



# VAVS Newsletter

VA Medical Center  
Battle Creek, Michigan

October - December 2008

## ***Volunteers:***

**Please return the last page of the Annual Training Newsletter you received last month as soon as possible with your signature to certify you reviewed it. Please mail it or drop it off to Community and Volunteer Service.**

## ***And the Winners Are...***

Congratulations to the following volunteers who were selected in the drawing for returning the signed training sheets that were in the Annual Volunteer Training Newsletter.

**1st Category** (Sheets turned in by August 29)  
\$30 Canteen Gift Certificate - Samuel Kiger, Roland Francis, and William Chiddister

**2nd Category** (Sheets turned in by September 12)  
\$15 Canteen Gift Certificate - Janette Brockway, Clyde Logan, and James Schweizer

**3rd Category** (Sheets turned in by September 22)  
\$5 Canteen Gift Certificate - Alan Forrester, Sharon Williams, and Jerry Everett

## ***Carnival News***

The patient Carnival will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Confirmations have been sent out. Each booth will be provided one table per game. Each sponsor may bring a card table to place at the back of the booth for prizes. **All prizes are to be clean or new. If you need additional prizes to operate your booth until 1:00 p.m. please see Dawn or Nancy the day of the Carnival.**



## ***Congratulations to our own Cereal City Patriots!***

We had a team of eleven veterans competing with over 750 veterans from 40 states in Indianapolis, IN, from August 20 through 24. They competed in a variety of events, including; golf, swimming, shuffleboard, croquet, bicycling, shot put, discus, horseshoes, air rifle, and bowling. Our team won three medals including a Gold in horseshoes and Silver in discus and shuffleboard. Great job!! Next year's games will be held in Birmingham, AL, June 1-5, 2009, hosted by the Birmingham VA Medical Center.

## *Certifications*

Roger Waugh, Representative, UAW  
William Rhoades, Deputy, MOPH

## *Annual Joint Reviews Due*

### **September**

AMVETS Auxiliary  
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary  
Forty Et Eight  
Military Order of Cootie Auxiliary

### **October**

Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
Marine Corps League Auxiliary  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary

### **November**

American Legion Auxiliary  
Catholic War Veterans  
Jewish War Veterans  
Polish Legion of American Veterans Auxiliary  
United Auto Workers  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

## *Community Living Center Residents Give Back...*

The Battle Creek VA Medical Center recently began a partnership with the VFW National Home for Children. Students have been invited to participate in our Summer Serves program, toddlers and pre-school children visited the Community Living Center (CLC) for Trick or Treating and most recently the Therapeutic Recreation Section has begun transporting some of the CLC residents to the home for a reading hour with the day care children. Both the veterans and children enjoy the stories and time together. This is a perfect partnership, veterans giving back and supporting military families. We look forward to more activities with the home.

## **Mark Your Calendar...**

### **OCTOBER**

**9** Carnival  
9:00 a.m., Auditorium

**13** Columbus Day  
(Office Closed)

### **NOVEMBER**

**11** Veterans Day  
(Office Closed)

**27** Thanksgiving  
(Office Closed)

### **DECEMBER**

**3-4** American Legion  
Auxiliary Gift Shop

**5** VAVS Executive  
Meeting, 1:30 p.m.

**10** VAVS Committee  
Meeting, 11:00 a.m.

**16** Gift Wrap  
9:00 a.m., Auditorium

**17** Gift Distribution  
1:00 p.m. and 6:00  
p.m., Auditorium

**25** Christmas Holiday  
(Office Closed)

## ***Summer Serve Program***

This year 28 students from community schools participated in the program, which included new students and some returnees. This year's program invited youth from the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids to join local youth. The youth escorted patients to activities in the park on Tuesdays and to the Canteen to shop with Canteen books on Thursday. Thanks to all our sponsors for supporting the Summer Serve Program. The students contributed 836 volunteer hours over the six week period.

Now that school has started we have several of the students returning in the evenings and weekends to continue their visits with the patients.



## ***Activity Sponsors***

Letters for scheduling recreational events on the 2009 Activity Calendar will be mailed out in early November. Please work with your organization on dates and return your material to Therapeutic Recreation as soon as possible.

Your continued support and dedication to our veterans is truly appreciated!



## ***Watermelon Fest***

The annual Watermelon Fest was held August 12, 2008 and the weather cooperated so it could be held in the Bicentennial Park. There was a huge turnout of patients and volunteers. All 30 watermelons were enjoyed and patients listened to the music and sang. There weren't any leftovers! Save the date for next year, August 11, 2009!

## ***United Way Day of Caring***

This year's Day of Caring was Thursday, September 4. Four employees from Denso visited the Community Living Center. They played games, visited and enjoyed refreshments with several of the residents. Thank you Denso for your continued support and we look forward to next year's Day of Caring.

## ***Flu Shots...***

More information on flu shot clinics will become available when we receive notification of when the vaccine will be received.

## ***Community Living Center Construction Projects***

As you are participating in your activities in the CLC, please remember to be tolerant of the construction projects the next couple of months.

**VA Medical Center  
Community and Volunteer Service  
5500 Armstrong Road  
Battle Creek, MI 49037**

**CURRENT NEEDS LIST – October - December 2008**

**Miscellaneous**

Meijer or Wal-Mart Gift Cards  
Board Games  
Gas Cards (\$20 amounts)  
Telephone Cards - 60 minutes  
McDonald's and Burger King Gift Certificates  
DVD Players  
Men's Underwear (M-XL)  
Casual Shoes (size 10-13)  
Men's White Socks  
Men's White T-shirts (L-3XL)

**Toiletries**

Toothpaste  
Hair Combs & Brushes  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Pump Soap  
Body Wash  
Body lotion  
Spray Deodorant  
Alcohol Free Mouthwash

**Due to infection control policies, we request that all personal care items be new.**

**No sample sizes**

**No sunglasses**

**No bar Soap**

**No puzzles**

**100% of your donation will be used for veterans' needs**

**Monetary Donations**

**GPF #05** Recreation  
**\*GPF #09** Emergency Funds: Battle Creek  
or Grand Rapids  
**GPF #13** Grand Rapids CBOC Coffee Fund  
**GPF #16** Homeless Veterans Program Fund  
**\*GPF #17** Vietnam Veteran Memorial Trip  
**GPF #20** Televisions  
**GPF #20** Cultural Transformation Project  
**\*GPF #20** Videos for Vet – Needs \$392.65 per month  
Project funds showing of first run movies  
over VA cable system. Sponsor is listed  
in the bi-monthly movie guide

**Monetary Donations**

**\*GPF #25** Pontoon Boat Fund  
**\*GPF #26** Golden Age Games  
**GPF #34** MHICM Fund  
**GPF #41** Seamless Transition  
Fund

**\* = General Post Funds or items most in need**

**Please call and check with the office prior to making purchases. If you wish to contribute or have any questions, call Linda Heidenreich or Dawn Craig at (269) 223-5497. Make checks payable to VA Medical Center. In the "memo" section of the check, please indicate which General Post Fund you want the donation deposited into.**

## **Prizes and Gifts for Patients**

We appreciate the generous items donated to the medical center for prizes and gifts that are given to the patients, but we would like to let you know that we can't accept the following things:

- Knives
- Razors
- Alcohol-based mouthwash
- Alcohol-based aftershave
- Sewing kits
- Belts
- Glass Containers
- Cash as prizes or gifts
- Bar Soap

Thank you for your cooperation!

## ***Volunteers Needed!***

Volunteers are needed for a number of upcoming events at the medical center. The Carnival will be held on October 9 at 9:00 a.m. Gift Wrap will take place December 16 at 9:00 a.m. and Gift Distribution will be held on December 17 at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. All of these events will be held in the Auditorium, Building 6.

For details about these programs or to sign up, call Dawn at (269) 223-5497.

## **STAFF**

**Nancy Babcock, CAVS**  
*Chief*

**Dawn Craig**  
*Voluntary Specialist*

**Linda Heidenreich**  
*Program Support Assistant*

**Ron Kimball**  
*Program Support Clerk*

Community and Volunteer Service  
Building 10, Room 110  
VA Medical Center  
5500 Armstong Rd  
Battle Creek, MI 49037  
(269) 223-5497

**VA Medical Center (135)  
Battle Creek, MI 49037**