



DAV Community Impact Day



DAV Community Impact Day

- What is it?
 - Why it Matters?
 - Who Can Help?
 - Spread the Word.
 - Take Action.
 - Media Support.
 - Share the Story.
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- 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.
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- “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.
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- **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.
 - DAV has year-round opportunities to serve.
 - This can be a great introduction or hours-builder for scholarship applicants.
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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.**
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- **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.
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April 6 is DAV Community Impact Day

- Make a plan to get out there and serve!
- If you can't participate on April 6, **pledge anyway** and find another day to volunteer. It's the spirit of service that counts.
- Teach, fix, host or donate—**your imagination is your limit.**



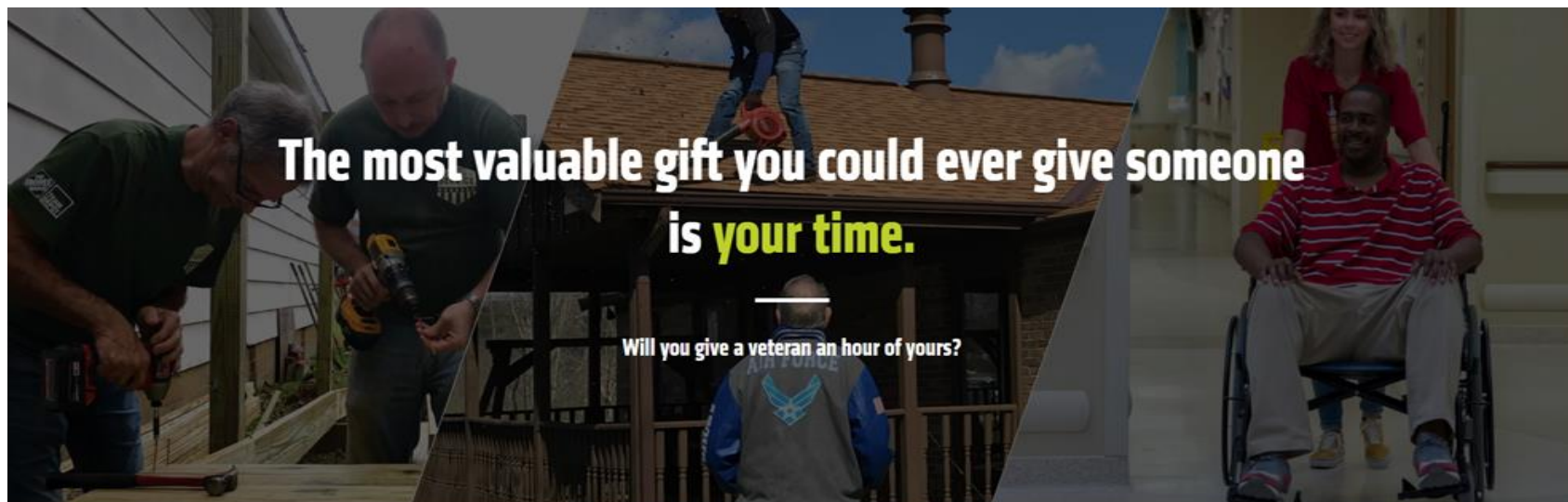
- **Collect** items and create care packages for hospitalized veterans.
 - **Read** to veterans who are blind.
 - **Host** a pancake breakfast for community veterans.
 - **Donate** blood for your local Department of Veterans Affairs Medical facility.
 - **Teach** a class that could benefit those veterans who've served.
 - **Make** quilts, blankets, hats or scarves for veterans.
 - **Write** letters thanking veterans.
 - **Paint** a mural honoring your community's veterans.
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- **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.
 - **Help** with basic home repairs.
 - **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.
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Pledge your time

- To pledge your time go to <https://www.dav.org/dav-community-impact-day/>
- Click on pledge your time.



Join us on April 6, 2024, for DAV Community Impact Day.

When you volunteer for veterans, you're demonstrating that "thank you for your service" is more than just words; it's action.

PLEDGE YOUR TIME HERE

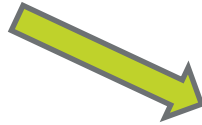


Let us know you're in, and we'll send you information on how to connect with others, ideas for service, and how to make the most of your community service event.



Pledge your time continued...

- Fill out your information.



- Select your state.



- Enter DAV Chapter or Unit if applicable.



- Click Submit.

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)

Please let us know your DAV chapter or unit if applicable.

Keep me informed about how DAV is supporting our nation's veterans.





Pledge your time continued...



Hi Ron,

Thank you for pledging to support **DAV Community Impact Day on April 6, 2024!** It promises to be a fulfilling day of service to our nation's veterans.

To help you make the most of the day, we've put together some resources [here](#), including service project ideas, tips for getting others involved and information about DAV's mission.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at vavs@dav.org if you have any questions.

Again, **thank you** for your willingness to share your most precious resource—your time—to give back to those who've given so much for us.

In service to others,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John Kleindienst". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

John Kleindienst

DAV National Voluntary Services Director

Media Overview

- **Chapters that have a planned event** for DAV Community Impact should consider inviting media to cover it.
 - **Be organized!** Before reaching out to reporters, make sure you know what they'll be able to report about.
 - **Know the who, what, where, when and why** of your DAV Community Impact Day event.
 - **Identify** volunteer participants who would be comfortable talking to reporters.
 - Make sure other participants (and veterans you're serving) know that **media may be present**.
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Finding media

- Research potential media contacts. Some helpful questions to ask yourself:
 - Which reporters in my area tend to report on military- or veteran-related issues?
 - Is there a journalist who consistently covers community-related stories?
 - Do we have a reporter in the area who covers news stories that have a familial, volunteer or civic-minded angle?
 - Most media outlets will have a website and a “**Contact Us**” button where you can engage with local reporters.
 - **Be flexible!**
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Talking points are **themes and messages** that help keep everyone on the same page and focused on the event when talking with the media. Get these out to participants, especially those who are likely to be interviewed, at least a few days before your event.

Remember:

- **You can find them** in the DAV Community Impact Day Media Guide.
- Talking points in our media guide are **just a recommended starting point!**
- **Tailor them as you need** to fit your voice and specifics for your area and service project.
- **Everyone is encouraged to share personal stories** related to volunteering, why you choose to volunteer, and any stories that add a human element to the event.

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.



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.



If you'd like to extend your service to veterans beyond one day, DAV has plenty of opportunities for you to be involved.

- **Driving veterans to their VA medical appointments** is our biggest enduring need.
 - Learn more about volunteering with the DAV Transportation Network at driveforveterans.org.
- **Volunteers are always needed at VA medical facilities and local DAV chapters.**
 - Visit volunteerforveterans.org to let us know you're available, and we'll connect you to the right person in your area.
- Reach out to VAVS@dav.org if you have any questions about DAV Community Impact Day or other volunteer opportunities.
- All DAV Community Impact Day resources can be found at:
 - <https://www.dav.org/member-resources/voluntary-services/>



Thank you for all you do!
