

American Legion Auxiliary VA&R REPORT  
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER  
12-31-24

We are working very hard with the Recreation therapists to get our traditional events back up and running. We have wonderful volunteers for the second Saturday for Bingo at the Community Living Center but can use more help.

Ward W2 (Dementia Ward) in Building 60 is currently seeking twin size blankets for their patients (this is an ongoing need). They request that the blankets be different colors/patterns so each patient will recognize their personal blanket.

Southwestern Blind Rehabilitation Center (SWBRC) is continuing going on outings where they are invited. They would like to request support for outings which are not direct donations such as going to the movies, Pima Air & Space Museum, Botanical Garden, etc. These outings must be financed by donations of the purchase of tickets directly by the sponsor. They currently have a population of twenty.

Patriot Pantry is up and running at is currently supporting 40 to 50 Veterans with food insecurities. The current monthly cost for this program is estimated at \$1,500. VA funds can now be used to purchase the food and different donors are shopping and delivering the items to SAVAHCS. There is also a Patriot Pantry program at the Sierra Vista CBOC.

ALA is working with CLC therapists on the need for a new Bingo machine and an interactive therapy machine. Both are large ticket items so donations will be appreciated.

The grand total of monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 is \$5,251. Thank you Unit 131 and Unit 136 for your generous donations to support our programs.

The grand total of material and activity donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 is \$18633.87. Thank you Unit 24, Unit 39, Unit 66, Unit 131 and Unit 73 for your generous donations to support our programs.

Eight registered hospital volunteers donated time which was credited to the American Legion Auxiliary. The grand total of registered volunteer hours May 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 is 751.75. Twenty occasional volunteers have contributed 243.55 hours as of December 31, 2024. The Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE formerly Voluntary Service) is bringing back many volunteers

This chairman has volunteered 13 hours and logged 1,680 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of December 31, 2024. This chairman has now logged over 4,880 hours in service to SAVAHCS. This chairman was privileged to present the honorary check to the directorship of SAVAHCS in the amount of \$2,199,900 representing value of volunteer hours and donation this past fiscal year. This chairman finished a three year term on the VAVS Executive Committee. This chairman has attended every Executive Committee meeting and every VAVS meeting this year. This chairman is working with the Homeless Program to ensure that our Homeless Veterans and those in Transitional Housing have the food and beverages that they need. This chairman is actively supporting the Patriot Pantry at SAVAHCS. This chairman is working with the Recreation departments to purchase needed supplies for the National Veterans Creative Arts Program and other recreational activities. NVCA. Festival was held October 12 through October 15<sup>th</sup> with the first place winners going to Tucson Mall for display for a month. ALA purchased steel mesh screens for displaying entries. Annual Joint Review was held on November 26, 2024. VAVS Committee voted to support the Patriot Pantry, Building 95 Recreation and Fisher House with donations on July 31, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Szakonyi, VAVS Representative