



## A FORCE FOR GOOD STORY

October 28, 2016  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Torrance, CA

One of our peers Harry Friedman who is the Branch Manager of our TK Services, San Diego location organizes periodical collection drives of various items to give to homeless people. Along with his Wife and son, David, their main contributors are neighbors, friends and coworkers. They collect different items for different trips. For example, one day may be for jackets, and another just for shoes. The most popular items are socks and jackets.

Their family goal is to raise awareness of the suicide rate among veterans, both active and discharged. 22 Veterans a day, struggling with PTSD and depression commit suicide every day in the US. This number by some statistics is actually quite low. The majority of the victims of this tragedy are women – those suffering so much that feel that their only escape is to take their own life; and then there are those women that are left to become widows, most with children, after the horrific act takes place. Generally Harry and his family go on weekends to hand out the items, but since Matt challenged all employees to take a day of for charity...well, he took him on his offer and used his volunteer day for an extra day of giving.

In Harry's own words, "Most of the people we meet are grateful, and we enjoy talking to them. Many of them like to thank us. While we accept their thanks, we ask that they take time to reflect in their alone time and believe in themselves to overcome the circumstances that brought them to become homeless. Of course, we do run into our fair share of drug addicts and alcohol abusers; and although they may seem intimidating at first that we want to stay clear, but we feel convicted to be kind and encourage others without judgment.

We've made friends during our outings. In fact, let me tell you about, Jeremy. Jeremy is a non-active US Veteran who was homeless. I chatted with him one day, and discussed an upcoming Veterans Job fair that was being held locally. I handed him a shirt, and we promised to stay in touch. I'm happy to share that he is now working and off the streets. Sure, many people ask about our fear of being so open to risk around people that are used to fighting for what they have...my response is this, My 12 year old is a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree black belt and my wife is a nurse! I am well protected. No Fears!"

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Torrance, CA 90505

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