

American Legion Auxiliary VA&R REPORT
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER
6-30-23

Major changes to mask requirements have finally happened. We are working very hard with the Recreation therapists to get our traditional events back up and running.

Ward W2 (Dementia Ward) in Building 60 is currently seeking twin size blankets for their patients. They request that the blankets be different colors/patterns so each patient will recognize their personal blanket. Thank you Unit 8 & Unit 66 for your generous donations. They are also requesting clothing donations (sweatshirts and sweatpants all sizes especially size small in “girly” colors for the two female Veterans, socks and shoes men’s sizes 9 and above). Many of the Veterans they serve come in with no clothing. One female patient in Building 60 is 106 years young..

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 \$1,000. VA funds can now be used to purchase the food and different donors are shopping and delivering the items to SAVAHCS.

The grand total of monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023 is \$8,450.94. Thank you to Units 66 & 131 for their generous donations. Through their help, we were able to support the Wheelchair Games, the Community Gardens program, the Patriot Pantry and the Gathering of American Indian Veterans program.

The grand total of material and activity donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023 is \$4,197.00. Thank you Unit 109, Unit 131 and Unit 132 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, 2023 to June 30, 2023 is 191. We have on-boarded two new volunteers whose hours will benefit the American Legion Auxiliary. The Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE formerly Voluntary Service) is bringing back many volunteers.

This chairman has volunteered 38 hours and logged 360 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of June 30, 2023. This chairman has now logged over 4,000 hours in service to SAVAHCS. This chairman was re-elected to be the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the VAVS Executive Committee at the meeting on October 12, 2021. This chairman has been elected to fill 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. National Veterans Creative Arts Festival will be held August 24 & 25, 2023. Annual Joint Review was completed December 8, 2022. VAVS Committee voted to fully fund transportation for the gold medal winners from NVCA at SAVAHCS on February 1, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Szakonyi, VAVS Representative