

DVDs4VETs

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November 6, 2007 Harrison, NY

The website **DVDs4Vets.org** is to go live today. Since November 2006, this service has been providing a local effort to collect and deliver donated DVDs to Veterans hospitals and centers in the New York area. With more than 25,000 DVDs donated in the past year, it is expected with the website going live the number of donations will exceed that number by the end of the year.

In the past several months, a growing number of schools, businesses and community service organizations have been heading about DVDs4Vets and have been collecting and donating DVDs to locally based Vet hospitals.

The idea to start DVDs4Vets came about on Veteran's Day, 2006. With increasing reports of severely wounded soldiers returning home from Iraq, many of them, due to physical hardships were unable to obtain some of the basic entertainment most civilians take for granted.

When it became known many returning Vets had suffered Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) and other serious wounds which required long term rehabilitation, Dr. Richard Landis of Westport, CT wanted to help any way he could. Having returned from a two week visit to Afghanistan where along with a group of surgeons, Dr. Landis helped organize a remote hospital and rehabilitation center for wounded civilians. During a social event over the 2006 Christmas Holiday, he met Frank Nicholson who upon hearing of the visit to Afghanistan, suggested putting together another project that would allow returning Vets to receive donated DVDs while in rehabilitation.

Once having Dr. Landis interested, Frank then turned to friends and those he served with during the Korean conflict and in a matter of days, brought together a group of dedicated people interested in participating. One of those contacted was Laurance Baschkin of Rye, NY. Having known Larry during fundraising for Greenwich Hospital, Frank learned of his recent assistance in sending more than 5,000 DVDs to active duty personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Larry not only offered to help, but provided office space at his family's business as well. As a result, Larry agreed to become Executive Director of DVDs4Vets and his tremendous efforts have been graciously appreciated.

Other long time friends contacted included Robert Bruder, who donated the use of his warehouse located in Stamford, CT as a collection point. Before long, more than 20 individuals began pledging time and financial help to launch DVDs4Vets because he has dedicated so much time and resources to the project, he was unanimously appointed Executive Director of DVDs4Vets.

For more information, please contact **Scott Bowers** at (914) 835-3673 or info@dvds4vets.org