



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Hospital Bulletin – October/November 2024

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The holidays will soon be here. Are you saving toilet paper tubes to turn into treats for our veterans who are in VA, non-VA or nursing homes? The tubes are good for putting soft candy in for our veterans. Since some veterans are diabetic, when wrapping the tubes with gift wrap, indicate if the candy is sugar free. Attach a label with your Auxiliary number and location. Set aside a day or evening when you can do this with your Auxiliary members and invite youth groups to help.

Along with this team building, the wrapping party would be a good way to talk about the joys of volunteering, and recruit new members to come along when you distribute the candy-filled tubes. There are many ways of volunteering.

When you take a position, especially as a volunteer, it is said at that time you need to think about finding your replacement or at least another volunteer. What have you or your Auxiliary done to recruit new hospital volunteers within your Auxiliary or with youth groups in your area? Check with your local high school, as the guidance counselors may be looking for opportunities for their students who need volunteer hours. Hospital volunteering is not just about accumulating hours for awards; it is about bringing joy and smiles to our veterans. Talk to them, ask their first name, what branch of service they were in, do they have a favorite story about their time in the **military** to share, etc.

Regularly Scheduled Volunteers are individuals who participate in the VAVS program on a regularly scheduled assignment under VA supervision. There is a process at the VA to become a RS volunteer with background screening and orientation.

Occasional/Episodic Volunteers are those individuals serving under the VAVS program but don't meet the requirements of RS volunteers. These individuals frequently volunteer with a group or organization on an occasional basis.

Student Volunteers are under the age of 18 and must have parental or guardian approval to participate in the VAVS program.

More information on volunteering can be found in MALTA under Hospital Resources.

Have you read this far? Are you looking for the code word to put in your hospital report? Well, you have already read it at your meeting if you read this bulletin! Reminder that it is in bold letters.

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