**Hospital Program – January 2020**

Thank you for the Christmas Treats for the VA and the ND Veterans Home. 17 of 31 Auxiliaries sent in donations. Your kindness helped to make Christmas a little brighter for the veterans in the hospital and at Lisbon.

At the VAVS meeting in November, the Recreation Therapist, Tricia Bosak-Bovkoon discussed some activities she has been able to coordinate this year using donated funds. One of these is taking a handful of CLC residents to the NDSU Bison football game over Veterans Day weekend, going to movie theaters, fishing and lunch outings. She has been able to take residents to the Holiday Lights Parade, Big Iron, Rib fest, Red Hawks games, and the Shrine circus. She thanked the volunteers and donors who make it possible for her to provide these experiences for veterans.

Recent request from the CLC is to purchase whiteboards and inserts for each of the 38 patient rooms. Each board is projected to cost $150 - $200, which would be $7,600 in total. The goal for utilizing these whiteboards is to improve veteran & family communication.

The new Health Care System Director, Dr. Weintraub spoke about volunteers. “Volunteer and Veterans Service Organizations have a huge impact on the experiences of veterans coming to the facility and that they are an important part of why people choose to utilize the VA for their care.” For the fiscal year 2019, volunteers donated 40,740 hours of time and $515,997 in donations.

Current Volunteer needs are Caregiver support in-home respite volunteers with daytime availability. Whole Health volunteers with weekday morning availability, CLC Companion volunteers and recovery room assistants in both ambulatory surgery and GI weekday morning availability. Please contact Jaid Nelson in Voluntary Services if interested in any of these positions.

Many resources are available online at the VFW Auxiliary website including the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program Guide. I encourage all local Auxiliary hospital chairman to download a copy of this guide and keep it handy when recruiting new hospital volunteers. Our numbers are down and we need to make a push to add new volunteers to help in hospital work. If you recruit 5 new volunteer, you can earn at pin from the National.

Please send in your nominations for Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year by March 1st. The volunteer may be any Auxiliary member and must serve from March 1, 2019 through February 28, 2020.

Loyally,

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