

Office of the Mayor

ROBERT G. ORTT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Ortt, RSVP, Announces "Veterans Helping Veterans" Program in City of North Tonawanda As of April 1, 2014

NORTH TONAWANDA— Mayor Robert G. Ortt has announced the creation of a new pilot program, "Veterans Helping Veterans". In conjunction with the Mayor's Day of Recognition for National Service, Mayor Robert G. Ortt and the Niagara County Retired & Senior Volunteer Program ("RSVP") will initiate the "Veterans Helping Veterans" program in North Tonawanda as of April 1, 2014. This program will assist veterans and their spouses, including but not limited to, transportation to medical appointments at VA clinics and offices, grocery shopping, and friendly visits.

The idea for the program came out of a roundtable discussion held last year as part of the 1st annual Mayor's Day of Recognition for National Service. Mayor Ortt met with Priscilla Dolling, Operation Manager of the volunteer center at HANCI, as well as several other volunteers at City Hall. It was during a roundtable discussion with volunteers from RSVP and HANCI that the idea of a new program that catered to veterans, and issues that are specific to veterans, came into being.

Mayor Ortt stated, "The volunteers at RSVP and HANCI do a wonderful job through the senior companion program and the foster grandparent program. These programs are critical for so many here in North Tonawanda and Niagara County, and I am confident that under their leadership, the Veterans Helping Veterans program will fulfill a need in our community and be successful".

"This program will allow veterans the opportunity to help their fellow brothers and sisters who need it. I would like to thank Priscilla Dolling and all the volunteers at RSVP and HANCI for their efforts in taking on this new program and for being so willing to assist those who have given so much for our country," stated Mayor Ortt.

Alderman-at-Large Bob Clark added, "Veterans in and around North Tonawanda have a long history of helping one another when in need. I have spoken with members of the local veteran's service organizations about the Veterans Helping Veterans program and have received nothing but enthusiastic responses. This program will provide veterans who need help an easy method to request support and veterans who want to help any easy method to reach out. I am grateful to have been invited to be a part of it."

The program is currently seeking volunteers (especially veterans), to help veterans. If you are a veteran and would like to volunteer to help other veterans, or if you are a veteran or know of a veteran in need of assistance, please call the RSVP office at (716) 285-8224 x216 or email Priscilla Dolling at dolling@hanci.com. You do not need to be a veteran to volunteer. RSVP is a Senior Corps program of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

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