



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOICES OF VALOR RECEIVES “MY BROTHER’S KEEPER” AWARD FROM VETERAN’S HAVEN NORTH

Scotch Plains, NJ (December 2016) -- Voices of Valor®, an award-winning program to help veterans heal through musical expression was honored with a special, first-ever “My Brother’s Keeper Award” by Veteran’s Haven North, a transitional housing program for homeless veterans, located in Glen Gardner, NJ. The award, in recognition and appreciation of the transformative effect of Voices of Valor on veterans participating in the program, was presented during the “Night of Thanks” banquet honoring organizations serving the facility.

Voices of Valor, conducted by Music For All Seasons (MFAS) has been actively involved with Veteran’s Haven North for nearly four years, providing its veterans with the opportunity to work with professional musician/facilitators and a psychology mentor to write lyrics about their experiences and then compose and record an original song. The Voices of Valor experience provides an opportunity for veterans to turn their negative perspectives into something positive, creative, shared and empowering, using the group setting to establish an energetic atmosphere of mutual support.

Sean VanLew Sr., Superintendent of Veteran’s Haven North, presented the award to MFAS Co-founders Brian Dallow and Rena Fruchter. Also accepting the honor were VOV Musician/Facilitators Benny Harrison and Melissa Guttman. The ceremony was attended by many organizations that serve the veteran community, as well as residents of Veteran's Haven North, among them many participants of the VOV program.

“This award for our Voices of Valor program is a great honor, not just for Music For All Seasons, but for all the veterans we have been serving with this rewarding and exciting program,” said Brian F. Dallow, President & Executive Director, *Music For All Seasons*,

Inc. “Veterans face enormous challenges to reintegrate into civilian society and their bravery and honesty shine through the lyrics and the music of the songs they have created in Voices of Valor. We are proud to receive this award for indeed we all are “My Brother’s Keeper.”

Under the direction of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Veteran’s Haven North provides transitional housing and operates an emergency shelter and treatment program with a diverse team of professionals providing psychosocial rehabilitation, social services, addictions, vocational rehabilitation, and nursing. The mission of Veteran’s Haven North is to ensure that homeless veterans are treated and cared for in a dignified, compassionate, and professional manner so as to reach an optimal level of independence and aid them in re-acquiring the life skills and ability to live in the community while maintaining their self-sufficiency, dignity, and honor.

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