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February 2, 2010

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### **Veterans Stand Down & Job Fair Event – March 8th**

**Portland, OR** – All Veterans and their families are welcome at the *Veterans Stand Down & Job Fair* – a free event with access to dozens of employers and agencies on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Ambridge Event Center, near Portland’s Convention Center MAX stop. Attendees are urged to bring their resumes.

In times of war, Stand Downs were the opportunity for combat units to take time to rest and recover at secure base camp areas. The Stand Down today, directed at homeless veterans, began in 1988 in San Diego as an opportunity for veterans to gather and access assistance. This year, there will be nearly 100 Stand Down events held across the country. Last year, the Portland Stand Down attracted more than 600 veterans.

Portland’s Stand Down is organized by Central City Concern in collaboration with Department of Veteran’s Affairs, Hire Oregon Vets, Returning Veterans Project, Disabled American Veterans and Worksource Oregon. Call Central City Concern at 503-226-7387 or visit [www.portlandstanddown.org](http://www.portlandstanddown.org) for more event details.

Veterans comprise an estimated 23% of the total homeless population in the United States according to the National Coalition for the Homeless and experience disproportionately high unemployment rates. In a January 2009 Multnomah County “street count,” veterans accounted for 12% of the total counted homeless individuals. Returning Veterans Project estimates that there are more than 10,000 Oregon Veterans of



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the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. In May 2010, another 2,700 Oregon National Guard troops will return from active service.

Central City Concern's mission is to provide pathways to self-sufficiency through active intervention in poverty and homelessness. CCC operates more than 1,400 units of affordable housing and provides health, recovery and employment services to more than 13,000 of individuals in the Portland metro area every year.

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