

Healing Place of Wake County
PRESS RELEASE

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**The Healing Place CEO Provides Testimony to US Senate Veterans' Affairs
Committee**

Testimony Focuses on Replicating a Proven Social Model Solution

Raleigh—The Healing Place of Wake County announced that on March 24, 2010, Mr. Dennis Parnell, The Healing Place President and CEO was requested to provide testimony before the at U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. This committee is chaired by Senator Daniel K. Akaka, Hawaii. The ranking committee member is Senator Richard Burr of North Carolina. Senator Burr had been briefed on The Healing Place by his staff and invited Mr. Parnell to provide more details on the successful efforts of The Healing Place in reducing homelessness among the veteran population.

"At The Healing Place of Wake County," said Mr. Parnell, "we have had a large number of our clients previously serving in the military". Currently, approximately 13 percent of the men and 3 percent of the women are veterans. Unfortunately, veterans are over represented among the homeless. Only eight percent of the general population can claim veteran status, but nearly one-fifth of the homeless population in the U.S. are veterans.

In his testimony, Mr. Parnell went on to state that "...we believe that homelessness among veterans and other citizens can be conquered both effectively and efficiently through best practice methods, community organization and maximizing readily available resources. Our immediate objective is to assist communities across North Carolina, and Virginia to develop and build a statewide network of this model. We have already assisted in the development of a working replication in Richmond, Virginia and we are working on start-ups in Fayetteville, NC, Norfolk VA and Lynchburg, VA. We will continue to evaluate and improve them, and then in partnership with The Healing Place in Louisville, Kentucky help other communities and states replicate this continuing success."

Copies of Mr. Parnell's complete testimony can be found at <http://veterans.senate.gov/hearings.cfm> (then selecting the March 24, 2010 hearing) or at The Healing Place web site at www.hpowc.org

The hearing ended abruptly after there was an objection from the Senate floor to allowing most committee hearings, including the Veterans' Affairs hearing, to continue. Senate rules require unanimous consent on the Senate floor for committees to meet two hours after the Senate convenes. Objections to the routine procedure are extremely rare.

About The Healing Place

The Healing Place of Wake County is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) recovery and rehabilitation facility for homeless people with alcohol and other drug dependency. The Men's Facility opened its doors in 2001 and the Women's Facility began operation in 2006. The Healing Place facilities have provided more than 500,000 beds of shelter and days of recovery to homeless men and women at a cost of less than \$30 per client per day. Remarkably, one year after program completion, over 65% of the graduates from the program are still sober, employed, tax paying citizens. The Healing Place of Wake County is built on the principles of the highly successful Healing Place in Louisville KY, which received the 1998 US Department of Health Resources and Service Administration "Models That Work Award" in recognition of the success of the program. Visit us on the web at www.hpowc.org.

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