

Still Serving Veterans hails good fortune

Group sets open house at new facility, gets \$100K donation

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Still Serving Veterans is holding an open house from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday at its new downtown location, 224 Spragins St. The organization moved in about seven weeks ago, and recently got new landscaping, including a Veterans Tranquil Park, and a major upgrade of the interior thanks to volunteers from area Home Depot stores.

But SSV President Will Webb has more to show off than the organization's new home. This week, the Call of Duty Endowment presented SSV with a \$100,000 donation to support its mission of helping veterans, Wounded Warriors and their families with all aspects of recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration into civilian life and jobs, including making sure they get all the benefits and services they have earned.

The Call Of Duty Endowment, or CODE, was established in 2009 by Activision Blizzard, makers of the popular "Call of Duty" video

games, to donate and raise money to increase awareness of veterans' unemployment and provide job placement and training. SSV also received \$25,000 from CODE last year.

"We're thrilled," Webb said. "They are perfect partners for us because we're both focused on helping veterans reintegrate into meaningful new careers.

"With a million veterans unemployed - particularly the young veterans who are coming back out of Afghanistan and Iraq - it's a critical need," he said. "What our partnership with (CODE) allows us to do is really take our work force development and job skills assistance to the next level."

SSV is part of pilot programs for a couple of

national initiatives, Webb said. The donation will allow them to "really push the envelope and be more innovative in working with some great partner companies for job skills training, interviewing, networking and résumé assistance," among other skills.

"The Call of Duty Endowment is proud to partner with Still Serving Veterans as they

continue to provide the needed job training, education and career transition assistance returning veterans require," said retired Army Maj. Gen. James "Spider" Marks, a CODE advisory council member. "As our soldiers make their way home from Iraq and Afghanistan, it's organizations like SSV that make their transition successful."