

 <p>Karen Cypret 22222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772 417-342-7652</p> <p>mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com</p>	 <p>2025-2026</p>	<p>Missouri Hospital VAVS 2025-2026</p> <p>"From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans – Who Keep Us Free" we should be "Caring for our veterans like the ocean caring for the waves"</p> <p>"Be the reason a veteran smiles today" by "having a heart for hospitalized veterans"</p>
--	--	---

VAVS stands for Veteran Affairs Voluntary Services

The first National Home, now the VA's oldest hospital, was opened in Maine in 1866. They provided medical care and long-term housing for Civil War Veterans. These homes were initially to be room and board for disabled veterans. However, by the late 1920s, these homes provided a level of care comparable to hospital care and in 1930 President Hoover created the Veterans Administration to consolidate all veteran services. And we were there! In 1928, the Hospital Program became the second National Program adopted by the VFW Auxiliary. We, as hospital volunteers, have spent over 100 years donating millions of hours offering smiles, compassion, aid, comfort, dollars, etc., to our veterans. The way we volunteer today is much different from our beginnings.

Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support:

New volunteers are needed daily across our nation to step up and carry on the work that our older members started. Missouri has seven (7) Veterans Homes. We must get the word out about the need for new volunteers because the need is greater than ever.

Be confident and share your positive experiences and your joy as working as a hospital volunteer. Your testimony is one of your best recruiting tools. Additionally, do not just share with your fellow members but with family, neighbors, friends, youth groups; reach out into your community to educate them about volunteering for our veterans.

Where can we serve?

Members, non-members and youth can volunteer in many types of facilities under this program:

- Local hospitals
- Veterans' homes
- Nursing homes
- Adult Day-Care centers
- Fisher Houses
- Both VA and non-VA medical clinics and facilities

Here are the Missouri Veterans homes and their contact information.

Cameron Veterans Home
1111 Euclid Cameron, MO 64429
(816) 632-6010

Cape Girardeau Veterans Home
2400 Veterans Memorial Dr. Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 290-5870

St. James Veterans Home
620 N. Jefferson St. James, MO 65559
(573) 265-3271

St. Louis Veterans Home
10600 Lewis & Clark Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63136
(314) 340-6389

Mexico Veterans Home
#1 Veterans Dr. Mexico, MO 65265
(573) 581-1088

Mt. Vernon Veterans Home
1600 S. Hickory Mt. Vernon, MO 65712
(417) 466-7103

Warrensburg Veterans Home
1300 Veterans Rd. Warrensburg, MO 64093
(660) 543-5064

You can find this information and more at [**www.mvc.dps.mo.gov**](http://www.mvc.dps.mo.gov)

Here are the Veterans Hospitals and their contact information:

Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital
800 Hospital Drive, Columbia, MO 65201-5297
(573) 814-6000

Jefferson Barracks
1 Jefferson Barracks Drive, St. Louis, MO 63125-4199
(314) 652-4100

John J. Cochran Veterans Hospital
915 North Grand Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63106-1621
(314) 652-4100

John J. Pershing VA Medical Center
1500 N Westwood Blvd, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
(573) 686-4151

Kansas City VA Medical Center
4801 Linwood Boulevard Kansas City, MO 64128-2226
(816) 861-4700

You can find all this information and more at [**www.va.gov**](http://www.va.gov)

Craft at Home:

Sew at Home has become Crafting at Home. This is the 2nd year of this change. There are so many things that people craft that aren't sewing. You can sew of course, but how about knitting, crochet, or even woodworking?

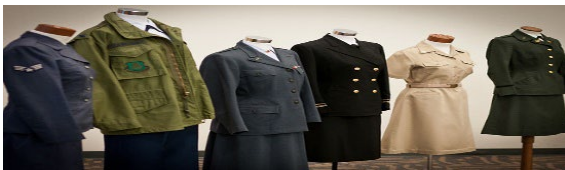
How about making and then taking homemade cards into nursing homes. Do you like to make handmade greeting cards? This is a fun project for your auxiliary to do as a group, include the youth in your area also. Little children love to craft. Look beyond the Christmas cards. What other holiday can you make cards for?

Food Insecurity:

Many veterans and their families today find it hard to spread their budgets to the end of the month. Many facilities have a food locker to assist in this need but many do not have the space to accommodate food storage so grocery store gift cards are really appreciated. The facility's social workers generally manage this program so check with the CDCE Chief for more information. This would be a great auxiliary fundraiser!

Women Veterans Health Care

The VA is dedicated to meeting the health care needs of our nation's women veterans, which is the fastest growing group of the veteran population. Comprehensive health services are available and tailored to the unique needs of women veterans. Check with your CDCE Chief for special events that are being planned and what you can do to help.



June 12th is Women Veterans Day:
She Serves, She Sacrificed, She Deserves.

Honors Escort

The Honors Escort Program in VA facilities is part of the end-of-life protocol for veterans who pass away while in their care. The Honors Escort is an opportunity to honor each veteran in a respectful and open manner. It provides a way for a veteran's family and friends, other veterans and facility staff to participate in a display of reverence to the veteran at the time of death. Check with your facility to find out if they have an Escort Program and how you can help. If no program exists, introduce the idea to them and be sure to include your VFW members.

Online Reporting:

Please remember to report any activity you have done as soon as you have completed it. Make sure your auxiliary chairperson is mentioned in the description if they are not the one doing the reporting. Please do not hold your reports until the last minute. You may forget to report on something that you have done.

Things I'm looking for this year:

- How much money did you donate
- How many craft-at-home hours did you do
- Most Outstanding project