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## Missouri Hospital VAVS 2024-2025

“From Our Roots to Our Branches”  
we are “Helping Veterans by  
Bridging the Gap” and “Giving our  
time and energy for our veterans in  
need.”

### 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 were providing 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 every day across our nation to step up and carry on the work that our older members started. Missouri has seven (7) Veterans Homes. It is imperative that we 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)

**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:**

We have changed it from Sew at Home to Crafting at Home. There are so many things that people craft that isn'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.

**Unusual National Holidays** are fun to celebrate.

Don't forget about the staff and doctors. Have your auxiliary start planning fun days! Here is a great link for you to start planning your fun Days. <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/fun/>

### **Department Hospital Project:**

Wal-Mart gift cards in the amount of \$20 is the project I have selected for the 24-25 year. It is common for residents in Veterans Homes and Nursing Homes to need money for things that is not provided with the services they receive at the homes. Veterans in hospitals are in need of the same. This will provide them dignity allowing them to have control over a small part of their lives. My goal is to have One Thousand (1,000) \$20 cards for our deserving veterans. It would be wonderful if we surpassed our goal. Please purchase the cards and bring them to the Department meetings (or send them with someone who is going). We will be collecting them all year round and will divide them equally among the Veteran Homes and VA Hospitals.

### **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:**

- Number of \$20 Wal-Mart gift cards donated
- Amount of money donated
- Number of handmade cards made and delivered
- Most outstanding project

### **Department of Missouri Building Bridges Awards for Auxiliaries:**

First place - \$20 (subject to approval by the council) and a citation to one Auxiliary in each of the membership groups with the most outstanding program/project including teamwork within the Auxiliary and including the VFW members.

Second place: A citation to one Auxiliary in each of the membership groups with the most outstanding program/project including teamwork within the Auxiliary and including the VFW members.

**Helping Veterans by Bridging the Gap with Teamwork  
From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans**