Do you have horticultural pots piling up? Do you need a ‘home’ for the stacks of pots that just seem to keep multiplying? Did you know that you could donate the pots and help a homeless veteran? Well the VA Medical Center in Lyons, New Jersey, is in need of donated used horticultural pots ranging in size from 1.5 to as large as two-gallons for cultivating quality mums.

Lyons operates a greenhouse where vocational opportunities are made available to homeless veterans. An estimated 7,000 to 8,000 veterans of the United States Armed Forces are homeless in New Jersey. We owe a special debt to our veterans, many who are falling through the gaps in our society. Through the Lyons Greenhouse, those who laid their lives on the line for our country are provided an opportunity to restore their dignity.

Many greenhouse operators are recycling their horticultural pots. However, to put them to a better use would be to donate them to the Lyons Greenhouse. Lyons Greenhouse will pick up the donated used pots. In addition, a donation acknowledgement letter will be issued for income tax purposes.

**How should the pots be prepared?** Pots should be nested tightly, stacked on the pallet and palletized. Generally, it is best to create 4-foot stacks and then lay each stack, on its side, on the pallet. The pallet should be stacked up to 6 foot including pallet and then banded or stretch-wrapped to avoid movement during transport. The key is to place as much as possible on each pallet. Lyons will pick up a minimum of 4 pallets and a maximum of 6 each trip.

**Who does the trucking? We do.** The Lyons Greenhouse handles all transportation costs. On the other hand, feel free to drop them off at Lyons Greenhouse (please call in advance).

**How do I arrange a pickup?** Please contact Mr. Robert Simonofsky, Lyons Veterans Medical Center, directly if you are donating pots or other items of interest. Share this information with anyone concerned. Let’s honor their service by helping our veterans.

Robert Simonofsky
Lyons Veterans Medical Center
151 Knollcroft Road
Lyons, NJ 07939
Robert.Simonofsky@va.gov
Office: 908.647.0180 ext 4690
Cell: 908-285-1080