

# Volunteer News...

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Recognizing the Efforts of VA Volunteers in Upstate New York



- Volunteer Spirit of 2012 Past
- A Winner's Story

★★★★ November/December 2012/January 2013



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[www.visn2.va.gov/vet/volunteer.asp](http://www.visn2.va.gov/vet/volunteer.asp)

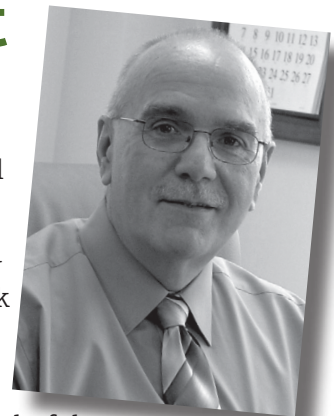
The VAVS newsletter has been created for all volunteers and potential volunteers of VA Health Care Upstate New York. This publication is meant to showcase the wonderful work our volunteers contribute to VA. Produced by VISN 2 Public Affairs. Printed by Veterans in the Therapeutic Printing Program, Bath VAMC.

## We Want to Hear from You!

If you have any comments, questions, story ideas, etc. contact:  
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Building B, Suite 115  
Rochester, NY 14618  
(585) 463-2642  
[Kathleen.Hider@va.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Hider@va.gov)

# Volunteer Spirit of 2012 Past

As we close 2012, I would like to thank all of you who volunteer at our medical centers. We rely on your support and dedication to our Veterans in so many ways. The next few paragraphs provides a snapshot of your work and in no way accounts for the high-level of activity you are responsible for at each medical center. I wanted to use this as an opportunity to acknowledge some of the wonderful events and initiatives your volunteer spirit made possible for our Veterans in 2012.



Volunteers at the Albany VA once again supported the very successful annual Honor Our Vets Car show which raised over \$12,000 for patient programs. A Welcome Home event held at the Valley Cats baseball game attracted over 5,000 stakeholders.

Volunteers at the Bath VA started a bicycle program as a way to get patients to exercise and enjoy its beautiful park-like campus.

Canandaigua volunteers helped patients register on My HealthVet and use the 21st century technology to manage and improve their health. Canandaigua's total of registered My HealthVet users in 2012 was 7,494.

Western New York volunteers can boast about several unique volunteer support programs including Batavia VA's Peer Support program that provides Veterans, who have gone through the Batavia PTSD program and are recommended by the PTSD program manager, as mentors to Veterans entering the program. Volunteers also started supporting and working on the Golden Age Games coming next year to Western New York.

Central New York volunteers supported Syracuse VA's second Operation Salute at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Over 500 OIF OEF and OND Veterans and stakeholders attended the event.

### And now the numbers.

Currently we have 4,499 volunteers and raised over \$2.5 million dollars in monetary, activity and donated items. The combined impact of volunteer hours plus donations was over \$14 million dollars.

Congratulations and on behalf of our Veterans and staff thank you for a wonderful year.

Sincerely,

**David J. West, FACHE**

*Network Director*

### Donation checks can be made out to:

VA Western New York Healthcare System,  
with GPF 1815 Veterans National Golden Age Games  
in the memo line and mail to:

VA Western New York Healthcare System  
Voluntary Service, 3495 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14215

For more information or a Golden Age Games donation package contact **Kelly Clark-Roberts** at (716) 862-8672 or **Mark Francis** at (716) 862-8667.



## 'Like' Us On Facebook

'Like' your VA Medical Center on Facebook go to your Medical Center home page:

[www.albany.va.gov](http://www.albany.va.gov)

[www.bath.va.gov](http://www.bath.va.gov)

[www.canandaigua.va.gov](http://www.canandaigua.va.gov)

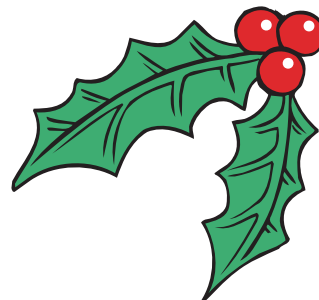
[www.syracuse.va.gov](http://www.syracuse.va.gov)

[www.buffalo.va.gov](http://www.buffalo.va.gov)

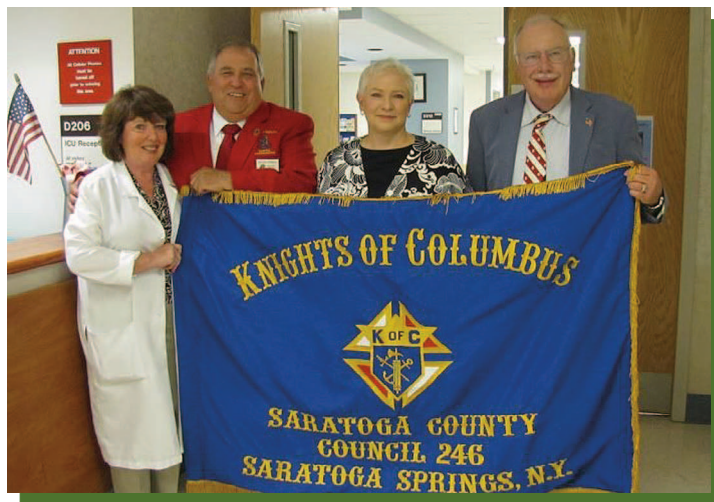
## ► Albany



**Jim Keller** from Voluntary Service presents Stratton VA Medical Center Director **Linda Weiss** with a check in the amount of \$3,230,084.00 for donations received and volunteer hours logged (93,724 hours) for fiscal year 2011. The presentation was made at the annual Volunteer recognition picnic held at the Polish American Citizen Center in Albany. With over 200 Volunteers in attendance, the annual event provides an opportunity to recognize our Volunteers for their dedication and commitment in serving our Veterans. Special thanks to **Mr. Don Lansing** for photographing the entire event, **John and Noreen Thompson** for manning the ticket booth, **Mary Ann Davis** for decorating, **Hank** and his team at the **Polish Center** for providing the outstanding food and last but not least, all of our Volunteers who contribute day in and day out!



For two years, the Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Post 1040 of the American Legion has published a Memorial Day parade program for the parade it coordinates in Delmar, NY each year. Members solicit advertisements from area businesses and individuals wishing to pay tribute to America's Veterans. The Post covers all the administrative cost associated with the program and donates 100% of the proceeds to directly benefit American Veterans.



**Richard Gorman**, District Deputy for the Capital Region Knights of Columbus, and **Thomas Boehlert**, Veterans Committee Chairman for the Knights of Columbus Saratoga Assembly 745, presented Stratton VA Director **Linda Weiss** and ICU Manager **June Furst** with a check for \$6,500 to purchase a blanket warmer for the medical center's intensive care unit. The blanket warmer will be used to heat blankets for hospitalized Veterans while they receive medical care.

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# ► Albany

## Volunteer Opportunities

- DAV Van Drivers
- Greeters
- Clothing Room Volunteers
- Companionship Program Volunteer
- Lab Courier
- Reminder phone calls
- No Veteran Dies Alone (NODA) - Hospice
- My HealthVet – (Must have computer skills)
- Veterans to help Veterans with life skills
- Wheelchair escorts

## Wish List

- Cans of regular coffee, creamer and sugar
- Gift cards for Walmart, Price Chopper or Shop-Rite
- Gillette Fusion 5+1 razors and cartridges
- Sweatpants and sweatshirts (all sizes)
- T-shirts and underwear (all sizes)
- Toiletries
- Winter boots
- Winter coats

## Calendar

### Sunday, November 4

#### Masonic Day Gift Distribution

1:00 p.m. Auditorium

### Tuesday, November 6

#### VAVS Committee Meeting

1:00 p.m. Auditorium

### Sunday, November 11

#### Veterans Day Ceremony

10:30 a.m. Saratoga VA National Cemetery

### Monday, November 12th

#### Albany Veterans Day Parade

11:11 a.m.

### Monday, December 3

#### American Legion Auxiliary Holiday Gift Program

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### Friday, December 14

#### Director's Holiday Party

2:00 p.m. Auditorium

### Monday, December 24

#### Operation Jingle Bells

TBA

Contact Jim Keller at (518) 626-5506 for more information on volunteer opportunities or making donations.



Legion Commander **Steven Riedel** (left) and Sons of the Legion Vice Commander **Barry Bedrosian** (right) presented Medical Center **Director Linda Weiss** with a check for \$3,000 to be shared by the Adaptive Sports Program and the Veteran's Personal Needs Fund. Mr. Bedrosian, who coordinates production of the parade program explained that the program grew by 20% in its second year and he hopes for even more growth in year three as more area businesses participate.

# ► Bath

Veterans at the Bath Community Living Center put a new spin on the “staycation” by having a vacation week at the medical center. The Veterans had a great time and got the staff in on the fun, games and dancing. The guys all enjoyed a game of beach volleyball, too.



# ► Bath

**Connor Martin 17**, an Eagle Scout from Bath, decided to complete his final badge project by giving back to local Veterans. In August, Martin worked in the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action rose garden at the Bath VA Medical Center to lay new bricks and plant 16 rose bushes. He also trimmed the grass, planted trees, and did other landscaping. In addition to Connor's volunteer work, new benches will make this an even more idyllic place for Veterans and loved ones to peacefully reflect and remember those who served.



## Volunteer Opportunities

- Clerical support - various departments
- DAV volunteer drivers
- Friendly visitor volunteer – visit with Veterans
- My Health eVet assistant
- Patient escorts
- Physical therapy
- Recreational aide
- Special event volunteers
- Suicide prevention department
- Sewing room assistants

## Wish List

- Baby shampoo
- Body wash
- Coffee
- Creamer and sugar packets
- Denture adhesive
- Denture cleanser
- Deodorant
- Gift cards for fast food or Walmart (\$5 - \$10)
- Lotion
- Stamps

## Homeless Veterans Program & Jump Start Program

Needs are: cleaning supplies, toasters, coffee maker, dishes, silverware, and pots & pans (can be gently used).

### Calendar

**Sunday, November 11**

**Veterans Day & Elks Carnival**

11:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.

**Monday, November 12**

**Combat Veterans Veteran's Day visit**

12:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 17**

**Thanksgiving Dinner at Hornell VFW**

**Monday, November 19**

**Care N Share Kick off**

**Thursday, December 6**

**Holiday Concert**

**Corning Area Concert Band**

6:30 p.m.

**Friday, December 14**

**Operation Santa Clause**

**Saturday, December 15**

**Wreaths Across America**

**Tuesday, December 25**

**Marine Corps League Visits Veterans**

10:00 a.m.

**December**

**Holiday gift distribution and celebrations**

Call for details

# ► Canandaigua

## Calendar

**Second Monday of each month  
(January – December)**

**Bee Keepers Association Meeting Month**  
7:00 p.m.

**Third Monday of each month  
(January – December)**

**Canandaigua Lake Trout Unlimited Meeting**  
7:30 p.m.

**Fourth Tuesday of each month  
(January – May) (September – November)**

**Project Healing Waters Clinic**  
7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 6\***

**Bingo**  
7:00 p.m.

**Monday, November 12\***

**Veterans Day Observance/Missing Man Ceremony, Sponsored by  
Knights of Columbus**  
10:00 a.m.

**Monday, November 12**

**Veterans Day Cakes**  
1:00 p.m.  
All CLC/Units

**Thursday, November 15\***

**Bingo**  
7:00 p.m.

**Sunday & Monday, November 18 & 19**

**American Legion Auxiliary Gift Shop**  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 4\***

**Bingo**  
7:00 p.m.

**Friday, December 7\***

**Pearl Harbor Remembrance Service, Sponsored by Chaplain  
Service**  
2:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 9**

**BPOE Elks Ward Distribution**  
**Bldg, 7, Volunteer Lounge/Veterans Wards**  
1:00 p.m.

**Thursday, December 13**

**VA Voluntary Service Gift Wrap**  
1 p.m.

**Thursday, December 20\***

**Bingo**  
7:00 p.m.

**Friday, December 21**

**VAVS Holiday Gift Distribution**  
12:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 15**

**Dr. Martin Luther King Commemoration,  
Sponsored by Chaplain Service**  
1:00 p.m.

**Catholic Mass**

**Mondays and Tuesdays in the Catholic Chapel in Bldg. 3**  
11:00 a.m.

**Protestant Services**

**Sundays**  
8:45 – 11:30 a.m.

**Please contact Chaplain Service**

**@ (585) 393-7886 for more information.**

**\*Escorts Needed**

**Escorts are needed 45 minutes prior to the event to take Veterans  
to the auditorium and/or pavilion. Without your assistance, many  
of the Veterans may not be able to participate**

## Wish List

- Body lotion
- Coffee
- Creamer
- Deodorant
- Forever postage stamps
- Gift cards from Walmart, Wegmans, Tops, iTunes
- prepaid gas and phone cards
- Monetary Donations for wood shop
- Monetary Donations needed to support the Recreation Therapy Canine Program
- Nail clippers
- New socks and underwear, sweatshirts, sweatpants and T-shirts
- Non-perishable foods and baking items
- Paper products; plates, napkins
- Shampoo
- Shaving cream
- Sugar substitute
- Sugar
- Tickets to sporting events, zoos and parks; bowling and movie tickets

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# ► Canandaigua

## For Homeless Program:

- Alarm clocks
- Brooms
- Kitchen items, dishes and utensils
- Mops
- New twin size mattresses (call first to arrange drop-off)
- New blankets & pillows
- New vacuum cleaners
- Toilet paper and cleaning supplies

Monetary donations are always welcome. If you or your organization wish to make a donation to the account of your choice, please specify that you are in agreement that food and beverages may be purchased for Veterans. This is in compliance with the new regulations associated with the purchase of food.

**Contact Voluntary Service for more information**

## Volunteer Opportunities

All volunteers must complete orientation prior to volunteering. Orientations are in Voluntary Service Building 7 basement room 19 of the Canandaigua VA Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Please call Louise to schedule an appointment at 585-393-7729. Thank you for considering volunteering with the Canandaigua VA Medical Center!

### Canandaigua VA

- Activities - Various recreation activities, socialization, games, cleanup, and wheelchair escort. Evenings and weekends.
- Clerical assistant - Tuesday or Thursday for three hours between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Compassionate Companion for Hospice – as needed; prefer Hospice-trained volunteers, but all applicants considered.
- Donated cans pickup - Every other week, flexible.
- Driver must have CDL-B, passed endorsement, no N1 or K with endorsement – Flexible, any hours available, 7 days per week.
- Grounds crew volunteer
- Laundry volunteer – Weekdays 7- 5:30, three or more hour shift.
- Library – Saturdays and fill in as needed weekly.
- Loving Spoonful volunteer - Evening & weekend meal time.

- My HealtheVet – Distribute information for program. Assist Veterans interested in enrolling in the program.
- Pharmacy - Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings.
- Seamstress – Flexible days and hours.
- Stockroom Assistant - One day per week.
- Volunteer Transportation Network Driver – Weekdays, flexible Canandaigua, Rochester and Waterloo area.

### Also Available:

- 6:40 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Depart Canandaigua, to ROPC, to Batavia, return to Canandaigua by 10:30 a.m.
- 10:40 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Depart Canandaigua, to ROPC, to Canandaigua by 12:15 p.m.
- 2 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Depart Canandaigua, to ROPC, to Batavia, return to Canandaigua by 5:15 p.m.
- Wheelchair escorts - Monday –Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; various shifts available
- Wheelchair escorts: Escorting Veterans to canteen and outdoor areas (various shifts available).

### Mt Hope Road Clinic

- Clerical Resource Compiler – Weekdays 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- My HealtheVet – Distribute information for program. Assist Veterans interested in enrolling in the program.

### Rochester Outpatient Clinic – Westfall Road

- Van drivers for DAV Transportation Network - weekdays 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. .

## News from Canandaigua



**Rachel Melia** representing the **Girl Scouts of America**, presented the Canandaigua VA Medical Center with hundreds of food items and toiletries she collected for area Veterans. The Patient Assistance Program gladly accepted the donations. Rachel gathered these items by taking donations as well as recycling soda cans to raise money.



# ► Canandaigua



On July 19, the **Canandaigua Sky Chiefs Remote Control Model Plane Club** held an air show at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center. Veterans, staff and community members experienced the excitement of seeing radio controlled model airplanes flying through the air. Club members were available to answer questions regarding remote control model planes.



On May 16, the Canandaigua VA and the Rochester Outpatient Clinic held the **VA 2K Walk + Roll** to benefit Homeless Veterans and promote health and wellness. One hundred and fifty employees and Veterans participated in the event collecting 130 items valued at \$610 plus \$110 in cash/check totaling \$720.00



On August 6, **Bob Allen** representing the **American War Dads** presented Robin Johnson with a \$300 donation for the Canandaigua VAMC.



**Valentine Gatto**, President Chapter 20 Vietnam Veterans, delivered over 450 comfort items to Voluntary Service Manager Robin Johnson at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center. The items included shampoo, skin lotion, soap, t-shirts, hats and socks. The items were donated by Sam's Club.



On August 2, **Syndicated Advice Columnist Amy Dickinson** visited with Veterans at the Greece NY, American Legion Post 468 Mobile Adult Day Health Care Program location Left to Right – **Lee Ann Joslyn, Nina Mottern, Amy Dickinson, Melissa Dehollander, Robert Heiler.**



Volunteers **Lynn Lersch** and "**Jake**", a Newfoundland, visit Veterans on several Community Living Centers. Jake is a gentle giant!

## Reminders

- Please let Voluntary Service know if you have changed your address or phone number.
- Contact Voluntary Service if you have an e-mail address that you would like to share with us. Voluntary Service does send out messages occasionally about upcoming programs and events where escorts may be needed.
- If you have not done so already, please remember to contact Voluntary Service for a new identification badge and fingerprints.
- All volunteers and organizations that serve food to Veterans need to have a copy of their food safety certificate and/or NYS license to serve food on file in Voluntary Service. Please mail yours to our office if you have not done so already.

# National Veterans Golden Age Games

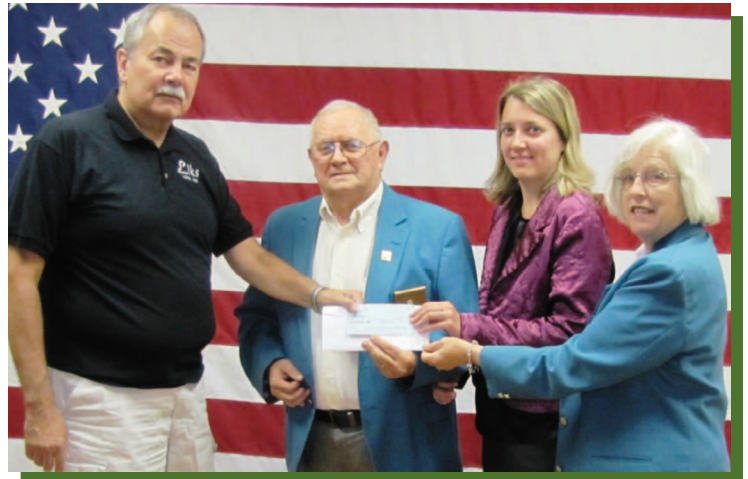
This time of year, as friends and family come together to celebrate the things we hold dear, is the perfect time to remember America's Veterans by making a donation that will contribute to their good spirits and well being. A gift to Veterans on behalf of a loved one shows them you know how much America's heroes mean to them.

This year, **Jess and Jennifer Traver** were married. Veterans hold a special place in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Traver, both of whom are military officers. Instead of the usual gifts couples register for, the Travers asked for donations to be made to the Veterans of western New York and the National Veterans Golden Age Games, which will be held in Buffalo in June. Their gift of \$5,000 will help support the Games as well as provide everyday necessities to those in need.

Businesses and civic organizations have helped us get closer to our goal for the Golden Age Games as well. The **Amherst Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks Lodge # 1942** donated money to be used for equipment. The **Buffalo Bills Booster Club** also made a donation. Each gift helps ensure older Veterans will have this event to celebrate all the hard work they've gone through to get well or stay healthy with recreation therapy.

This season, consider donating as a family to the National Veterans Golden Age Games. If you have an office party for the holidays, you and your co-workers can take up a collection. If you are hosting a group of friends and family, consider asking your guests to make a donation. The goal for the games is \$200,000. Many have gone through trying times recently, and few can afford to make a large gift. But if each gives a little, it will make a huge difference in the lives of those who served.

**For more information on making a donation to the National Veterans Golden Age Games, contact Mark Francis at 716-862-8667.**



Members of **Amherst Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks Lodge # 1942** presented a \$400 check for golf supplies to be used for the 2013 National Veterans Golden Age Games. Left to right: **Richard Donn**, Exalted Ruler; **Michael Metlak**; **Kelly Clark-Roberts**, Volunteer Program Specialist; and **Louise Metlak**.



**Buffalo Bills Boosters Club** donated \$2,000 to the 2013 National Veterans Golden Age Games. Pictured left to right are **Dick Zolnowski**, Treasurer; **Doris Becker**, Vice President; **Bill O'Hara**, Trustee; **Sharon Jackson**, President; **Mark Francis**, Volunteer Program Manager.



# National Veterans Golden Age Games



**Joseph Pionessa** of Batavia won a bronze medal in air rifle at the 2012 National Veterans Golden Age Games in St. Louis. Pionessa added this year's medal to a collection that also includes gold, silver and another bronze from previous competitions. Over the last few years he has competed in other sports including golf and nine ball pool.

Pionessa first got involved with the games while recovering from an illness. That was when he met VA employee **Ken Darch**, a recreation therapist at Batavia VAMC. Darch recommended he give the games a try and Pionessa was drawn to them immediately. "I loved it the first year and I'm always excited to go back," he says. In fact, not even a recently broken leg stopped him for competing in the 2012 Games.

For Pionessa, 2013 holds the promise of more success and he is looking forward to competing in trap shooting, a new event. But he and many other Veterans will tell you it's about more than just competition. He speaks of the time he gets to spend with the friends he's made over the years. "One thing that makes it so enjoyable for me is meeting people from all over the country, just like the service. I come back inspired each year, especially by guys who have lost an arm or a leg or compete from a wheelchair."

Joe's family has also been a source of encouragement for him. His five brothers, each of whom also served in the military, have been quite proud of his accomplishments. And for getting out there and competing in 2013 at age 73, we are all proud of him too.



# ► Syracuse

## Donations

Voluntary Services thanks our individual and service organization donors for helping us continue to serve Veteran patients.

- The **Marine Corps League** came in during April and provided a generous donation.
- The **Fab Nine**, led by **Tom Scott and Mark Erwin**, donated funds which benefited **Operation Salute** at the **Rosamond Gifford Zoo**. Medical center staff and volunteers participated to make this a successful event for returning military to the central New York area. Thank you Tom and Mark and the Fab Nine making this event possible.
- **Project Healing Water** volunteers have contributed immensely by providing recreation activities for Veteran patients and residents in the community living center.



- **Cayuga County Mental Health** office provided a lovely flower pot that was presented in May 2012. **Bob Hawes** is shown here with two participants in that program.



- **AMVETS Post 1997** in Heuvelton contributed a wonderful donation for the wish list fund that will benefit many medical center programs.

- **Fort Drum soldiers** are a huge contingent of volunteers who provide welcome friendly visits, individually and as a unit. The **10th Mountain Polar Bears** visited the Community Living Center throughout the year providing friendly visits, assistance throughout the medical center and much welcome presence on all floors. Thank you, 10th Mountain Division, for taking the time to visit and provide a bit of joy to the Veterans at the Medical Center. Patients, families and staff talk about your visits often, looking forward to the next one!



- **Eastern Star** from Oswego provided a donation of comfort items to benefit Veteran patients throughout the medical center and books for the Veterans' use in the VCS store.

# ► Syracuse

## Ambassadors in Blue

**Ambassadors in Blue** is the Syracuse VA's new greeter program. They have been a tremendous help to patients and families. Whether visiting the medical center for the first time or the hundredth, it's always nice to be able to know someone's there to help you.

The lead Ambassador in Blue, **Tom George**, has been a volunteer since 2005 and took over the role as lead greeter. He returns each spring and continues with the program until the cold weather hits. Other Ambassadors in Blue participants who make the Syracuse VA a welcoming place to receive medical care are **Joe Schneider, Jay Taylor, Charlie Reiner, and Mary Burgen.**

## Wish List

We are always in need of travel size personal care items. We currently need denture adhesive, toothbrushes, deodorant and alcohol free mouthwash.

## Summer Youth Program

The summer youth program was a phenomenal success. Over 20 students signed up to participate in the Syracuse VA's volunteer program, bringing out Youth Program to over 300 participants. Students were instrumental in assisting us during the summer months. They worked in many areas of the hospital, for patient transport to clinic offices. Thank you, students, for helping our medical center care for our Veteran patients!

## Patient Lounge

Due to construction in the medical center we had to close the patient media center and library. The lounge area was moved to the canteen service area; however there were few locations to put books. While we were waiting for new mobile book carts to arrive, students moved the books through the medical center. They also did patient visits and brought them books to read.

## CALENDAR

### Saturday, November 3

Veterans Day Parade

### Wednesday, November 7

Veterans of Foreign Wars – North Syracuse Dinner Trip

### Thursday, November 8

Visit from Fort Drum personnel

### Saturday, November 10

General Pulaski American Legion Thanksgiving Luncheon  
United States Air Force New England Winds Performance

### Sunday, November 11

Utica Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks Pizza Party

### Sunday, November 18

Veterans Voices Thanksgiving Dinner

### Tuesday, November 20 & 21

Visit from Fort Drum personnel

### Thursday, November 22

Masonic War Veterans Thanksgiving Day Gift Distribution

### Saturday, December 1 – 5

American Legion & Auxiliary Gift Distribution

### Sunday, December 2

Salvation Army Gift Distribution

### Monday, December 3

Korean War Veterans Holiday Party and Bingo

### Tuesday, December 4

Italian American War Veterans Holiday Party

### Wednesday, December 5

American Legion Auxiliary Fruit Basket Distribution

### Thursday, December 6

Knights of Columbus Holiday Party

### Saturday, December 8

Cicero American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Caroling

### Tuesday, December 11

Veterans of Foreign Wars & Auxiliary Holiday Party

### Wednesday, December 12

Military Order of the Cootie & Auxiliary Gift Distribution

### Sunday, December 16

Veterans Voices Holiday Dinner

### Tuesday, December 18

Liverpool Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks Dinner and  
Lights on the Lake

### Wednesday, December 19

United Auto Workers Holiday Pizza Party

### Saturday, December 22

Disabled American Veterans & Auxiliary Gift Distribution,  
Cookies and Entertainment

### Tuesday, December 25

American Legion District Friendly visits and Gift Distribution  
Emmanuel Church Flower Delivery

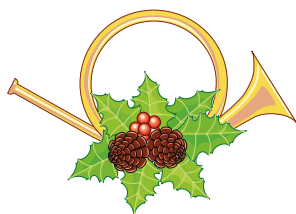
# ► Western New York

## Wish List

- Art therapy supplies – Buffalo
- Birthday cards – Batavia and Buffalo
- Bus tokens for Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority – Buffalo
- Bread mixes – Batavia and Buffalo
- Canteen books – Batavia
- Comping coupons – Batavia and Buffalo
- Diabetic socks – Batavia
- DVDs – Buffalo
- Gift cards for Babies R Us, Target, Tops, Walmart, and Wegmans – Buffalo
- Gift cards for local restaurants like Alex's, TF Browns, Tully's, Pauly's Pizza – Batavia
- Patient activities – Recreation Service – Batavia and Buffalo
- Phone cards – Buffalo and Batavia
- Rolls of quarters for daily newspapers – Batavia Buffalo
- Seasonal admission tickets for Bills, Sabres, other recreational outlets – Batavia and Buffalo
- Snack Packs – Batavia and Buffalo
- Stamps and stationery – Buffalo
- Travel dollars and financial support for Veterans in need – Batavia and Buffalo
- Treadmills – Batavia and Buffalo
- Welcome kits – personal hygiene items – Batavia and Buffalo
- Veterans Clothing Room - unused items including combs, diabetic and athletic socks, large nail clippers, sweat pants, sweat shirts, T-shirts, men's and women's undergarments ( please check sizes needed prior to purchasing) – Buffalo

## Homeless Veterans Program

Please contact for all donation information at 716-881-5855. Items should be dropped off at our Main Street Buffalo location: new socks and undergarments all sizes, new seasonal clothing for Veterans in need, personal care items and small apartment appliances.



## 27th Annual National Veterans Golden Ages Games

- Bottled water
- Boxed lunches – sandwiches, fruit, with chips or cookie for volunteers
- Ice
- Ice buckets
- Individually wrapped snacks – granola bars, raisins, fruit snacks, cookies, chips, etc.
- Juice, soda, Gatorade
- Napkins, condiments, packaging for box lunches
- New ice hockey equipment

**Note:** Before purchasing any item, please contact the Volunteer Program Office to determine that the item has not been already purchased.

We no longer accept used clothing items.

Also, we no longer accept puzzles and VHS tapes. As a friendly reminder magazines should be current, within 3 months or less, and we do not accept hardcover books.

Batavia – 585-297-1196

Buffalo – 716-862-8672

## CALENDAR

**Friday, November 9**  
**Veterans Day Ceremony**  
**Freedom Hall – Buffalo Campus**  
1:00 p.m.

**Sunday, November 11**  
**Veterans Day Observance**  
**Flag Pole Building #3 – Batavia Campus**  
10:00 a.m.

**Sunday, November 18**  
**Thanksgiving Dinner – Homeless Veterans Program**  
**Food Court Area – Buffalo Campus**  
11:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, December 19**  
**VAVS Meeting and Gift Packing**  
**Building #4 Auditorium – Batavia Campus**  
11:00 a.m.

# ► Western New York

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Adult Day Health Care Program – Buffalo
- Canteen Service – Batavia
- Clerical – Batavia and Buffalo
- Coffee Cart – Buffalo
- Community Living Center's Coffee Cart – Batavia
- Community Living Center support – Batavia and Buffalo
- Computer assistant – Batavia and Buffalo
- DAV Volunteer Transportation Program – Batavia and Buffalo
- Emergency Room and Women's Wellness Clinic – Buffalo
- Friendly Visitor Volunteer – Batavia and Buffalo
- Grounds support – seasonal opportunities – Batavia
- My Health-E Vet Assistant – Batavia and Buffalo
- Mailroom – sorting mail and other duties as needed – Batavia
- Occupational Therapy – Batavia
- Patient Escort/Transport Service – Batavia and Buffalo
- Physical Therapy Service/Outpatient Clinic – Batavia and Buffalo
- Recreational aide – Batavia and Buffalo
- Reminder phone calls – Nutrition & Food Service – Buffalo
- Volunteer Program Office – assisting staff coordinating Veteran activities throughout the year. Tasks to include photocopying, correspondence, phone calls, faxing, etc. – Batavia and Buffalo



**Wendy and Gregory Johnson** (center) donated several handmade quilts to the Veterans of Western New York. They have donated over 170 quilts since 2001. **Georgian Davis**, American Gold Star Mothers and VAVS representative (left), and volunteer **Amy Claxton** accepted this most recent donation.



**Susan Genova**, My HealthVet Coordinator (left) presents **Georgian Davis**, American Gold Star Mothers and VAVS Representative with a Certificate of Appreciation for assisting with the My HealthVet Program. Georgian was the first recipient of this recognition for outstanding dedication and support in boosting My HealthVet registration, presented Monday, August 27, 2012.



**WNY Erie County Farm Bureau** delivers the proceeds from their Food Check-Out Day Week to support Veterans in need. For past the 6 years, this organization has donated \$5,400 to causes including homeless Veterans, Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn and women Veterans. Photo – **Royce Calhoun**, Assistant Medical Center Director (left center) accepts the check from **Tony Andolina**, President of the Erie County Farm Bureau. They are surrounded by other Farm Bureau members and Veterans program staff.



**American Legion** donated a van to the Disabled American Veteran's Volunteer Service Network to be used to transport Veterans to appointments. The van arrived at the medical center September 26. Left to right – **Dr. Miguel Rainstein**, Chief of Staff, **Kenneth Jarmusz**, Commander, American Legion **David McKeever Post #64 Family**, **Sandra Sopka**, President, American Legion Auxiliary **David McKeever Unit #64 Family**, **Joseph Gerwitz**, Commander, Sons of the American Legion **David McKeever Post #64 Family**, **Robert McTighe**, DAV Volunteer Service Network Coordinator.

VA Health Care Upstate New York  
 VISN 2 Public Affairs  
 VA at Clinton Crossings  
 919 Westfall Rd., Bldg. B, Suite 115  
 Rochester, NY 14618

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[www.visn2.va.gov](http://www.visn2.va.gov)

## VA Medical Centers

- Albany**  
 113 Holland Avenue  
 Albany, NY 12208  
 (518) 626-5000
- Batavia**  
 222 Richmond Avenue  
 Batavia, NY 14020  
 (585) 297-1000
- Bath**  
 76 Veterans Avenue  
 Bath, NY 14810  
 (607) 664-4000
- Buffalo**  
 3495 Bailey Avenue  
 Buffalo, NY 14215  
 (716) 834-9200
- Canandaigua**  
 400 Fort Hill Avenue  
 Canandaigua, NY 14424  
 (585) 394-2000  
 (800) 204-9917
- Syracuse**  
 800 Irving Avenue  
 Syracuse, NY 13210  
 (315) 425-4400

## Community-Based Outpatient Clinics

- Auburn**  
 Auburn Memorial Hospital  
 17 Lansing St.  
 Auburn, NY 13021  
 (315) 255-7002
- Bainbridge**  
 109 North Main Street  
 Bainbridge, NY 13733  
 (607) 967-8590
- Binghamton**  
 425 Robinson Street  
 Binghamton, NY 13901  
 (607) 772-9100
- Catskill**  
 Greene Medical Bldg.  
 159 Jefferson Heights  
 Catskill, NY 12414  
 (518) 943-7515
- Clifton Park**  
 1673 Route 9  
 Clifton Park, NY 12065  
 (518) 626-5205
- Coudersport Satellite Clinic of Wellsville**  
 24 Maple View Lane, Suite 2  
 Coudersport, PA 16915  
 (814) 260-9342
- Dunkirk**  
 Valor Health Center  
 166 East 4th Street  
 Dunkirk, NY 14048  
 (800) 310-5001

- Elmira**  
 Health Services Building  
 200 Madison Avenue  
 Suite 2E  
 Elmira, NY 14901  
 (877) 845-3247 ext. 44640
- Fonda**  
 Camp Mohawk Plaza  
 2623 State Highway 30A  
 Fonda, NY 12068  
 (518) 853-1247
- Glens Falls**  
 84 Broad Street  
 Glens Falls, NY 12801  
 (518) 798-6066
- Jamestown**  
 608 West 3rd Street  
 Jamestown, NY 14701  
 (716) 338-1511
- Kingston**  
 63 Hurley Avenue  
 Kingston, NY 12401  
 (845) 331-8322
- Lackawanna**  
 Our Lady of Victory  
 Family Care Center  
 227 Ridge Road  
 Lackawanna, NY 14218  
 (716) 822-5944
- Springville Satellite Clinic of Lackawanna**  
 27 Franklin Street  
 Springville, NY 14141  
 (716) 592-7400

## Lockport

5883 Snyder Drive  
 Lockport, NY 14094  
 (716) 438-3890

## Malone

3372 St. Rt. 11, Main Street  
 Malone, NY 12953  
 (518) 483-1529

## Mansfield Satellite Clinic of Elmira

63 Third Street  
 Suite 104  
 Mansfield, PA 16901  
 (570) 662-0507

## Massena

1 Hospital Drive  
 Massena, NY 13662  
 (315) 769-4253

## Niagara Falls

2201 Pine Avenue  
 Niagara Falls, NY 14301  
 (716) 862-8580

## Olean

465 North Union Street  
 Olean, NY 14760  
 (716) 373-7709

## Oswego

437 State Route 104E  
 Oswego, NY 13126  
 (315) 207-0120

## Plattsburgh

80 Sharron Avenue  
 Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
 (518) 561-6247

## Rochester

465 Westfall Road  
 Rochester, NY 14620  
 (585) 463-2600

## Rome

Griffiss Park  
 125 Brookley Road,  
 Building 510  
 Rome, NY 13441  
 (315) 334-7100

## Saranac Lake

33 Depot St.  
 Saranac Lake, NY 12983  
 (518) 626-5237

## Schenectady

1322 Gerling St.  
 Sheridan Plaza  
 Schenectady, NY 12308  
 (518) 346-3334

## Tompkins/Cortland County

1451 Dryden Road  
 Freeville, NY 13068  
 (607) 347-4101

## Troy

295 River Street  
 Troy, NY 12180  
 (518) 274-7707

## Watertown

19472 U.S. Route 11  
 Watertown, NY 13601  
 (315) 221-7026

## Wellsville

3458 Riverside Drive, Route 19  
 Wellsville, NY 14895  
 (877) 845-3247 (Bath)

## Westport/Elizabethtown

7426 NYS Rte. 9N  
 Westport, NY 12993  
 (518) 626-5236

## Vet Centers

- Albany Vet Center**  
 17 Computer Drive West  
 Albany, NY 12205  
 (518) 626-5130
- Binghamton Vet Center**  
 53 Chenango Street  
 Binghamton, NY 13901  
 (607) 722-2393
- Buffalo Vet Center**  
 2372 Sweet Home Road,  
 Suite 1  
 Buffalo, NY 14228  
 (716) 862-7350
- Rochester Vet Center**  
 2000 South Winton Road  
 Building 5, Suite 201  
 Rochester, NY 14618  
 (585) 232-5040
- Syracuse Vet Center**  
 716 East Washington Street,  
 Suite 101  
 Syracuse, NY 13210  
 (315) 478-7127
- Watertown Vet Center**  
 210 Court Street, Suite 20  
 Watertown, NY 13601  
 (315) 782-5479



## Caregiver Support

**1-855-260-3274**

For help with caring for a disabled Veteran  
[www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov)

## Health Information on the Web

[www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)

## National Call Center for Homeless Veterans Hotline

**1-877-4AID-VET**

**1-877-424-3838**

## TelCare

**1-888-838-7890**

24-hour, toll-free medical advice for enrolled Veterans

## Veterans Crisis Line

**1-800-273-TALK (8255) press "1"**

## Veterans Service Contact Center

**1-888-823-9656**

For information on eligibility, VA health care benefits, enrollment, or questions on your billing statement