

Hospital and VAVS Program  
2010-2011

**“From the clouds above, to the ocean floor,  
we serve our veterans evermore”**  
become a hospital volunteer

The Hospital/VAVS Program is the second oldest national program and is one that touches so many Auxiliary sisters. With the vast increase in the veteran population over the last few years and the U.S. government constantly threatening to cut funding and/or close VA facilities, the hospitalized veterans need our help. Question: What are you doing for them? Do you visit? Bake cookies? Do you let these deserving veterans know how you feel and that you are here for them? Are you volunteering or are you sitting back thinking someone else can or will do the job?

Here are some ways that we can serve our veterans:

1. Volunteer in any medical facility such as a VAMC, community or children's hospital, nursing/convalescent home, therapy center or outpatient clinic.
2. Recognize a volunteer by nominating her as 'Outstanding Hospital Volunteer.'
3. Encourage Jr. Girls to volunteer and/or schools to have a student volunteer program, whether it involves students actually going to a medical facility or helping in other ways by making treats, ditty bags, etc. Nominate a student volunteer in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade or above that has completed 100 hours at a VA medical facility during the calendar year ending September 1, 2010, for the James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship. Forms and more information are available at the VA Voluntary Service Office of each VAMC.
4. Volunteer to assist with the 'Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project' whether it is support through a monetary donation or by actually going to a medical facility and typing a veteran's creative writing (more information in Bulletin 1).
5. Volunteer to either knit/crochet or quilt/appliqué a lap robe and donate it directly to a medical facility or enter it in the Mid-Winter Conference lap robe contest. *Contest information:* a) *Lap robes must be made by an Auxiliary member;* b) *36" to 46" wide and 46" to 56" long (no fringe);* c) *lap robes will not be returned.* District Chairmen will set the deadline and the top winning lap robe in each category will be sent to the Mid-Winter Conference for final judging.
6. Donate \$1/member (based on 6/30/10 membership) to 'Hospital Fund':  
LAVFW Department of Ohio P.O. Box 15730 Columbus, OH 43215  
After this obligation is met, other donations may be sent to Department earmarked for a specific VA Hospital.

The PINK BOOK (VAVS and Hospital Volunteer Guide) is an awesome little book loaded with useful information and helpful hints. An Auxiliary may request ONE copy by writing to:

VFW National Headquarters 406 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street Kansas City, MO 64111

An excerpt from the book states “. . . A volunteer is often the patient’s only contact with the world beyond the walls of the facility, and his or her presence can mean the difference between a patient’s will to respond to treatment or to sink into despair.”

Remember the words from “HELP” by the Beatles:

“. . . Help me if you can, I’m feeling down  
And I do appreciate you being round.  
Help me get my feet back on the ground,  
Won’t you please, please help me, help me, help me.”

Thank you for what you have done and continue to do for our hospitalized veterans.

Loyally,  
Jane Walker, Dept. Chairman  
600 N. Market Street  
East Palestine, OH 44413  
330-426-3203

#### **Junior Unit Awards at Junior Girls Conference**

Award to Unit for bringing the most first-time youth volunteers to a hospital/nursing home treat or assisting in making donated items  
Citation to all Units participating

#### **Mid-Winter Conference**

Citation to each Auxiliary for participating in Hospital Program by December 31, 2010  
Award to the winner in each category of the lap robe contest

#### **June Convention**

##### **Auxiliary:**

Citation for donating \$1/member (membership as of June 30, 2010).  
Citation for donating to the ‘Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project’  
Citation to each candidate nominated for ‘Outstanding Hospital Volunteer’  
Award to the ‘Outstanding Hospital Volunteer’  
Award by membership group for the MOST money/member donated to Hospital Fund  
Award by membership group for the BEST program/project at a medical facility

##### **District:**

Award to the District Chairman with the best promotion of the Hospital Program