



# Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Auxiliary Community Outreach Bulletin July-August 2021 [www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

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***National Theme: Soaring Above & Beyond***  
***Department Theme: Tell Our Story of Service***

It was great meeting many of you at the June Conference! Wasn't it a great time of fellowship?? I hope everyone has sat down and looked over your Guide Sheet for this upcoming program year. If you haven't already, please sit down, look at the calendar and see where you and your Auxiliary can assist your community. By planning, you are setting yourself up for a successful year!



I have come to understand there is confusion with this program and I want to do my best to clarify some things. When you are looking for opportunities to volunteer in your community, remember, it is about YOUR TIME that you invest and NOT anything of monetary value! In addition, this is volunteer work performed by one member, a group of members of an Auxiliary for the benefit of their community or its institutions! When an Auxiliary member, group of members or an entire Auxiliary volunteers, it should be for an organization outside of our own. This means, you cannot report for mowing a neighbor's yard (an individual) but for organization that needs mowing assistance. Think along the lines of organizations, institutions, or churches as a whole and not individual needs.

What are the benefits of community service?

- Helping others
- Learning new skills
- Career advancement
- Increased confidence
- Meeting new people and new contacts (and perhaps potential new members)
- Fighting stress and depression
- Developing a stronger sense of purpose
- Personal growth
- Helps you stay physically healthy

Don't be scared to step out of your comfort zone! Get out there and share your story of service and don't forget to show your Auxiliary pride!

Upcoming Dates: July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day

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"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?"  
-Martin Luther King Jr.

Reporting: Please be sure to indicate how many members and hours your volunteered. This is information I will need to forward on to National so it is imperative you indicate those numbers in your report.

The anniversary of 9/11 is fast approaching, and it will be a great opportunity to host a local First Responder Appreciation event. Call local partners in your community that can help support your project. I am sure there are other businesses that would love to participate in an appreciation event. They have been on the front lines this past year and have been pivotal in keeping our communities safe! Other ideas to support First Responders is to:

- Volunteer at a safety fair First Responders may be conducting (eg. Fire Safety seminar, CPR Training, bike helmet distribution, child ID kits). Call your local hospital, Fire Department, Police station and ask where you and your organization could help!
- Educate the public about project blue light. This is project where you have a blue light shining from your front porch showing that you support our local police.
- Help and/or participate in their fundraisers.



Auxiliary Community Outreach can...

- Be performed by people of any age, skill set or ability level.
- Benefit any **group of people** such as children, senior citizens and those with disabilities.
- Benefit animals, the environment, and public spaces.
- Be done in communities of all types and sizes – rural, suburban and urban, small and large.

Please don't hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions.

Upcoming Dates: Aug 4, National Coast Guard Day; Aug 7, Purple Heart Day; Aug 14, National Code Talkers Day; Aug 16, National Airborne Day; Aug 17, National Non-Profit Day; Aug 22, Michigan Day at the National Home

Don't forget to "Like" and share your photos on the Department of Auxiliary Programs page. I look forward to seeing your accomplishments!

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