

Batteries Plus of St. Louis Donates Over \$2,000 to "Time to Care" Campaign

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- According to an August 2011 report by the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for veterans who served in the military since September 11, 2001 (deemed 'Gulf War-era II Veterans') is a whopping 12.4 percent, exceeding the already sobering national average of nine percent. Batteries Plus, the nation's largest and fastest growing battery and light bulb franchise, will donate \$2,034.91 to USA CARES. The campaign ran from November 5 - November 11, (Veterans Day), 2011. The monies are the result of \$5 donations from Batteries Plus for each watch battery replacement and in-kind donations from customers.

"We are so proud to be a part of this campaign to help veterans secure employment when they return to civilian life," said Steve Donnell, owner of seven Batteries Plus stores in the St. Louis area. "Although USA Cares assists veterans nationwide, our participation increases the funds raised to further assist veterans locally."

USA Cares is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that helps post-9/11 military service members, veterans and their families with basic financial needs. USA Cares, founded in 2003, helps bear the burdens of service members by providing military families and veterans with financial and advocacy support in their time of need. USA Cares helps families in all 50 states and responds to more than 31,000 requests for assistance with over \$8.2 million in grants. No fees are charged and no repayment is requested.

The 'Time to Care' campaign's goal is to raise awareness about USA Cares and their Jobs for Vets program and raise funds to help veterans find a place in the work force after serving their country. From November 5-11, the Batteries Plus stores in Creve Coeur, Chesterfield, Ballwin, Florissant, St.

Peters, South County and in Fairview Heights, IL,:

Ø Donated \$5 from each regular or lifetime watch battery replacement purchase to USA Cares

Ø Accepted In-Kind donations from customers that also went to USA Cares

Batteries Plus is a proud member of VetFran, a program created to honor those men and women who have served in the U.S. military and developed to help them transition to civilian life.

Bill Nelson, executive director of USA Cares, said the organization also works directly with private and public employers to help reduce joblessness among post-9/11 veterans from all branches. "These men and women are ideal employees. They are confident, highly trained, disciplined and take directions well, all crucial qualifications for any business or organization."

"At USA Cares, the 'Time to Care' campaign illustrates that the time is always right to assist those who have given so much to all of us," said Nelson. "Thank you to everyone that purchased a watch battery during this important campaign and enabled us to continue to assist the military."

Since the program's start in March, 2011, USA Cares has assisted job-seeking veterans with over \$74,000 in assistance. Assistance can range from buying a veteran a tank of gas to get to an interview to renting them a moving truck as they relocate for a new job.

ABOUT BATTERIES PLUS

Batteries Plus is the nation's largest and fastest growing battery and light bulb franchise, serving over 7 million customers annually. Batteries Plus, designated by Inc. Magazine as the nation's fastest growing specialty retailer and ranked as the #1 Battery Franchise by both Entrepreneur Magazine and D&B AllBusiness.com, has over 470 locations in 46 states and Puerto Rico. With access to more than 30,000 types of batteries, light bulbs and accessories, Batteries Plus has the widest selection of battery and light bulb products available and offers unmatched service to consumers, businesses and government entities at the national and local levels.

Batteries Plus stores also feature Tech Centers equipped to design, assemble, rebuild, and test custom battery packs. Batteries Plus continues its reign as the undisputed franchise leader in the expanding \$30.7 billion U.S. battery category, estimated to reach \$34.6 billion by 2014 and in the growing U.S. light bulb industry estimated to be at \$14 billion. To learn more about our exciting franchise opportunities and joining the battery and light bulb franchise leader please visit www.batteriesplus.com/franchising for more information.

About USA Cares

USA Cares is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that helps post-9/11 military service members, veterans and their families with basic financial needs, assists veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) works to prevent home foreclosures and evictions and assists veterans with career placement. USA Cares has received over 31,000 requests for help and responded with more than \$8.2 million in grants. Learn more at <http://usacares.org/>.

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