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Chef John Hickson, President of the Louisiana Association of Nutrition and Foodservice Professionals (ANFP) contacted the Alexandria VA about helping homeless Veterans: "Louisiana ANFP is working with our membership to provide our homeless veterans with a cinch backpack full of daily essentials, to include items such as socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, razor, shave cream, granola bars, aseptic bandages, bandaids, etc."

Yesterday, members of the Alexandria VA Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program attended the Louisiana ANFP Conference, presenting information on homeless Veterans and graciously accepting 100 filled cinch backpacks - thank you!!!! We were also informed by Chef Hickson that the Louisiana AFNP is adopting Homeless Veterans at this VA and will assist with meeting many of their needs. They plan to prepare at least 200-300 more backpacks to give to Veterans at the annual Stand Down in September 2017 and cook Jambalaya to feed them.

Louisiana ANFP has been on a mission to promote awareness of homeless Veterans within our state. During the year, each district has raised funds and awareness of homeless Veterans without their communities. At their spring meeting held this week, they partnered with several high school JROTC programs in bagging these items for homeless Veterans in Louisiana. It is their hope that this small gesture of appreciation for our Veterans in need can be the beginning of something bigger.

The Alexandria VA Health Care System is overwhelmed with this generosity and look forward to continuing to partner with the Louisiana ANFP on future projects.

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Alexandria VA staff accept the generous Louisiana ANFP donation!

