

# KANSAS VFW AUXILIARY 2025-2026 HOSPITAL PROGRAM

Kelle Brewer-Brown, Chairman – February 2026

Even the smallest act of caring for another person is like a drop of water, it will make ripples throughout all the seas.  
~ Bryan Matteo

National Hospital Ambassador Kim Copson reminds us to:

“Make sure you are filling out your Auxiliary reports that go to the Chairmen. ALL your work deserves to be counted, and the reports show just how much you are doing in your state for our veterans.”

\*\*\*\*\*

## VALENTINES FOR VETERANS/ NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERAN PATIENTS WEEK

VA's and other medical facilities where veterans receive medical treatment will recognize and honor hospitalized Veterans as part of National Salute to Veteran Patients week, the week of Valentine's Day, from **February 08-14, 2026**.

National Salute to Veteran Patients provides every American the chance to thank Veterans for their freedom by sending Valentines to hospitalized veterans.

Send your cards today or take the extra step to visit our heroes in person. You can even volunteer at the local VA or other medical facility to build skills and serve those who served. The cards, letters and special greetings will be distributed to inpatient Veterans, by hospital staff or volunteers during the week. Please keep in mind....Sometimes, as a safety precaution, cards may be kept in quarantine for 7 days before giving them to patients.

See Dec 2025 KS Sunflower Express for tips for sending cards.



Fill a **VALENTINE** sack with gifts, goodies and gratitude for our hospitalized veterans.

## CHECK IT OUT.....on the KS VFW Auxiliary website:

**\*\*NEW\*\* PRINTABLES:** Valentines Card; Compliments tear-off poster; Recipes.



**NATIONAL AWARD FORMS:** (also on National website)

### Hospital Auxiliary Award No. 1

Most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide happiness to veterans in hospitals (VA and non-VA facilities).

### Hospital Member Award No. 1 & No. 2

No. 1 "Hospital Volunteer Recruiter" Citation to one VFW Auxiliary member in each of the 10 Program Divisions who recruits the most Hospital volunteers (VA and non-VA facilities) from July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

No. 2 "Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year" Plaque awarded to one VFW Auxiliary member in the nation who recruits the most Hospital volunteers (VA and non VA facilities) from July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

### Hospital Member Award No. 3

No. 3 "Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year" Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in each 10 Divisions.

\*\*\*\*\*

Find more inspirational occasions to spread **SUNSHINE** to our hospitalized veterans at: [holidayscalendar.com](http://holidayscalendar.com)

#### February:

- 08 – Super Bowl
- 15 – Nat'l Caregivers Day (see Nov Sunflower Express)
- 20 – Hoodie Hoo Day
- 23 – Play More Cards Day (Hearts, Spoons, Uno...)
- 26 – National Chili Day



#### March:

- 01 - World Compliment Day (see **NEW** above)
- 03 – National Anthem Day
- 07 – National **Sock Monkey** Day (make your own)
- 10 – International Day of Awesomeness
- 12 – Popcorn Lovers Day

## REMEMBER THE C'S ..... <CARDS < CHALLENGES < CONTESTS

<CARDS – Each month send card(s) to hospitalized veterans in the medical facility(ies) of your choice.....Report it!

< CHALLENGE – Deadlines Feb. 28, 2026 (Submit recipe on back of/attached to Dept Happiness from Home form). . . .Report it!!

<CONTESTS – Enter the Hospital Contests..... Report it !!!

## VA Medical Foster Home Checklist

Are you interested in becoming a Medical Foster Home (MFH) Caregiver? Review the checklist below for more information, then reach out to your local MFH Coordinator.

### Caregivers

Complete an application and participate in an interview with the Medical Foster Home Program Coordinator and other staff as needed.

- I am at least 21 years of age
- I can demonstrate financial stability
- I have formal or informal caregiving experience
- I can ensure a congenial and homelike atmosphere
- I am willing to provide direct care to Veterans with high level care needs – with education and support from Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) providers
- I am able to ensure that an approved relief caregiver or myself will be present and available at all times to respond to Veterans' needs
- I am physically able to provide 24/7 care and supervision, with occasional support from approved Relief Caregivers
- I am able to communicate any significant changes in the Veterans' normal appearance, behavior or state of health and well-being to the HBPC health care team and am willing to accept, participate and follow the Veteran's treatment plan
- I agree to complete a criminal background check and provide at least 3 personal and work-related references
- I agree to unannounced visits to the home by the MFH Coordinator to ensure the health and safety of Veterans living in the home is consistent with VA standards

### Homes

- I own or rent the home I live in
- I agree to live in the MFH and it will be my primary residence
- The home is located, designed, equipped and maintained to ensure a home-like environment and provide safe care and supervision for all residents
- There is space to care for 1 to 3 Veterans, with separate bedrooms
- I agree to have the home inspected by a VA multidisciplinary team including a Safety Officer, Nurse, MFH Coordinator, Dietitian, and Rehabilitation Therapist
- The home and Caregiver must comply with all state and local licensure requirements and regulations, including construction, fire, maintenance and sanitation
- Meet the applicable provisions of the most current edition of the national Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Life Safety Code, which includes evacuating all residents within 3 minutes in a fire drill
- The home is located within the service area of a VA HBPC team

## What is a Medical Foster Home?

Medical Foster Homes are private homes in which a trained caregiver provides services to a few individuals. Some, but not all, residents are Veterans. A Medical Foster Home can serve as an alternative to a nursing home. It may be appropriate for Veterans who require nursing home care but prefer a non-institutional setting with fewer residents.

Medical Foster Homes are private residences where the caregiver and relief caregivers provide care and supervision 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This caregiver can help the Veteran carry out activities of daily living, such as bathing and getting dressed. VA ensures that the caregiver is well trained to provide VA planned care. While living in a Medical Foster Home, Veterans receive Home Based Primary Care.

## Are you interested in becoming a Medical Foster Home Caregiver?

If you are interested in becoming a Medical Foster Home (MFH) Caregiver, review the [VA Medical Foster Home Checklist](#), then reach out to your local MFH Coordinator.

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Kansas</b> |              |
| Eastern KS    | 785-350-3111 |
| Hays          | 316-685-2221 |
| Wichita       | 316-685-2221 |

## VA SERVICES FOR WOMEN VETERANS:

LIVE  
BREAKING NEWS

### 10 WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE SERVICES THAT MAY SURPRISE YOU!

- Women's Mental Health Services
- Breastfeeding Supplies & Lactation Support
- Sexual Health Evaluation & Treatment
- Post Mastectomy Prosthetics
- Telehealth Appointments
- Yogo, Tai Chi, Acupuncture
- Recreation & Art Therapy
- Pelvic Floor Therapy for Pain, Urinary Issues & Constipation
- Healthy Cooking Classes
- Treatment for Sleep Issues



The Women Veterans Call Center is your guide to VA.



WOMEN VETERANS CALL CENTER  
**855.VA.WOMEN**

**CALL** **TEXT**

**WE ARE OPEN**

**Weekdays:**

8:00 am–10:00 pm ET

**Saturday:**

8:00 am–6:30 pm ET



**General health care and wellness checks, including routine screenings**



**Pain management and care related to musculoskeletal injuries**



**Women-specific care for reproductive health (including birth control) and menopause**



**Mental health services including medications, counseling, and referrals**



**Management of long-term conditions, like heart disease and diabetes**



**Treatment for conditions related to military sexual trauma**

**VA also provides specialty services, such as:** Gynecologic and gertility treatment; Sensory aids and prosthetics; Other specialities including radiology, neurology, cardiology, orthopedics,rheumatology, oncology and endocrinology.