



## Voluntary Services General Overview





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# Voluntary Services



DAV's mission of empowering veterans to lead high-quality, fulfilled lives relies on the kind-heartedness of the men, women and young adults that volunteer.

We have thousands of devoted volunteers across the country providing the best possible care, morale and assistance to our nation's heroes.

In **2023**, DAV dedicated more than **\$39 million** to voluntary service initiatives through our vast network of programs.



# VolunteerforVeterans.org

**DAV has revamped the volunteer for veterans website to make it easier for veterans to find the help they need by going online and simply clicking one button!**

**You can also sign up for DAV's many programs while you're here!**

## Volunteer For Veterans

DAV offers a wide range of opportunities to assist our nation's heroes. Volunteer to transport veterans to and from their VA medical appointments, help at a VA facility or assist veterans in your local community.

No matter who you are, or what your level of experience, you can stand by our nation's veterans.

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

Click the link below to inform Voluntary Services Department of your need.

**I Need Help**

Do you want to help veterans in your local community?

Click the link below to register with our Voluntary Services Department to find local veterans in need of help in your area.

**I Would Like To Help**

## Other Notable DAV Volunteer Programs

Drive A Vehicle

For Veterans

DAV Scholarships

For Volunteers

It is also very resourceful for those volunteers who are not near a VA Medical Facility but still want to make a difference in the lives of our nation's heroes.

Volunteers can visit [www.volunteerforveterans.org](http://www.volunteerforveterans.org) to sign up for opportunities in their local communities. Or, you can visit <https://www.dav.org/help-dav/volunteer/>



# VolunteerforVeterans.org

[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\*

Grocery Shopping ▼

Description Of Your Need\*

When you fill out an “I Need Help” form all that is needed is your name, email, phone number, physical address (including the city and state) as well as a brief description of what you need assistance with. Once the form has been submitted a Voluntary Services Specialists will be in contact with your local department/chapter office to find a volunteer in the area to help.



# VolunteerforVeterans.org

[Home](#) > [Help DAV](#) > [Volunteer](#) > [I Would Like To Help](#)

Do you want to help veterans in your community?

Please fill out the form below and a voluntary services representative will try to match you with heroes in need of help.

## Personal Information

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Email\*

Phone\*

## Address Information

Address Line 1\*

City\*

State\*

Zip Code\*

Are you volunteering as a group or individual?

Select A Category\*

Please describe how you can help.\*

When you fill out an “I Would Like to Help” form you have to supply your name, email, phone number, physical address (including the city and state) as well as a brief description of what you have experience doing. Once the form has been submitted you will get alerts via e-mail that will notify you when a veteran in your area is in need of assistance.





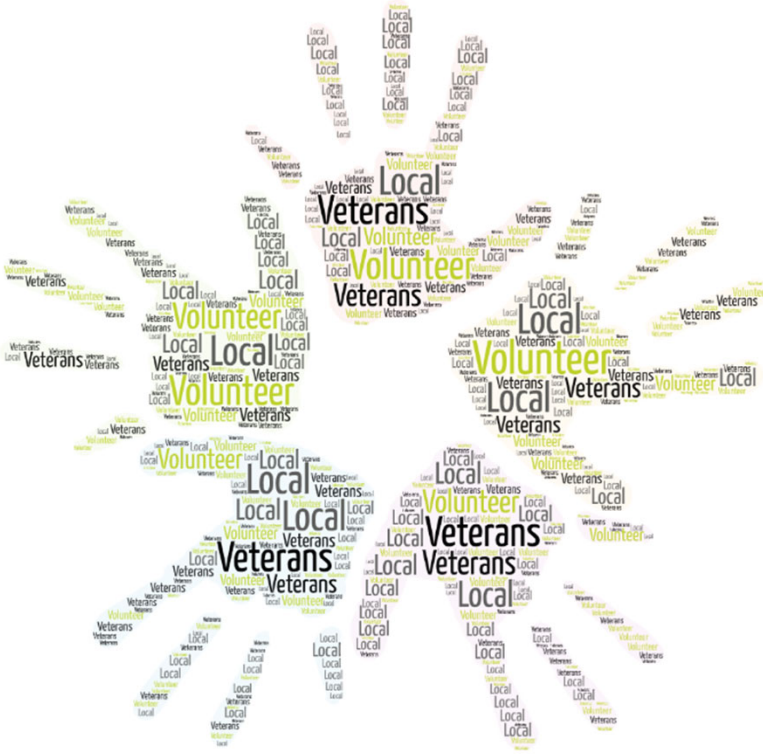
# Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP)

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 the 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 **2023** there was a total of **1,912,474** volunteer hours reported with **307,545** hours reported for DAV's Department and Chapter Service Officers. This is an additional **\$9.7 million in savings** for the Veterans Administration that the DAV volunteers provide through their services.





# Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP)



**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 department and chapter smoothly
- Legislative support - Benefits Protection Team Leader (BPTL)







# VA Voluntary Services Program (VAVS)

The Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program (VAVS) is one of our most significant volunteer initiatives.

The VA Voluntary Services Program provides a broad array of services to veterans in VA health care facilities throughout our nation.

Volunteers bring an extra service to the care and treatment of veteran patients that cannot be provided by paid staff regardless of their size and effectiveness.

Our DAV VAVS State Chairpersons and Representatives carry out an important role for DAV; recruiting volunteers, attending quarterly meetings and reporting VAVS hours to DAV National Headquarters.

In **2023** the DAV and DAV Auxiliary logged a total of **549,981** volunteer hours within VA hospitals across the country. With an approximate total of **\$17,489,397 in savings** the VA can put towards updating facilities and the care of their patients/residents.





# VA Voluntary Services Program (VAVS)



The following are a few traditional 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.
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# Transportation Network (TN)

The DAV Transportation Network is the largest program of its kind for veterans in the nation.

This program ensures our veterans, who may not have access to reliable transportation, are able to get to their VA health care appointments.





## Transportation Network (TN)

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

### VOLUNTARY SERVICES

#### Transportation Network

**575,369** hours spent by DAV volunteer drivers producing

nearly **9.3 million** logged miles, totalling

nearly **246,000** no-cost rides  
for ill and injured veterans to and  
from VA medical facilities.



Since 1987, at a cost of

more than **\$96 million**



donated  
**3,763**  
vehicles



donated  
**264**  
vehicles

Since 1987, volunteer drivers traveled over **752 million** miles transporting more than **19.9 million** veterans.

There are **149** Hospital Service Coordinators covering transportation programs at more than **248** VA medical facilities. These DAV HSCs assemble corps of volunteer drivers and coordinate them with hospital transportation requests. The Transportation Network volunteers transported more than **245,000** veterans over **9.2** million miles in **2023** alone!





# DAV Scholarships Program



Since its inception, DAV has awarded **241** individual scholarships, including this year's winners, valued at more than **\$1.97 million**, which enables these exceptional young people to pursue their goals in higher education and experience the value and satisfaction of volunteering.

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

DAV now offers ten scholarships that are awarded annually totaling **\$110,000** to help fund the recipients higher education.

**New Scholarship Amounts:**  
**\$30,000; \$20,000; \$15,000; \$10,000; (2) \$7,500; and (4) \$5,000**





# Boulder Crest Mentoring Retreat

## Progressive & Alternative Training for Helping Heroes (PATHH)

- Warrior PATHH - 90 day program, begins with 7 days of intensive and immersive in-residence initiation. This program is free of charge to participants.
- Based on the science of Posttraumatic Growth, that trains our combat veterans to transform struggle to strength. We have lost more combat veterans to suicide than ever before, Boulder Crest Mentoring Retreat works every day to solve this growing concern.
- PATHH teaches combat veterans how to make peace with their past, live in the present and plan for their future. Thousands of combat veterans have transformed their lives.
- Graduates have access to a lifetime of support, community, training and accountability.





# National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic

## Miracles on a Mountainside - Snowmass, Colorado

- Began in 1987 with 90 participants as a 5 day event and has grown into a world leader in rehabilitation, providing approximately 400 profoundly disabled veterans with TBI's, spinal cord injuries, visual impairments, amputates and other severe disabilities to overcome obstacles and enjoy life.
- WSC has world class instructors to help veterans achieve their maximum potential.
- In 2024 participants age ranged from 20 to 92 years old.
- In 2024, 276 men and 74 women from all branches to include veterans from Korea, Vietnam to Operation Iraqi Freedom attended.
- Veterans participate in adaptive skiing, sled hockey, scuba diving, rock wall climbing, fly fishing and so much more.





# National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic

- Held at the Riverside Hotel & Golf Resort, Riverside, Iowa each September.
- A 6 day event with estimated 300 veterans and over 200 volunteers.
- Provides a therapeutic format to promote rehabilitation, fellowship and camaraderie.
- Adaptive golf instruction to make the game more accessible and inspire veterans to challenge the limitations and improve their quality of life.
- Other adaptive sports include bowling, air rifle, bicycling, cycling, and kayaking, and so much more.







# National HQ Homeless Veteran Stand Down

**In 2023 we served more than 180 Homeless Veterans**

DAV hosted over 90 vendors, offering a wide range of services to break down barriers for veterans:

- Employment Services
- Housing and Financial Assistance
- Medical Services
- Legal services
- Education
- Hair cuts and manicures

We provide backpacks full of items such as, hygiene kits, socks, gloves, jackets and much more. Food, entertainment, and fun activities are offered while they are waiting their turn for services.





# DAV Volunteer Days

## Volunteer Days began in 2024 with 12 scheduled events

- Kentucky Veterans Cemetery-North, in Williamstown, KY. We clean the headstones, benches, in preparation for Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and removing the wreaths after the holiday.
- Assemble bags for Disaster Relief efforts
- Assemble Homeless Stand Down bags
- Forget Me Nots
- Assemble DAV 5K race packets
- Assemble National Convention bags
- Field of Flags Packet Assembling
- These events are a significant cost savings to the DAV







“Volunteers are not paid- not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.” ~Sherry Anderson~

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## For more information



**Email:** [VAVS@dav.org](mailto:VAVS@dav.org)

**Mail:** Voluntary Services  
860 Dolwick Drive  
Erlanger, KY 41018

**Phone:** (859) 441-7300 ext. 1313  
(877) 426-2838 ext. 1313