



HELP HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

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Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV) is a national, non-profit organization established for the purpose of distributing arts and crafts kits, free of charge, to patients in Department of Veterans Affairs and Military Medical Centers and State Veterans Homes. The kits come as a very welcome assurance to all veteran patients that they have not been forgotten, that someone out there really does care. Just as important, the kits provide a much-needed creative and therapeutic activity to occupy the minds and hands of our country's hospitalized veterans. HHV arts and crafts materials do a great deal to help overcome patient boredom, boost morale and restore self-confidence and faith, contributing significantly to the whole rehabilitative process. As one VA Recreation Director so aptly put it, *"the kits are not to kill time but to make time live."*



HHV was founded in April 1971 after the Founder/President, Roger Chapin, visited with veteran patients at the Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego. Chapin had asked the patients of various wards if there was anything he and his associates could do to make their hospitalization more comfortable. The reply was *"Yes, give us something to do with our hands. The boredom in this hospital is worse than walking a perimeter in the dark in Vietnam."* After research with doctors, nurses, therapists and patients, the craft kit idea was implemented.

Although Vietnam and its battlefields are past history for most Americans, the battle still continues for many thousands of Americans who were wounded. More than 140,000 veterans suffered a 30% or greater disability in Vietnam alone, many of whom will require periodic treatment for the rest of their lives. Thus there will continue to be a very real need for HHV arts and crafts kits among Vietnam-era patients as well as those of previous and current conflicts.

HHV is the largest supplier of all arts and crafts kits utilized in our VA and military hospitals. From its inception, HHV has delivered nearly 23 million arts and crafts kits valued at close to \$350 million free of charge to more than 300 facilities that care for our hospitalized veterans and active-duty military. These arts and crafts kits include leather crafts, suncatchers, paint-by-numbers, latch hooks, poster art, plastic and wood models/crafts, and many more.

Help Hospitalized Veterans is supported entirely by voluntary contributions from Americans through national direct mail and media appeals. All contributions to HHV are tax-deductible as allowed by law. HHV is classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization (EIN 95-2706737).



HHV neither seeks nor receives government funding. HHV is a service member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) as it provides Craft Care Specialists to 50 VA and military hospitals nationwide. A contributor and national co-sponsor of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival and the National Veterans Golden Age Games are among the many other services that are provided to America's veteran community. To review all the wonderful programs of HHV log on to the website www.hhv.org or call the National headquarters at (888) 567-VETS.

President & Founder: Roger Chapin
Executive Director: Mike Lynch