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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Increasing Percentage of Homeless Housed are Veterans

Baltimore, MD (November 5, 2008): Project PLASE, Inc., dedicated to housing and caring for homeless citizens since 1973, has also served homeless veterans since that time - a significant and increasing segment of the homeless population.

Vets comprise 19% of all persons in transitional housing in FY 2008 at Project PLASE, a 3% increase over 2007 and 4% increase over 2006.

During FY 2008 year, PLASE housed 46 male veterans and 2 female veterans representing several campaigns including the Korea War, Vietnam and 1st Gulf War and stretching from 1 year to 18 years of active military service. These 48 veterans comprise 29% of the male population housed at PLASE and just 2% of the female population in 2008.

Severe physical and mental health problems are a significant complication and hurdle for a majority of the Vets housed. Of the 48 housed in 2008 97% had a substance abuse problem, 90% had a mental health issue and 16% had HIV or AIDS.

Through PLASE's housing program, counseling and active advocacy, 65% of these Vets were connected with outside medical facilities such as VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics and Rehabilitation & Extended Care Centers for medical attention.

PLASE provides transitional housing with 24 hour active support and services for homeless Veterans, including many adjunct onsite services: nursing care, socialization activities, mental health assessment and counseling, case management, 3 meals daily, access to permanent housing and ongoing support when in permanent housing- assuring a continuum of support.

Citing the successful nature of Project PLASE's work, Executive Director Mary Slicher stated that 70% of Vets housed in the Veteran-funded transitional beds in FY 2008 have moved to permanent housing.

PLASE's costs for housing a Vet are \$70.00 per night, whereas PLASE only receives \$33 a night to cover all costs from the Veteran's Per Diem Program.

On this Veterans Day, let us recommit to serving our most vulnerable veterans.

About Project PLASE

Project PLASE, Inc. addresses homelessness by providing transitional housing, permanent housing and supportive services to homeless adults. We serve the most vulnerable and underserved, including persons with mental illness, HIV/AIDS, addiction, developmental disabilities, and ex-offenders. We treat, restore and rehabilitate the whole person. We empower each individual to function at the highest level possible. Project PLASE is located at 1814 Maryland Avenue, Baltimore, Md 21201 - minutes from I- 83 at North Avenue. For more information, please call 410.837.1400 x15 or you can donate directly at www.projectplase.org