



The hospital tours were unfortunately canceled for the 2020 year due to COVID and restrictions. Please see the VA hospital wish lists for items in need at the facilities. The items are used at the VA facility sent or taken for drop off and not sent to other facilities. Please fill out a slip indicating the items, and how much they cost to make or purchase. If you want a thank you confirmation letter sent to you be sure to write your organization name and address on the donation slip. To drop off donations please call the VA volunteer services ahead of time and give them an approximate time you will be there for drop off of items. They will meet you at the back door by Volunteer service at Zablocki, and other places they may have you drop off between the front doors and they will pick it up. **Please be sure to have all items bagged and tied.** The VA hospitals accept cards, and letters, sewing items (catheter bags, w/c, walker, bibs, lap covers, ponchos, etc.) Please call if in need of patterns (see phone number below). **The VA has a two-week quarantine period for all items.** Please be sure you send ahead of time (for holiday) due to the quarantine period of items.

✚ Reminder to gear up those volunteers. **Recruitment, recognize your volunteers and offer support. The VA is not allowing volunteers at this time but will in the future and you will be ready to offer your services.**

✚ **Remember with the upcoming holidays (Christmas, New Year's etc.)** to check out the local hospitals, nursing homes, Domiciliary, Hoptel, Veteran Outreach, Homeless, Veteran group home, etc., to see how many veterans are there and send:



Send cards (**let them know you are thinking of them for the Holidays**) and please send Christmas cards ahead of time because there is two week quarantine for cards, letters (all items) and please bag all items before taking in and call prior to arrival. If you know that the mailed cards, letters, etc. will not get there before Christmas etc., then please write on a christmas card "Thank you for you service" per the VA.



- Send Veterans a tape with Christmas music, or talk tapes, stories, books etc.
  - Visit on the Holidays (Christmas, New Year's etc. (Please check with facility) to see if drive-thrus are allowed, ask if the veterans are allowed candy, Holiday decorations, gifts, ornaments, a fake tree for the room with battery lights (if ok with the facility), caroling => Auxiliaries can sing Christmas carols for the Veterans outside the facility (check with facility). If you sponsor a children's group, Scout group, or church group etc. check if able to do caroling.
  - Decorate a paper bag for any one of the Holiday's and place pencil, note pad, cards, calendar, or sew a catheter bag, w/c bag, lap covers (big request for the cold months) and half bed covers (veterans are cold from the knees down at bedtime) etc.
  - Fill a Holiday basket with needed items (check the wish list of items that Veterans may need)
  - Make shadow boxes for Veterans wall down their hall (Check with facility), purchase or make shawls or obtain poinsettias for women veterans or place on a table at a Veterans facility, rehab item for male or female veteran, games, puzzles, magazines, purchase cards and/or stamps for cards, personalize a toy, game, or veterans like the model cars etc. Don't forget the women veterans and send goodie bags of personal items, bathrobe, slippers, etc. **Male/Female veterans need new jogging pants, sweatshirts, jogging shirts, sweaters all sizes.**
- ✚ Please be sure to check out the Resource section on the Department Auxiliary site. There is plethora of projects or donations.

❖ From Linda Roloff (National Hospital Ambassador) - **Ac-Cent-U-Ate the Positive**  
During the run-up to Christmas, New Year's etc. Instead of focusing on what's not available such as in-person visits etc., start **EVERY** communication or project with all the great things the Hospital Program IS doing. In all things be: **Positive, Uplifting, Mission-oriented, People-praising, Knowledgeable, Inspiring, and Nimble.**

❖ **Everyone, please have safe and Happy Holidays and fabulous New Year!** Thank you for all your items sent to the VA, sewing projects, and hard work etc. **Keep it up there is still more of the year left after January to fill those hospital year-end reports.** Remember our mission is never-ending because we continue to cultivate and "*Honor Our Mission to Serve our Hospitalized Veterans.*"

"Honoring our Mission to Serve Veterans" as we "Soar Like an Eagle for Veterans."

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