

## **The Healing Place aims to lower homelessness in veterans**

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by Mike Gonzalez, WNCN News

RALEIGH, N.C. -

A shelter in Wake County is doing its part to help end homelessness among military veterans.

According to the Veteran Leadership Council, 20 percent of homeless people in North Carolina are veterans.

The Healing Place of Wake County in Raleigh has almost 200 beds with around 20 percent of those taken up by veterans.

U.S. Army veteran Sam Cooper said The Healing Place saved his life.

The 57-year-old said his life spiraled out of control after his wife died, he lost his job, and began drinking.

"That's when the addiction took off and started running," Cooper said.

Cooper's drinking problem left him with three DWI's and little hope.

"I became homeless in 2010," he said. "It got to the point you really didn't want to live."

But a visit to the VA led Cooper to The Healing Place and a program named "Grand Perdium."

Cooper has now been sober for 4 years thanks to the program.

The program's coordinator Chris Budnick said the program pays for itself.

It's \$3 million per year budget is paid for by those who have graduated from the program with tax dollars.

"I owe my life to the healing place," Cooper said.

Find more [information on The Healing Place](#).

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