

KANSAS VFW AUXILIARY

2025-2026 HOSPITAL PROGRAM

Kelle Brewer-Brown, Chairman – August 2025



Ever heard the phrase, "It takes a village to raise a child?" The phrase embodies the concept of a whole community interacting for the well-being, safety, and health of all, particularly vulnerable populations such as children. **The same is true when it comes to helping and assisting our hospitalized veterans.** After all it is these same veterans who sacrificed to protect and defend OUR villages, OUR freedoms.

One of the goals of our Hospital program is to provide our hospitalized veterans with opportunities to maintain and/or improve their quality of life. To achieve this goal we need several things. First and foremost is.... PEOPLE. "It takes a village" emphasizes that success often requires the collective effort and support of many people. Things like fundraisers, supply drives, or recreational & educational events need people, materials, and planning.

We need to recruit PEOPLE from our VILLAGES to be VOLUNTEERS for our Hospital program. Members or non-members, young or old, social butterflies or homebodies...**Everyone** brings their own special talents in helping to maintain a good quality of life for our hospitalized veterans.

It takes a village for us to stay on the right track: to encourage and remind each other that we are so much more together than separate; to encourage and remind each other to be dedicated to helping our fellow man. **Please consider being a "Village" Volunteer for our Hospital program.**

Many hands make light work. Print and hang the Hospital Volunteer recruitment poster (below) in your village.

VFW Auxiliary National Hospital Ambassador Kim Copson stated, "As we continue to support our veterans', we want to keep bringing the bright smiles of sunshine to our veterans' faces, as they are the stars of this great nation." Find more inspirational occasions to spread **SUNSHINE** to our hospitalized veterans at: holidayscalendar.com

August:

06- Root Beer Float Day
14- National Creamsicle Day
16 - National Tell a Joke Day
22 – Be An Angel Day
31 – National Trail Mix Day

September:

01 – Labor Day
05 – National Food Bank Day
10 - Nat'l Naval Sea Cadet Corps formed (1962)
12 – National Day of Encouragement
18 - US Air Force Birthday (1947)



REMEMBER THE C'S <CARDS < CHALLENGES <CONTESTS

<CARDS – Each month send a card (or cards) to hospitalized veterans in the medical facility(ies) of your choice.

< CHALLENGE – Recipe for any variation of a root beer float served to veterans in a medical facility setting.

Deadline Feb. 28, 2026 (Submit recipe on back of/attached to Dept Happiness from Home form)

<CONTESTS – Use the song lyrics to identify the song and the artist. Deadline November 30, 2025

District # _____ Auxiliary # _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

If I had a tale that I could tell you
I'd tell a tale sure to make you smile
If I had a wish that I could wish for you
I'd make a wish for sunshine all the while
(1)

And just a little bit of sunshine
Makes it all a better place
You can chase away your troubles
When you got a happy face
(2)

Every day is Christmas
When every day is Thanksgiving
I can find the sunshine
If I count my blessings
(3)

(1)Song _____

(2)Song _____

(3)Song _____

(1)Artist _____

(2)Artist _____

(3)Artist _____

September is Suicide Awareness Month

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States. In fact, more people kill themselves than are killed by others each year. It is a serious public health problem.

It's up to EVERYONE to learn the warning signs and help those with suicide thoughts and feelings.

Many Veterans may not show any signs of intent to harm themselves before doing so, but some actions can be a sign that a Veteran needs help. Veterans in crisis may show behaviors that indicate a risk of harming themselves.

By reaching out, you can help someone going through a difficult time feel included and supported. Small actions of support — calling up an old friend or bringing over dinner — are thoughtful ways to show you care. Whether you have one minute, one hour, or more time over the course of a week, you can help someone feel less alone. Explore ways to show you care, and share these ideas with your friends on social media.

SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO ...

IN ONE MINUTE: Learn the signs of crisis; email a friend; send a text; share a video; share a local resource.

IN ONE HOUR: Call a friend; send a care package; bring someone dinner, stop by a friend's house; meet for coffee.

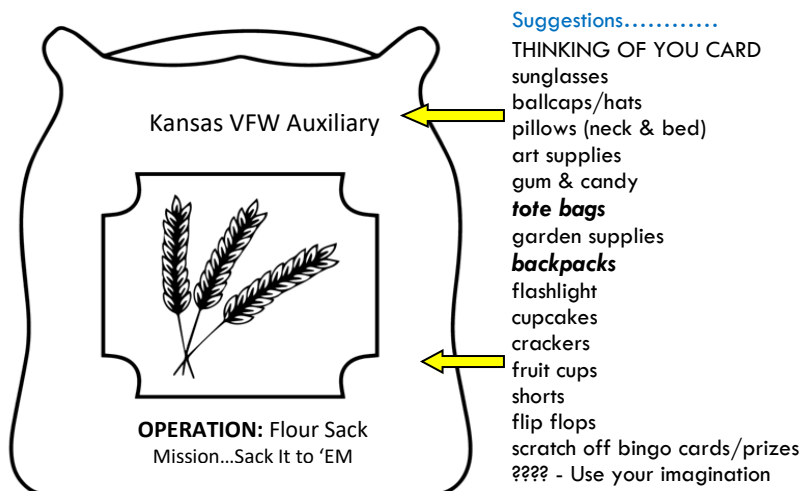
ONCE A WEEK: Offer to babysit; be a gym buddy; try a new activity with a friend; run errands for someone; volunteer

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 988 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.



WHAT'S IN YOUR SACK ?

Fill your sacks with gifts, goodies and gratitude for our hospitalized veterans.



Every Auxiliary should assist in supporting Hospital program by making a donation to the **Dept. Hospital General Fund**.

Your monetary support allows our Dept VAVS Representatives to purchase the needed items for our Hospitalized Veterans and provides funds for various activities.

Adding a Dept Hospital General Fund donation, in a specific amount, to your standing rules will ensure your Auxiliary is doing it's part to support our hospitalized veterans.

Your Auxiliary can always vote to change the donation amount or to make additional donations throughout the year.

VFW Auxiliary Hospital General Fund
Please Give Generously

Soar above the rest. Not with pride, but with purpose. - Unknown



We Need You! Become A Hospital Volunteer



Everyone Can Make an Impact on the Life of a Veteran. **Even You!**

The VFW Auxiliary is recruiting volunteers for our Hospital Program. If you and/or your family (including children) have a few hours weekly, monthly, or occasionally, and are interested in serving those who served our great nation, please contact us to find out more about our volunteer opportunities.*

**You do not need to be a member of the VFW Auxiliary to volunteer with us!*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

greeter • shuttle driver • patient attendant • patient meal assistant • administrative assistant • reader • letter writer • musician • and more!

VOLUNTEER BENEFITS

learn new skills • gain experience • stay mentally and physically active • meet new people • try something new • increase self-confidence • give back to our nation's veterans • make a difference • have fun!

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER TODAY!



For more information, visit www.vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/hospital