

## Bright Spot Veteran Services and Senior HUD Housing

by Jennifer McMinn

My journey here at Volunteers of American started a little over 6 years ago in the areas of Addiction Recovery Services, Family Emergency Shelter, Veteran Services and HIV/AIDS. Today I am the Vice President of Veteran Services and HUD Housing. It has been an amazing journey and I wanted to take the time to share some amazing Bright Spots in the programs that I supervise today.

On March 21, 2019 Lexington Kentucky was the first city in Kentucky to end veteran homelessness. The Lexington-Fayette Urban County has created a system and infrastructure to make veteran homelessness “rare, brief, and non-reoccurring”, as stated by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). This is an amazing accomplishment and could not have taken place without the help of our Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) and Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program (HVRP) in Lexington Kentucky.

Anne Vandervort, Director of Regional Services, East, has worked hard with the help of her staff to accomplish this goal. Please celebrate this amazing accomplishment with Anne and her amazing team. Below is a photo of Anne Vandervort with many of her staff from the Lexington office along with our key community partners.



After our last D2 Call Megan Smith, Community Administrator at Spanish Cove Senior Housing, made a suggestion that the Senior Team come to Spanish Cove, Senior HUD Housing in Louisville KY, for a visit. We did that and much more! On May 1, 2019 the Senior Team came and played Derby Bingo with the residents. It was a fabulous afternoon of bingo, snacks and prizes. Please see the pictures below of our visit to Spanish Cove.





Thank you to everyone employee at Volunteers of America for all you do! Every program within our agency is truly a bright spot for all of us on the Senior Team.