

HOSPITAL PROGRAM



PROGRAM GOALS
Volunteer Recruitment
Recognition and Support
Valentines for Veterans Women Veterans Health Care
Honors Escort

The Hospital Program is one of the first adopted Programs in the Auxiliary, dating back to 1914.

This program is about giving ourselves to our Veterans. So many Veterans sustain life long injuries and illnesses while in the service of our country. They suffer every day. What we can do in the Auxiliary is recognize them, let them know they are not forgotten. We can share ourselves with the Veterans and their families, by showing compassion, kindness, and hope.

Every Auxiliary member can participate by volunteering at a facility or making things and sending them. At your Auxiliary meeting, share creative ideas of how to help with their needs.

Remember, Veteran hospitals, Domiciliaries, and nursing homes are more than brick buildings. They are the home of a Veteran.

Who can Volunteer?
Members
Registered volunteer, or Occasional.
Sponsored Volunteers
Family, Friends, or Youth.

What can WE do?
Contact the facility of your choice.
Learn their guidelines regarding what opportunities are available.
Provide items that the Veterans need.
Find creative ways to entertain them or celebrate a holiday(nontraditional holidays can be fun!)
Host an event with your VFW

Where can we Volunteer?
Both VA and Non-VA hospitals
Nursing homes with Veterans.
VA Clinics

Karen Heikkila
Hospital Chairman
hospitalauxfl@yahoo.com

Hospital Department Awards

Most creative ways to interact with and to provide happiness to veteran patients.

1. Special Award to one VFW Auxiliary in each membership group with the most creative in way to interact with and to provide happiness to veteran patients.

Entry form required and available on Dept. Website and in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Hospital Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging. The Department Hospital Chairman

NATIONAL Awards for Members

1. Citation to one VFW Auxiliary member in each of the 10 Program Divisions who recruits the most Hospital (VA and non-VA facilities) volunteers from July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. Entry form required available on MALTA Member Resources. Winners will be announced and citations presented at the 2025 National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.
2. "Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year" plaque awarded to one VFW Auxiliary member in the nation who recruits the most Hospital (VA and non-VA facilities) volunteers from July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. Entry form required available in MALTA Member Resources. Winner will be announced and plaque presented at the 2025 National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.
3. Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in each of the 10 Program Divisions. Entry form required available on MALTA Member Resources. Winners will be announced and citation presented at the 2025 National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most creative ways to interact with and to provide happiness to veteran patients.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that were the most creative in ways to interact with and to provide happiness to veteran patients.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Hospital Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging. The Department Hospital Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Hospital Ambassador by April 30, 2025 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convent

Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service

VAVS

The VFWA Veterans Administration Volunteer Services (VAVS) operates one of the largest volunteer programs in the Federal government, supplementing staff, and resources in all areas of patient care and support. Our Auxiliaries are represented at nearly 100% of the VA facilities across the United States. Donations to the VAVS assist in support services, activities, and comfort essentials that may not be fiscal priorities of the VA. Donations are forwarded to the Department of Florida Treasurer, then disbursed as needed.

Becoming a registered hospital volunteer requires a minimum of 4 hours at a VA facility per month. Your VAVS Representative or Deputy can help register you.

This year, one of the main goals will be recruiting ***Sponsored hospital volunteers***. These are people outside the Auxiliary who want to assist in our efforts. Friends, Family, and students 14 years and older. Their hours will be saved in the VA system. Award pins are issued when 100 hours are accumulated. This is a great opportunity for students looking to earn community service hours for school.

There are more Veterans being served in the VA system than ever before. This makes becoming and recruiting volunteers a priority.

Be a Certified or Occasional Volunteer

Certified volunteers .

Comply with VAVS guidelines

Participate on a regularly scheduled program

VAVS Representatives and Deputies are appointed by the Department President.

Occasional Volunteer

Do not meet the requirements of CV

Volunteer with your Auxiliary hospital program

How VFW Auxiliary members participate:

***Participate in projects and events voted on by your Auxiliary.

Make items such as lap blankets, quilts, cards, wall, or table decorations. Toiletry kits, ect.

**Fundraise for the Department hospital fund.

**Enlist volunteers at all the VA facilities.

**Show appreciation to the volunteers with certificates and pins for hours earned, both at the VA, and through the hospital program.

Karen Heikkila
Hospital Chairman
hospitalauxfl@yahoo.com