

## **Bay Pines VA to Host VA2K “Walk and Roll” Event on May 18** *Wellness event to benefit homeless Veterans*

**BAY PINES, Fla.** – With summer right around the corner and temperatures on the rise, [Bay Pines VA Healthcare System \(VAHCS\)](#) employees are gearing up to “beat the heat” in the name of supporting homeless Veterans and those at risk.

The Bay Pines VAHCS will host its sixth annual VA2K "Walk and Roll" event on May 18, between 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on the C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center campus. The event coincides with National Employee Health and Fitness Day and also raises awareness of the VA’s commitment to ending Veteran homelessness.

The VA2K Walk and Roll is free and open to employees, Veterans, and the general public. The two kilometer route will begin at the pavilion near building number one and extend to the walking trail behind the Community Living Center (building 101 and 71) and back. The event is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible. Pre-registration for the VA2K is not required and those interested in participating should plan to arrive at the pavilion to begin the walk anytime between 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

As part of registering for the event, participants will have the opportunity to donate goods or money to benefit homeless Veterans. Goods accepted for donation include new hygiene products like soap, shampoo, tooth brush/paste, toilette paper, cleaning supplies, alarm clocks and clothing.

“Workplace wellness activities improve employee engagement and contribute to a healthy workforce,” said Suzanne M. Klinker, Director, Bay Pines VAHCS. “Last year, the VA2K at our medical center garnered more than \$1,000 in monetary and in-kind donations to directly support our homeless Veterans programs. Our goal is to collect event more and to involve more participants in support of wellness and homeless Veterans this year,” she said.

The event is open to people of all fitness levels and can be done over a lunch break. Whether you team up with a coworker, a friend, or participate on your own, there’s no better time than now to step up your fitness level and help improve the lives of homeless Veterans. For additional information and more event details, please call 727-398-6661 extension 15564.

### **About the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System**

The Bay Pines VAHCS is one of the nation’s leading VA healthcare systems, employing more than 4,000 medical professionals and support staff dedicated to providing the very best care to Veterans residing in southwest Florida. The organization is the fourth busiest VA health care system in the country in terms of patients served and is accredited by The Joint Commission, Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and several other nationally recognized accrediting organizations. The Bay Pines VAHCS operates nine facilities to include the main medical center located in Bay Pines and outpatient clinics located in Bradenton, Cape Coral, Naples, Palm Harbor, Port Charlotte, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, and Sebring.