

'HOUSES FOR HEROES'



Newbuild, low rental, wheelchair friendly houses available now.

The Scottish Veterans' Garden City Association (SVGCA), founded in 1915 to provide homes for wounded soldiers returning disabled from France, is now the United Kingdom's largest charity providing and maintaining low-cost rented housing, on lifetime tenancies, for disabled British ex-Service, Merchant Navy, Police and Fire Brigade personnel. It currently owns 612 houses grouped at 74 locations across Scotland from the Border north to the Great Glen.

In 2007 the Association undertook a major study to identify how we might reduce what we believed was an unacceptable waiting time for eligible and, in particular, high priority applicants before we were normally able to offer him or her a house. In simple terms, in relation to our existing stock of houses, our waiting list of 417 was too large while our turnover, from what are lifetime tenancies and averaging only 31 per year over the previous six years, was too small. Resulting from this study, and with the growing demand from younger Servicemen and women leaving the Services as a result of often very severe wounds suffered in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Association launched its 'Houses for Heroes' Appeal with the target to raise £6M to build up to 60 new, two bedroom, wheelchair friendly houses at various sites across Scotland in nine phases over the next five years. As at 30 September 2010 £3,014,000, or half-way to our target, had been contributed by supporters. This great start has meant that we were able to complete the first four houses, at Motherwell, by Christmas 2008; a further 10 houses at Scone, near Perth, in March this year; 4 new houses at Penicuik, south of Edinburgh, in June; and, finally for the moment, have fully renovated and converted two existing bungalows at Airdrie. We have therefore completed 20 houses towards our target of 60 and have already started building a further two new bungalows at Airdrie.



Motherwell



Scone



With fourteen new flats or bungalows available, and two more bungalows in building, we are actively seeking qualified tenants, particularly from those wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan, for these low-rental, modern, wheelchair friendly properties as well for our other existing vacant properties. Although all our houses are in Scotland, our existing tenants come from throughout the United Kingdom with some 70% being ex-Army, 13% each RN/RM or RAF and the balance from the civilian emergency services.

If you are a disabled ex-Servicemen or women or know of, or are currently trying to place, a Veteran in housing, **please** contact us direct or advise the individual to apply through the Veterans Scotland Central Housing Register (covering all Veterans Housing in Scotland) on www.veteransscotland.org.uk or by telephone on 0131 550 1595.

We will be very happy to answer any queries or provide what assistance may be required.