



The Volunteer Promise

VOLUME 75

June 2013

Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, June 14
Flag Day

Sunday, June 16
Father's Day

Thursday, July 4
Independence Day
Administrative Offices Closed

Saturday, July 13
Welcome Home Event

Thursday, July 18
EVENING - 7:00 P.M.
VAVS Meeting

Monday, September 2
Labor Day
Administrative Offices Closed

Saturday, September 14
Women Veterans Open House

Wednesday, October 9
Stand Down for Homeless

Thursday, October 17
VAVS Meeting

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VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

The 67th Annual Robley Rex VA Medical Center Volunteer Awards Ceremony was held Saturday, May 18, 2013, at the Olmsted in Louisville. More than 300 volunteers, guests and staff were in attendance for this year's event where we recognized 707 regularly scheduled volunteers who provided a combined total of 135,905 hours of service valued at nearly \$3 million in 2012! We also celebrated donations valued at nearly \$400,000!



Special congratulations to Raymond Goings and Pat Shader, our Outstanding Male and Female Volunteers of the Year! Both of these amazing volunteers are natural leaders who carry their volunteer assignments into the community, where their hard work and dedication inspire others to join in the common mission of honoring and supporting Veterans treated at Robley Rex VA Medical Center.



Applause to the Arts in Healing volunteers, sponsored by the Kentucky Center for the Arts! These talented artists provide hands-on music and visual art activities for our Veterans, helping reduce anxiety and promote the healing process.



Kudos to the staff of Robley Rex VA Medical Center for once again coming through with door prizes for the event. Due to their generosity, we were able to offer an ABUNDANCE of door prizes.

Volunteers who were unable to attend the program may check with Voluntary Service to pick up their award and/or gift. Gifts are available until the limited supply is depleted, so be sure to stop by soon!

Student Volunteers

The Robley Rex VA Medical Center Student Summer Volunteer Program has returned for 2013! Understanding that the time spent in volunteer service enhances their future educational and employment opportunities, students, ages 14 to 18, are offering to share their time volunteering with us this summer. These students have been given the opportunity to work with health care and administrative professionals in a variety of areas. You will recognize our student volunteers by their blue T-shirts and their official volunteer name badge. Please welcome these integral members of our quality VA healthcare team as they work to enhance our service to Veterans.

Students participating in the summer volunteer program not only earn valuable experience but are also eligible to compete for a variety of local and national scholarships. This year's program began June 3 and will run through Friday, August 2. For additional information about this program, contact Marybeth Stewart, Student Volunteer Program Coordinator, Voluntary Service, at (502) 287-6221.

Welcome Home



The 2013 Welcome Home Event will honor the 198th Military Police Battalion, part of the 149th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Kentucky Army National Guard. The unit, located in Louisville, has had multiple deployments in support of the Global War on Terror.

The event will be held on Saturday, July 13, 2013, at the Kentucky Science Center in downtown Louisville. Thanks to your support, service members and their families will be treated to free parking, lunch in the facilities event room, and admission to the museum. This new venue provides a fun, family-friendly atmosphere where the weather cannot ruin the planned festivities!



Open House for Women Veterans

The Customer Service Board at the Robley Rex VA Medical Center will host the third annual Open House for Women Veterans on Saturday, September 14, 2013. Women are the fastest growing population of Veterans. The Open House provides an opportunity to honor women Veterans and to raise their awareness of the services and benefits available to them.

There are a number of ways that you may support this effort. We are looking for sponsors to provide door prizes, tote bags or similar items. We would also like your help spread the word to women Veterans in our community so that they are informed of the event and can plan to attend. An electronic flyer can be emailed to you to assist you in getting the word out.



To find out how you can help or to obtain an electronic copy of the flyer, please contact Rhonda Smith, Voluntary Service Specialist and member of the Customer Service Board at 502-287-6898 or Rhonda.Smith2@va.gov.

Program Adoption Requests/Donation Needs

Your opportunity to lend a hand



Gift Cards for Heroes—Our youngest population of Veterans are in need of items to help them support their families. Items especially needed include gift cards for groceries/gasoline. Many of these Veterans have families that include young children and just need a hand up. Gift cards are issued only on the recommendation of the Veteran's Social Worker.

Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM)—Veterans in this program are often isolated from others, largely due to their medical conditions. Your donation of tickets and passes will allow case workers to take these Veterans on occasional field trips that will support socialization. Suggested opportunities include Kentucky State Fair tickets, bowling passes, museum tickets, ball game tickets, fast food restaurant coupons, etc. Staff would like to take groups of approximately 12 Veterans on any trip.

HUD/VASH Treatment Program—Items are needed to support Veterans entering the HUD/VASH Treatment Program. Veterans in this program are in transition from homelessness to homes of their own. VA and HUD work together to place the Veterans and their families, and VA works with them on an ongoing basis to ensure that they continue the habits and skills necessary to remain in their new homes. Often, the Veterans move into their homes with limited resources or furnishings. Your help will help them settle more quickly and securely, supporting a much improved new lifestyle. Some groups are choosing to prepare transition kits for the HUD/VASH Veterans. Suggested items include:

Air mattresses
 Sheets and pillow cases
 Pillows and blankets
 Towels and wash cloths
 Soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste
 Laundry detergent
 Toilet paper
 Mop, broom, bucket, and dust pan

Dishes
 Pots & Pans
 Utensils (eating & cooking)
 Can opener
 Dish drainer, dish cloths, and dish liquid
 Paper towels
 Cleaning supplies/agents
 Vacuum cleaners



Program Adoptions—Multiple areas throughout the medical center would benefit from your donation of snack foods for the Veterans receiving inpatient and outpatient care.

Community Residential Care (CRC) Program—Veterans enrolled in this program are living in reduced circumstances in the community. They often find it difficult to purchase the little things most of us take for granted such as an occasional snack, toiletries, and similar items.

Contact Voluntary Service at (502) 287-6221 to discuss your ability to provide assistance with any of these projects or activities.

MONETARY NEEDS FOR VETERAN PROGRAMS

Patient Comfort Items: (GPF 515): Donations to this account will be used to support the Comfort Cart, a program in which volunteers provide personal hygiene items to hospitalized Veterans. Items include such basic necessities as toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, shampoo and shower gel.

Television (TV) Fund: (GPF 505): While new TVs are often included in the budget for some remodeling or new construction projects, there is no budget to replace TVs in patient waiting areas when they become inoperable. Currently, the Grayson County CBOC is in need of a replacement television for their waiting area.

Social Work Service Emergency Fund: (GPF 502) Donations to this account support patient emergency needs in situations not covered by medical center resources. These include certain travel expenses and clothing needs for patients upon discharge from the medical center.

OEF/OIF Welcome Home: (GPF 532) Funds donated to GPF 532 (OIF/OEF Welcome Home) will be used to support our annual Welcome Home event, which honors returning combat Veterans.

Stand Down for the Homeless: (GPF 525) Funds are needed to support Stand Down 2011. Proceeds will be used to purchase clothing and personal items for homeless Veterans who need our support.

For a complete list of General Post Funds Accounts and their definitions, refer to the *General Post Funds and Material Donations* booklet published by Voluntary Service.

Remember, Your Gift is Tax Deductible

Although VA is not a 501(c)(3) organization, the Internal Revenue Service authorizes that donations made to the VA are tax deductible according to the Federal Tax Code as "Donations to the United States," in the manner and to the extent allowable by law (**NOTE: The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has special rules regarding the tax deductibility of contributions of \$250 or more**). The VA ensures that all contributions are used efficiently and responsibly. Donors should know that **100%** of every contribution goes directly to benefit Veterans and their families.

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You may also view our newsletter on line at <http://www.louisville.va.gov/>. Scroll down and click on "Volunteer or Give," then click on Volunteer Promise Newsletter.

We welcome your thoughts about this newsletter and your ideas for articles. Contact Voluntary Service to share your suggestions.

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