

# SPRINGFIELD ELKS LODGE #1560 AWARDS

## ELKS ENF FREEDOM GRANT TO THE VETERANS' PLACE INC.

Springfield Elks Lodge 1560 is pleased to announce we recently applied for and were awarded the 2025 Freedom Grant in the amount of \$1000 through the Elks National Foundation to be given to The Veterans' Place Inc. - Northfield, VT. The funds from this Freedom Grant are specifically to be used towards vehicles purchased by the Veterans Place to be used to transport the patrons.



Shown L to R (Back row) – Mike Gunn, Past Secretary Springfield Lodge 1560, Marine Veteran Lonnie Murray, resident Representative, (Front row) Bonnie Allen, Managing Director of The Vet's Place, Carolee Murchie, PER Springfield Lodge 1560 (Photo credits - Current Secretary Gloria Gunn )

**On Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> Elk members traveled to Northfield, VT to present a check to The Veterans' Place Inc.**

This facility is a structured transitional home in which unhoused veterans can safely recover and rehabilitate. The facility provides a homelike, family environment, nutritious home-cooked meals, and hands-on assistance to help veterans navigate and resolve any administrative or medical barriers to receiving earned benefits. In return, residents agree to overcome any substance dependencies, assist in home chores, work toward self-sufficiency, and pay a modest participation fee if they are able.

One of The Veterans' Place goals, *'To see an end to veteran homelessness through a statewide, coordinated, accessible network of supports and services'*, and the Elks thrive to make a difference with this aid to their programs.

Springfield Elks 1560 has established a presence in assisting with ongoing improvements/needs for the mental health and well-being of the Veteran patrons and is pleased the Freedom Grant can continue to do so.

The Place consists of accommodations for veteran tenants who come and go, and are assisted with transition back into main stream living – holding down jobs, and learning how to acclimate back to independent, substance free living on their own. This facility is dedicated to providing transitional housing for homeless Veterans in Vermont.

The Veterans Place welcomes assistance and ongoing support from the community, organizations like the Elks, and individuals is always appreciated. The Veterans Place accepts donations and in-kind gifts like this Elks ENF Grant.

Donations may be made to: The Veterans' Place, 220 Vine St., Northfield, VT 05663