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***Illinois Non-Profit Organization to Head Large Redevelopment  
Housing Program for Homeless Veterans***

(Chicago, Illinois) – The Smith Residences Veterans Village, a division of DOLL, INC., was recently deeded by HACC (Housing Authority of Cook County) 96 Town Homes, formerly Celina Blake housing development, located in Ford Heights, Illinois, for redevelopment to serve as housing for women and men Veterans and their families. The establishment of The Smith Residences Veterans Village will facilitate community uplift, economic development with the severely depressed economy and population of Ford Heights, Illinois.

The Smith Residences Veterans Village will place a priority on female veterans and their families (not to the exclusion of male veterans) that are in the extremely low to moderate income level that are experiencing homelessness and other barriers to success that are directly related to their service in the military. Research suggests that 81-93% of female veterans have been exposed to some type of trauma – a significantly higher number than within the non-veteran, civilian population. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, an alarming 20% of female veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan have been identified as experiencing Military Sexual Trauma (MST) with one in three having been sexually assaulted and 80% sexually harassed which is twice the rate of civilians. There are less than 10 veteran's villages in the US and very few services that treat the veteran and their families and or focus on the unique needs of the female veteran. Per the Veterans Administration there is a severe shortage of services for children, family counseling, and women focused treatment/housing facilities. As women represent only about 10% of the veteran population services focused on their unique set of needs is not as readily available as those for male veterans. There is a national push to place more focus on the unique needs of female veterans as well as providing a wider array of holistic readily available services.

DOLL, INC. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that provides assistance to women Veterans and is currently providing SRO (Single Room Occupancy) for homeless veteran women and their children. This organization has created employment opportunities and provided financial support to a number of female veterans either through direct services or working in conjunction with other organizations such as Veterans Life Changers and the Catherine Smith Foundation, Inc. DOLL, INC has a history longer than its legal entity as Ms. Doll Smith, DOLL, INC.'s founder, has been actively involved in the Chicago-land communities in various ways, including supporting local children's shelters, nursing homes, and facilitating fundraising activities to support women's and children's housing initiatives for over a decade. Over the past few years, Ms. Smith has worked to establish veteran recognition and celebration programs during the Christmas and Thanksgiving holiday seasons. In addition to serving the elder population, as well as volunteering her time to ensure the well-being of others, Ms. Smith has been honored and commended for her diligence and efforts in raising funds to support students affected by Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Smith was also recognized in Fortune Magazine, in 2005, for providing affordable housing in Chicago.

To learn more about the work of DOLL, INC., The Smith Residences Veterans Village and how you can support this worthy cause please visit [www.thesmithresidences.com](http://www.thesmithresidences.com). Donations are accepted online. Contributions by check or money order can be made out to DOLL, INC., and mailed to 2040 Fairview Lane, South Holland, Illinois 60473.

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