

2012 Voluntary Services Wish List



Chalmers P. Wylie
VA Ambulatory Care Center
420 North James Road
Columbus, OH 43219

HOT! ONGOING EFFORTS Homeless Veteran Program

Congress has made it a priority to end homelessness. This entails continued expansion of already proven programs and services to help homeless Veterans and families end the cycle of homelessness. Many Veterans and their families need items such as furniture, hygiene items and other essential items to assist them with the transition to permanent housing from shelters and the streets. Each year many Veterans are taken off the streets and assisted with these items and many of these Veterans are assisted through voluntary donations to the Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center homeless program. As we will be housing more and more Veterans in the upcoming year, the homeless program is in desperate need of continued monetary assistance to ensure Veterans are getting the needed items for them to live.

HOT HOT HOT!! National Salute to Veteran Patients

The National Salute to Veteran patients is a weeklong event designed to show our appreciation for our Veterans and their service to our country. During the event we pass out Valentines; take flowers and patriotic gifts to Veterans who are in nursing homes; have entertainment and refreshments in our atrium; invite local community leaders; pass out patriotic trinkets; and have other events that say "thank you" to our Veterans. In 2012 we will be hosting a National Salute concert at the Aladdin Shrine for more than 2,000 Veterans. Monetary donations go a long way in making the event a success.

Veterans Holiday Event:

In 2011 more than 2500 Veterans and their families attended the Veterans Family Holiday party at the Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center. During this event we offer free professional level photos with Santa, Entertainment, refreshments, crafts for the children and much, much more. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated to support this growing event.

Veterans Fourth of July Cookout:

Each year we honor Veterans by having a Fourth of July Cookout. We welcome monetary donations to support this event as well as volunteer support.

HOT HOT!! Veterans Welcome Home Event:

In 2011 more than 4000 Veterans and their families took part in the "Welcome Home Event" sponsored by the Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center and the Columbus Zoo. In 2012 the event will once again be held at the Columbus Zoo and admission will once again be free of charge. We would like to supply lunch for the first 2000 Veterans who attend. Monetary donations to support this event would be a tremendous help for the program. \$10,000.00 or any monetary donation accepted.

Canteen Coupons/Food Gift Cards:

We would like to give our Homeless Veterans vouchers for food. We often get requests from our Homeless Veterans for food. We would like to be able to give them a voucher if they haven't eaten for quite some time. Any restaurant or grocery

store food voucher is accepted. Canteen Coupon books or monetary donations to the general post fund are always needed.

Our smaller clinics in Grove City, Newark, Zanesville and Marion do not have a cafeteria like our main facility. From time to time if a patient comes in and needs a meal the CBOC staff would like to be able to offer them a gift card to one of the local fast food restaurants.

Women Serving in Afghanistan:

The women serving in Afghanistan and women Veterans are in need of feminine care products, “fuzzy” socks, undergarments, clear polish, emery boards, non-perishable snacks, Visine, women’s magazines, etc. Monetary donations or items are greatly appreciated.

Bus Passes

These are needed for our Homeless Veterans so that they may be able to go to job interviews, appointments, etc. From time to time we also have Veterans who cannot afford transportation or become stranded after an appointment and need bus passes. Bus passes are given out, tracked, and accounted for by Voluntary Services and our Homeless Veteran Coordinators. Monetary donations or bus passes are greatly appreciated.

Ditty Bags

These are bags contain comfort items such as Lotion Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant, Shaving Cream, 1 Razor, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, and Wash Cloth. These bags are given to our Homeless Veterans during their visit to the clinic. In addition they are given out on our weekly visits to local Homeless Shelters. They are compact and easy to carry. We also give them to our patients who are being transferred to local hospitals. For this donation we will put a card in each bag stating that it was donated by your organization.

Towels/Wash Cloth

These are needed for our Homeless Veterans in local shelters. We supply them with comfort items, however are unable to give them towels to clean themselves. Any type of towel will be accepted.

Haircut Vouchers/Gift Cards

We would like to give out Vouchers for Haircuts to our Homeless Veterans. We would like to coordinate this with a barber within the downtown area. This has not been established as of yet. However, it is desperately needed.

Gas Cards

We have Veterans that travel long distances and are sometimes unable to afford gas. These Veterans are not able to receive compensation from the VA due to not

being eligible for reimbursement. Our Social Workers would like to have these cards, so that they may be able to assist these Veterans. As an alternative, Voluntary Service can assist with distributing these cards.

Duffel Bags

When we give clothing and comfort items to our Homeless Veterans, they often don't have a way to hold on to these items. Duffel Bags (Nylon Bag with handle and Zipper) would be a great way for our Veterans to transport any personal items to and from any destination. This is a better alternative than a Hefty Trashbag.

Laundry Detergent

It is our wish to be able to give out small boxes of laundry detergent to our Homeless Veterans, so that they may be able to wash their clothing.

Underwear:

Assorted Sizes of New Underwear Briefs is needed for our Homeless Veterans. Of all items, this one is asked for the most. All Underwear is given out and accounted for by our Homeless Coordinators.

Socks:

This item will be given out with underwear by our Homeless Coordinators.

T-shirts:

This item will be given out with underwear and socks by our Homeless Coordinators.

Smoking Cessation:

Smoking Cessation is a class designed to assist Veterans in quitting smoking. This class has weekly evening meetings. Each member receives packages of gum and hard candies to assist them in curbing their desire to smoke. This class has a monthly need of the following items (Ice Breaker Gum, Sugar free hard candies, Sugar free Snackwells).

Coffee/Snacks:

Each morning Voluntary Service makes coffee for all visiting Veterans and their families. Along with the free coffee, we also provide snacks. All snacks are donated, but more are needed. The items Voluntary Service provides are (Austin Assorted Cookies and Crackers, Fig Nuetens, Animal Crackers, Rice Crispy Treats, Bags of Assorted Chips, Snack Well Sugar Free Cookies, Hot Chocolate, Raisins). This program is used by all Veterans daily. Demand is always high for these items. Monetary donations to the General Post Fund are also appreciated.

Ensure/Sympathy Cards:

Oncology is in need of this item for patients receiving CHEMO. These patients are unable to digest regular food. They also have a need for sympathy cards to send to families who lose a Veteran due to cancer.

Phone Cards:

This item is needed for any Veteran who is in need of phone assistance. We have many Veterans who are in need and often ask our social workers for phone cards. These cards would be accounted for by Voluntary Service.

Homeless Veteran Ditty Bag:

These are bags that contain comfort items such as Underwear, Soaks, T-Shirt, and Toothbrush, Toothpaste. These bags will be given to our Homeless Veterans during our weekly outreach visits. The bag costs \$5.00 from Federated Wholesale.

Coffee:

This item is needed for our Patient Coffee Program. Our patients receive a free cup of coffee when they visit our clinic. Many Veterans have come accustomed to this program and enjoy drinking a cup of coffee with their fellow Veterans.

Monetary Donations:

Monetary Donations are always appreciated to support the wide variety of programs/activities through voluntary Services. You can choose a specific activity to donate funds to or request that your donation be placed in our general funds to support all events.

Veterans MOVE! Program:

Nutrition Services sponsors a very successful healthy weight loss program for our Veterans. In order to enhance their program they would like to have two "WII" Game Systems and two "WII Fit" Programs.

Postage Stamps:

These would be used to give Veterans postage paid envelopes to return applications for enrollment.

Grand Piano:

Yamaha Clavinova Grand Style- Polished Ebony Finish for the Atrium of the new facility. It would provide the sound of soothing and patriotic music for Veterans during their visits to our facility.

Volunteers:

Of all Items this is the most needed in our clinic. Without Volunteers our Clinic cannot run successfully. We need Men and Women to donate 4 hours of their time, one-day a week, to assist our Veterans. Who better to assist our Veterans than people who have the heart and compassion to help others? Our Veterans need your assistance. We have many positions available. Please make that first step and call Voluntary Services at 257-5496. We need you!

Additional Information

All donations must come through Voluntary Services. Donation Slips can be picked up in the Voluntary Services office. Each donation will be input into a donation-tracking package and thank you letters will be sent out for each Monetary and Non-Monetary Donation. Your assistance in purchasing these items is greatly appreciated. Although the Federal Government allocates money for our annual budget many of the things that are on this list cannot be purchased through appropriated funds. It is up to us to ensure that these items are available for our Veterans. On behalf of the Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center and Voluntary Service we thank you for your support of our Nations Veterans.

If you may have any questions regarding any of the items listed please contact Traci Washington, Voluntary Service Officer at (614) 257-5469.