action in Iraq in 2004.

In 2010, MSHV broke ground on a second home. It was named after Army Special Forces Staff Sergeant Robert J. Miller, who was killed in the line of duty in Iraq in 2008. Miller was a Wheaton High School graduate and posthumously received the Medal of Honor.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

DuPage County (Ill.)
Group homes
Homeless persons
Homeless shelter
Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans
Post traumatic stress disorder -PTSD
Veterans
Vietnam War, 1961-1975
Wheaton (Ill.)

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Minutes, (2008-2011)
	2	Tax filings, (2010-2011)
	3	Business Cards, no date
	4	Contract with Serenity House Counseling Services, Inc. (2011)
	5	Group Cares Home License, 2011
	6	Informational Pamphlets, no date
	7	Newsletter, 2008-2012
	8	Application for Residents, no date
	9	Equipment Temperature Log, no date
	10	Donations, no date
	11	Finance Reports, 2008-2010
	12	Resolution