

Veterans

## Rent-A-Vet needs more job requests

SANTA CRUZ — Rent-A-Vet-Exchange is hanging in there, but it needs more jobs to really keep its Vietnam Vets going.

"I have a solid list of 20 people right now — these are many skilled workers — and they need the money right now; these are survival times," Project Director Lee Shippen says.

He can call on nurses, photographers, basic construction workers, haulers and

tree cutters, art designers and just hard working laborers.

His numbers 429-1013, and Shippen's volunteer exchange now offers a full package of cleaning and/or refurbishing houses when they're vacated.

At reasonable rates it offers cleaning, lawn care, trash removal, painting and major and minor repairs.

Shippen began the service in 1980 as the

Rent-A-Grunt "but it only generated 10 to 12 jobs."

A month ago, the Viet Nam Veterans Project in San Francisco awarded a \$750 grant to get a telephone, some business cards and other expenses paid.

"We work as a job referral service and in conjunction with the county veterans office.

"Also, we work along with Project

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VOTE — Veterans Outreach Training for Employment."

VOTE does the long term job, Shippen says, "while we're working with vets to get them short term, survival jobs."

Rent-A-Vet-Exchange charges the veteran \$5 flat fee for getting the job — but only after the job's done and the pay is in.

Then it charges \$3 more each day for the next four days for up to a total \$17 for

any job, even if it lasts for a longer time.

"It's on the honor system," Shippen says. If the vet doesn't pay for the successful referral, "we send him a letter and if he still doesn't pay then we'll just never refer him again."

Shippen says it's been working on a volunteer basis and admits he's been doing most of the volunteering.

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