

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, June 13, 2020

RE: Missing Resident Found Deceased on VA Campus

Caritas Communities is a nonprofit homelessness prevention organization that provides Single Room Housing for 1,000 individuals annually throughout Greater Boston. The Bedford Veterans Quarters is a Caritas Communities residential facility leased from the VA in one portion of one building on the VA campus in Bedford, and provides single room occupancy housing to formerly homeless veterans. It is not a hospital or rehabilitation center, but an independent-living residence. Residents are free to come and go as they please and have no obligation to inform the staff of their whereabouts. They regularly go to work, grocery shopping, visiting family and other normal activities. They also frequently participate in programs and use facilities available to them on the VA campus. Caritas Communities provides on-site staffing to refer and help residents connect to counselling, medical treatment, employment and other services at the VA.

Caritas Communities is committed to the health and safety of our residents, and follows strict protocols when a resident is discovered missing. On May 13 we filed a missing persons report for a BVQ resident, and had been working with the VA and the Bedford Police to ascertain the whereabouts of this resident. The stairwell where the deceased man was found was outside the lease premises of Caritas Communities, is alarmed and solely controlled by the VA. Caritas Communities and the Bedford VA are cooperating fully with the investigation.

ABOUT CARITAS COMMUNITIES

Caritas Communities works to prevent homelessness by providing very low-income individuals with permanent housing, support, a sense of community and expanded opportunities. For more than 35 years, Caritas has helped fill the need for safe, secure housing in Greater Boston. Caritas has 33 buildings in 17 Greater Boston communities, housing more than 1,000 individuals annually. Caritas provides on-site support services, emergency rental assistance, veterans-specific housing and services, and on-site property management. Caritas enables working people on minimum wage, veterans experiencing post-service challenges, and low-income elderly and disabled citizens to live in a clean, safe home that they can afford. To learn more, please go to www.caritascommunities.org.