



PRESS RELEASE
Veteran's Affairs Committee
Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks ~ Lodge 2679
937 Carter Drive, Calabash, NC 28467

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“CALABASH ELKS DONATE TO ‘GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER’ ”

~ Helping Homeless Veterans at SGT Eugene Ashley Memorial Center ~

By John Corbett

The Veteran's Affairs Committee (VAC) of the Calabash Elks Lodge ~ 2679 recently donated \$2,500 to the SGT Eugene Ashley Memorial Center under the Good Shepherd Center located in Wilmington, NC. SGT Ashley Center provides transitional residence and recovery programs for homeless veterans. The Elks National Foundation, the Charitable arm of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, provided the funds to the VAC under a special "Freedom Grant" that permits direct donations to needy veteran's organizations during the COVID-19 crisis. The SGT Ashley Center will use the funds to help stock their food pantry, provide cleaning and maintenance supplies, and assist the resident veterans.

The mission of the Good Shepherd Center is to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and foster transition to permanent housing. One of Good Shepherd's many programs, the Sgt. Eugene Ashley Memorial Center, specifically provides short-term transitional Bridge Housing for up to 16 homeless Veterans. Bridge housing is a short-term solution for Veterans who have been offered and accepted a permanent housing intervention but are still working on access to that housing. The program is based on the low-barrier Housing First model to end homelessness among Veterans. The Ashley Center was established to provide homeless Veterans with a safe place to live, grow, and become empowered as they make the transition to permanent housing. Since its inception in 2001, the Ashley Center program has succeeded in returning 92% of participating Veterans to permanent housing. To learn more about the Ashley Center, visit their Web Site at <http://goodshepherdwilmington.org/project/ashley-center/>

The mission of the Veteran's Affairs Committee of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, Lodge ~ 2679, is to provide occasional funding, fraternal activities, and general support for our local Veterans, various Veteran's Programs, and our Military located throughout the South-Eastern North Carolina area, as well as for our Retired and Wounded Warriors located in the Fort Bragg area of Fayetteville, NC, and Camp LeJeune in Jacksonville, NC. For more information about other ways our Elks Lodge supports our Veterans' and Military Community, visit their web site at <https://calabashelks.org/index.html> and click on the [Veterans Affairs] TAB.

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Calabash Elks Donation Supports Vets at SGT Ashley Center

The Veteran's Affairs Committee (VAC) of Elks Lodge ~ 2679 in Calabash, NC recently donated \$2,500 from an Elks National Foundation "Freedom Grant" to support Veterans at the SGT Eugene Ashley Center of the Good Shepherd Home in Wilmington, NC. Pictured above (Front Left-Right): John Corbett, VAC Co-Chairman; - Stacy Geist, Associate Development Director, Good Shepherd Center; and - Jerry Kimble, VAC Co-Chairman. (Back Row Left-Right): Dwight Watkins, Center Resident; - Carol Corbett, VAC Secretary; - Pam Kimble, VAC Member; and - Ken Tickle, Center Resident.