

HOSPITAL/VAVS

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We are an organization of volunteers. In 1928 Volunteer Hospital work became the second National Program adopted by the Ladies Auxiliary. The need was then and still is for Volunteers to assist aging Veterans, and warriors returning from recent wars needing medical care. Two great opportunities exist for you to volunteer. Veterans Administration Volunteer Services (VAVS) is for those volunteering in V.A. facilities and are supervised by V.A. employees. Hospital volunteers are those in non V.A. facilities and includes hospitals, nursing home, and senior citizen centers homeless shelters, etc. and these volunteers are supervised by the Auxiliary sponsoring them.

HOSPITAL PLEDGE

This pledge is one fundraiser for the VAVS Representatives. The hospital pledge is \$.50 per member, is due in August of each year and is based on your membership as of June 30, 2017. Earmark check "**Hospital Pledge**" and send your check to **Department Treasurer, PO Box 15285, Austin, TX 78761**. Sending your pledges as soon as possible determines how soon VAVS Representatives receive their funds to help our Veterans.

PATIENT DAY IN/OUT PROJECTS

Plan an Auxiliary visit to your local facility or bring the patients to your VFW Post for a lunch or dinner and fun. If a patient is unable to leave a facility, or is homebound still do something special for them in their home or the facility.

STATEWIDE PROJECT

The Statewide Project is Military Suicide Awareness and Prevention. **September 10th** has been designated as **Worldwide Suicide Awareness Day**. Plan an event highlighting awareness of the problem and urging prevention.

Promote the Veterans Crisis Hotline and its web site and phone number 1-800-273-8255 press 1.

NEEDED ITEMS AND GIFTS

THIS YEAR we hope to provide sweat suits to all veterans needing this items in the hospitals. Many arrive with only the clothes on their backs and sweat suits are greatly needed and appreciated.

NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

February is the month to spend with our hospitalized Veterans. Visit our hospitalized Veterans and let them know how much we care. Recruit youth such as Boys and/or Girl Scouts to make cards for the patients and deliver during February, Valentine's Day and Hospitalized Veterans Week.

VISITS

Become substitute caregivers. Even an hour can help a regular caregiver cope and gives them some time off. Spend some time with a Veteran. Remember them on their birthdays, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving or Christmas by sending cards.

RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are where you find them. Some are only waiting to be asked and/or told they are needed. Many youth groups are looking for projects to meet the community service requirements of their organizations. Ask them, you may be surprised at the answer and the volunteers you recruit.

RECOGNIZE YOUR VOLUNTEERS

Thank you is easy to say and can mean a lot. A certificate, a plaque, or a party of some kind mean more and are easy to do. Certificates are inexpensive from the VFW store, plaques cost more but all are much less than the time and efforts expended by volunteers.

Awards

1. Plaque in each Membership Division for **Best Suicide Awareness Program**. Citation 2nd & 3rd.
2. Plaque in each Membership Division for **Best Salute to Hospitalized Veterans**. Citation 2nd & 3rd.
3. **Plaque to Outstanding Hospital Volunteer**.
4. **Plaque to Outstanding Youth Volunteer or Youth Group**.

**“Veterans Are Our Angels”
“Catch The Dream For Our Veterans”**