

2026 National Convention Voluntary Services



- **DAV's mission** of empowering veterans to lead high-quality, fulfilled lives relies on the kind-heartedness of the men, women and youth who volunteer.
- We have **thousands** of **devoted volunteers** across the country providing our nation's veterans the best possible care, morale and assistance.
- In **2025**, DAV dedicated more than **\$54 million** to voluntary service initiatives through our vast network of programs.



- **VolunteerForVeterans.org**
 - This is the overarching suite of DAV's Voluntary Services Programs
 - **Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP)**
 - Direct assistance to veterans, surviving spouses or families
 - **DAV Transportation Network (TN)**
 - The backbone of DAV Voluntary Services Program
 - **VA Voluntary Services (VAVS)**
 - Volunteering in brick-and-mortar VA Facility
 - **DAV Scholarships Program**
 - Very robust program offering \$140,000 in scholarships annually
 - **Community Impact Day**
 - April 3, 2027
-

VolunteerForVeterans.org

DAV has revamped the **Volunteer for Veterans** website to make it easier to find help or to get involved.

Quick Visitor Stats

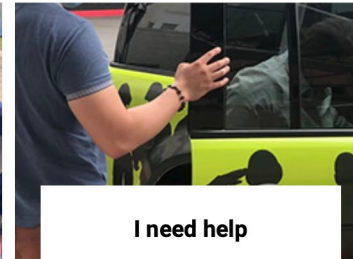
2024 - 27,110

2025 - 37,495



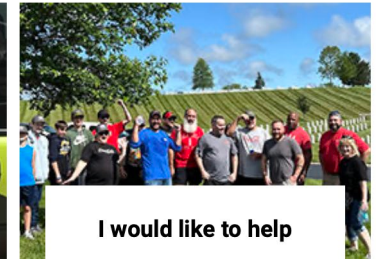
DAV Community Impact Day

Will you give an hour of your time?



I need help

Are you a veteran or do you know a veteran in need of help?



I would like to help

Do you want to help veterans in your local community?

LEARN MORE

GET HELP

FIND OUT HOW

- It's a **great resource** for volunteers who aren't near a VA Medical Facility but still want to make a difference.
- **Veterans in need** can request help.
- It's a **portal** to every volunteering at DAV.
- **It's growing!** Keep encouraging people to use it.

When you fill out an **I Need Help / I Would Like to Help** form, all that's needed is your:

- Name
- Email
- Phone number
- Physical address (including the city and state)
- Brief description of what you need assistance with

Once the form has been submitted, a Voluntary Services Specialist will contact your local department/chapter office to find a volunteer in the area to help.

[Home](#) > [Help DAV](#) > [Volunteer](#) > **[I Need Help](#)**

Are you a veteran, or do you know a veteran that needs assistance? Please fill out the form below and a voluntary services representative will reach out to volunteers in your area who may be able to help.

Personal Information

First Name*

Last Name*

Email*

Phone*

Address Information

Address Line 1*

City*

State*

Please select a state



Zip Code*

I Need Help With:

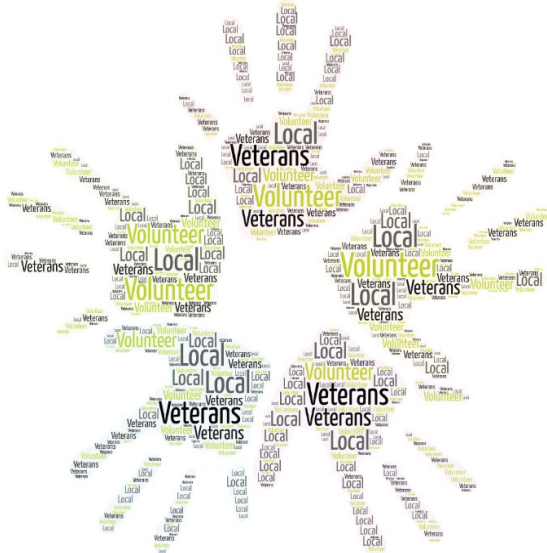
Select A Category*

Description Of Your Need*

Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP)



Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP)



- The **Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP)** was created to allow the many volunteers who want to be involved with veteran support activities outside the VA medical facilities to record their hours of volunteerism and report them to DAV.
- LVAP allows people to provide needed services to veterans and their families as DAV volunteers. **It honors our organization, encourages and recognizes volunteerism.**
- LVAP initiatives are **managed by state-level DAV departments** and are carried out through our departments, chapters, auxiliary units, associated organizations, corporations and individual volunteers.
- In **2025** there was a total of more than **2.7 million volunteer hours** reported with **375,789 hours** reported for DAV's Department and Chapter Service Officers. This is an additional **\$11.6 million in savings** for the Veterans Administration that the DAV volunteers provide through their services.



LVAP volunteers can dedicate their time in the following ways:

- Department and Chapter Service Officer work.
- DAV specific outreach efforts and fundraising efforts.
- DAV/DAV Auxiliary special events (state fair, homeless assistance including stand downs, etc.).
- Direct assistance to veterans, surviving spouses, or families.
- Seminars, training and activities designed to operate the department and chapter smoothly.
- Legislative support – Benefit Protection Team Leader (BPTL).





Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP)

Reporting LVAP Hours

In 2024, our volunteers logged nearly **2.3 million hours**.

In 2025, that grew to more than **2.7 million hours**.



We see you and the work you're doing.
There's no question you're helping veterans
in the community, **but are you reporting it?**

BECAUSE ...

Each year we have to report to Congress.

Wrong numbers can impact lawmaker support for DAV's advocacy.

Members, donors and watchdog groups also get these hours.

Inaccurately can erode trust with our stakeholders.





Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP)



The bottom line:

Accurately reporting our volunteer hours shows we are **keeping our promise** to veterans.

DAV Transportation Network (TN)

- The **DAV Transportation Network** is the largest program of its kind for veterans in the nation.
- It ensures our veterans, **who may not have access to reliable transportation**, are able to get to their VA health care appointments.
- **Did you know? DAV HSCs and volunteer drivers can make the ask to riders if they're a DAV member.**



DAV Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCs) are important in our efforts to assist injured and ill veterans. They're the front line for the DAV Transportation Network – scheduling rides, keeping vehicles running safely and reporting volunteer activities to DAV National Headquarters.

2025 Transportation Network Stats

Over **614,000** hours spent by DAV volunteer drivers producing more than **9.6 million** logged miles, totalling over **230,000** no-cost rides for ill and injured veterans to and from VA medical facilities.



Since 1987, DAV has donated **3,909** vehicles at a cost of more than **\$97 million**.

Also, volunteer drivers have traveled more than **770 million** miles providing over **20.4 million** rides.

In 2024, volunteer drivers transported more **235,000 veterans** over **9.3 million miles**.

Media Ride-along

- DAV (**locally or at NHQ**), in coordination with the VA, arranges for local news outlets in a geographic area to ride along with a volunteer driver who is taking veterans to and from their appointments.
- The driver and others interviewed are able to share their story of why they volunteer while sharing the message that the TN needs more volunteer drivers.

This is a powerful volunteer recruiting tool that:

- **Highlights** the critical role of volunteers within the Transportation Network
- **Showcases** the opportunity to directly make a difference in veterans' lives
- **Promotes** local chapters' involvement in the community
- **Increases** DAV's brand awareness
- **Highlights** our mission
- **Helps** with donations and memberships
- **Gains** earned media

WSTB-TV feature



Click [here](#) to watch

Media Ride-along Considerations

A successful ride-along requires coordination between:

- DAV Communications (if requested)
- DAV Voluntary Services
- Department or Chapter Volunteer Representative or Deputy Representative
- VA Volunteer Coordinator
- Local VA public affairs

Identify a volunteer driver who will represent DAV well:

- Compelling story
- Well-spoken
- Knows the program and the needs well



Media Ride-along Expectations

DAV Communications can:

- **Serve** as the central point of contact.
- **Handle** media outreach.
- **Provide** media coaching/interview prep.

The Department or Chapter should:

- **Identify** a willing volunteer driver (and their availability) for the media to highlight.
- **Provide** an additional on-camera interview subject who can communicate the need for volunteers and the process for them to sign-up (ideally the Rep or Dep).
- **Assist** DAV Communications as a local VA liaison, if needed.

**Contact Voluntary Services
to learn more and to get
started**

**(859) 441-7300 extension 1313 or
VAVS@dav.org**

Media Ride-along 2025 Review

Total TN News Stories: 16

- **Most** were coordinated by departments & chapters
- **High visibility** outreach that produced results
- **Easy** to DIY, but Voluntary Services and Comms team can help

Future TN program success:

- **Consider your** 2027 purchase needs now. 2026 is the lowest number of requested vehicles on record.
- **Grant application process** will now start in September.
- **Please ensure** your AFRs are completed as soon as possible to not interfere with the request process.



VA Voluntary Services (VAVS)

Importance of VAVS



- The Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program (VAVS) **is one of our most significant volunteer initiatives**, providing a broad array of services to veterans in VA health care facilities throughout our nation.
- **DAV volunteers perform crucial duties**, from being a buddy to a veteran to doing tasks that require highly technical, professional skills.
- **Volunteers bring an extra service** to the care and treatment of veteran patients that can't be provided by paid staff.
- **DAV VAVS State Chairpersons and Representatives** recruit volunteers, attend quarterly meetings and report VAVS hours to NHQ.

VAVS Representatives and Deputy Representatives

- Should be **very knowledgeable** with all of DAV's programs and services.
- Some of your **most important volunteers**. They need to attend all quarterly meetings and maintain DAV's presence within their VA Medical Facilities.
- When appointing a Rep/Dep, **make sure they are willing to attend the meetings**. In some facilities, your Rep/Dep may do more than one thing, so make sure it doesn't conflict with their day-to-day responsibilities.
- They're **responsible for establishing and maintaining local relationships and presence** within the VA Medical Centers.



VAVS Representative Responsibility

VAVS Deputy Representative:

- Deputy Representatives primary responsibility is to assist the Representative in any way possible. They are also expected to assume the Representative's duties if they are unable to carry out those responsibilities.

VAVS Associate Representative:

- An Associate Representative's primary responsibility is to assist the appointed Representative by developing and coordinating the participation of volunteers in your Department at the VA Medical Center in any way possible.

VAVS Associate Deputy Representative:

- A Deputy Representative's primary responsibility is to assist the appointed Associate Representative by helping to develop and coordinate the participation of volunteers in your Department at the VA Medical Center in any way possible.

Honorary Representative:

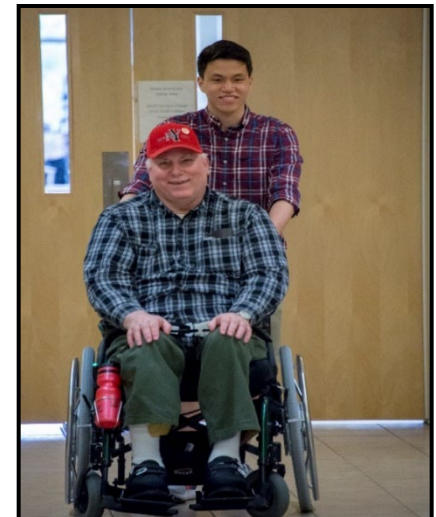
- Must be a past DAV/VAVS representative who has served 10 years or more and be recommended by the DAV. Appointment is for an indefinite period of time and will not expire except by request.

VAVS Representative Responsibility Summary

- **Representatives may choose up to three VAVS Deputies** to serve with them.
 - They can **assist** in your absence and at the VA Health Care Facility.
 - **Coordinate** DAV activities at your medical center and **inform** the State Chairperson of DAV's participation in the activities.
 - **Responsible** for informing DAV chapter members of the VA program needs.
 - **Recruit** volunteers for the VA medical center.
 - **Communicate** VAVS and purpose of DAV's participation to potential volunteers.
 - **Recruit** new volunteers from local high schools.
 - **Sponsor** youth volunteer groups at VA Medical Centers.
 - **Inform** the youth volunteers about the DAV Scholarships Program.
 - **Attend** VAVS Committee Meetings.
-

The following are a few ways you can assist as a **DAV volunteer** in a VA facility:

- Escorting patients, library circulation and processing assistance
- Information desk receptionists
- Preparing displays and assisting patients in menu selections in nutrition and food service
- Helping with the clinical preparation procedures and patient-motivation activities in the physical therapy clinic
- Helping patients with socialization and other therapeutic activities
- Red Coat Ambassador Program
- Compassionate Contact Corps



Reporting VAVS Hours

- This is **instrumental** to the program's continued success and allows us to maintain our presence in VA facilities.
- It **shows the value** volunteers have within the VA system.

2024 hours: 584,661

2025 hours: 593,857

- We're seeing an **increase**! But how can we improve our reporting?
- We **depend** on our Reps and Deps to remind volunteers they can report their hours to DAV.



DAV Community Impact Day

April 3, 2027

DAV Community Impact Day is a **national call to action** for people to volunteer their time in support of veterans.

We also see this day as a **beacon to unify communities** across the United States for a day of service and volunteering for veterans.

We want to show people—through their involvement—that **it doesn't take a lot of time to make a big difference.**

It's a great **opportunity to introduce DAV and its mission** to those who may not know about it.



SINCLAIR CARES

This year we partnered with **Sinclair Media Group** and used its national platform to encourage people to pledge time for Community Impact Day.

Many of its local stations highlighted what we do for veterans—both during your events and after.

This one campaign resulted in 107 local news stories and more than 2,400 on-air mentions of Community Impact Day and DAV!

Why it matters, and who can help?

“Thank you for your service” is more than words; **it’s action.**

- When you give **even an hour** of your time to a veteran, you show them they are valued and appreciated.
- We’re showing that **it doesn’t have to be complicated or time-consuming** to get involved; One heartfelt, simple act of service added to others compounds to create an immeasurable effect.
- DAV has **year-round** opportunities to serve.
- **There’s a home for everyone at DAV to volunteer.** You don’t have to be a DAV member or even a veteran to participate or volunteer with DAV!
- **Everyone has a gift or a skill that can make a difference.** Never underestimate what you offer.
- **We hope this inspires** more people to get involved in community service year-round.
- This can be a great **introduction or hours-builder** for scholarship applicants.

Sign up

- **Every person** who participates should take the pledge.
- It only takes a moment, but it helps us **show the impact** you're making for veterans.

COMMUNITY IMPACT DAY PLEDGE FORM

Please fill out this form to pledge your time and we'll send you information on how to connect with other volunteers, veterans in need, ideas for service, or how to make the most of your community service event. (*required fields)

* First Name

* Last Name

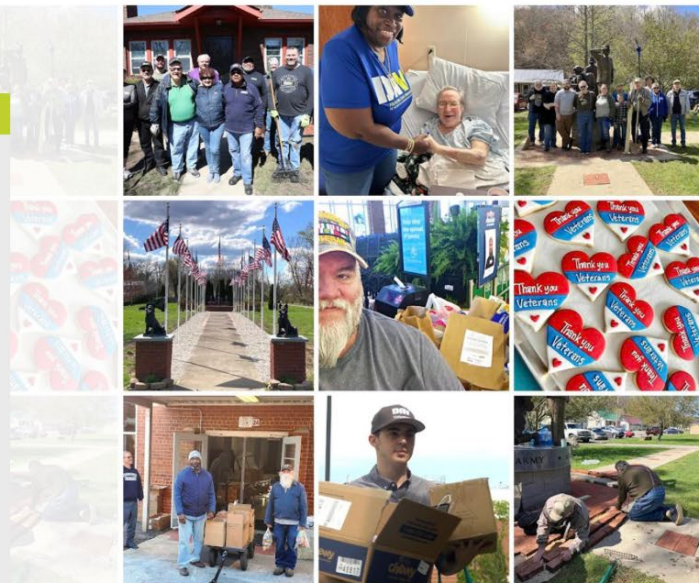
* E-mail Address

Phone (Optional)

☒ Keep me informed about DAV's Voluntary Services Programs via email.

☒ Send me text messages about this volunteer opportunity (must be at least 18 years or older)

SUBMIT



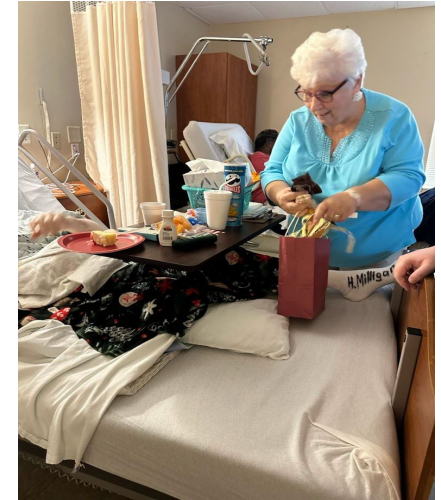
Spread The Word



- **Realize the power** of face-to-face conversations. A simple, direct ask is often the most effective way to get people in your community to join you.
- **Complement your conversations** with social media, texts and emails, but don't rely on them as the only ways you get others to join in.
- **Seek input from others** to help uncover ideas and identify needs in your area.
- **Encourage others to visit** communityimpactday.org to pledge an hour of their time.

Take Action – Ideas

- **Collect** items and create care packages for hospitalized veterans.
- **Read** to veterans who are blind.
- **Host** a pancake breakfast for community veterans.
- **Donate** blood for your local Department of Veterans Affairs Medical facility.
- **Teach** a class that could benefit those veterans who've served.
- **Make** quilts, blankets, hats or scarves for veterans.
- **Write** letters thanking veterans.
- **Paint** a mural honoring your community's veterans.
- **Help** with basic home repairs.
- **Create** a newsletter highlighting stories of veterans in your community.
- **Clean up** veterans' yard or mow their lawns.
- **Bring** a meal and visit with a veteran who is homebound.
- **Organize** a Homeless Veterans Stand Down.
- **Clean** headstones at your local veterans cemetery.
- **Maintain** or spruce up a local veterans memorial or marker.
- **Host** a donation drive for clothing or other needed items for a veterans homeless shelter.



Reap the benefits!

- Volunteering with others is **more fun and more impactful**
- **Find opportunities** for DAV to be visible in the community
- Encourage **all your members** to sign up and participate
- DAV Community Impact Day can help with **member recruiting**

Share with us and your community

We want to see what you did!

- Make sure to take **lots** of photos and videos.
- Visit **dav.memfox.io/communityimpactday** and **tell us** about your volunteer experience.
- **Don't forget** to add captions and tell us who's in the photos.
- **We'll share** some of our favorite stories and ideas in DAV Magazine and on social media.



DAV contact

If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to Brian Buckwalter with the DAV Communications Department at bbuckwalter@dav.org.



What's **your chapter's plan?**

Remember, it doesn't have to be a huge lift!

Simple actions can make a big impact.



DAV Scholarships Program



Purpose

To encourage youth volunteers to become active in DAV's **Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP)** and/or the Department of **Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)** program.

These scholarships help fund recipients' higher education.

251

Scholarships awarded since program's inception

\$2.08 million

Total awards given

15

Number of annual scholarships

\$140,000

Total annual award

Scholarship Amounts:

\$30,000; \$20,000; \$15,000; \$10,000 (2); \$7,500 (4); \$5,000 (4), and \$2,500 (2)

Promoting DAV Scholarship Program

- In 2024, we received 80 applications.
- In 2025, we received 81 applications.
- In 2026, we received 99 applications—the most ever!
- Please encourage any eligible youth volunteers to apply.
- Reps & Deps make sure you're distributing scholarship program pamphlets at your VA Medical Centers.



Special Recognition



Students from **Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering** capped off a two-year research project supported by DAV.

After visiting the **National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic**, they created new adaptive sports innovations to make golf and disc golf more inclusive.

Special thanks to **Chapter 144 in New York** for helping sponsor this project.

SINCLAIR CARES



Final Thoughts

- It's the responsibility of **local member leaders and volunteers** to **maintain these relationships**.
- **Time** is our most precious commodity.
- **Always** be on the lookout for new volunteers.
- Offering volunteer opportunities is a great way to **recruit new members**.
- There's a place for **everyone** in DAV!





Volunteer Award Incentive Milestones

- DAV is one of the only VSOs that provides its volunteers with **tokens of appreciation**.
- We can't **recognize volunteers** if their VAVS hours aren't **reported** to DAV.
- When we do our part in submitting hours, volunteers that donate their time to DAV are eligible for the **Volunteer Recognition Program**.
- **Volunteers receive a DAV gift** as a token of appreciation.
- We have to know who our volunteers are to **recognize them**.
- How **volunteering** ties into **membership recruitment**.

Incentive Award Level	Miles	Hours
1	1	1
2	2,500	50
3	5,000	100
4	7,500	150
5	10,000	200
6	15,000	250
7	25,000	500
8	35,000	750
9	50,000	1,000
10	75,000	2,000
11	100,000	3,000
12	150,000	5,000
13	175,000	7,500
14	200,000	10,000
15	225,000	15,000
16	300,000	20,000
17	325,000	25,000
18	350,000	30,000
19	400,000	35,000
20	500,000	40,000

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DAV EMPOWERS VETERANS

RESPECT

ADVOCACY

HONOR

SUPPORT

COMMITMENT