

## VA VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Each VA Medical Center (VAMC) has Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) that support voluntary efforts on behalf of the visiting and hospitalized veterans. If you are a veteran, Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion and interested in volunteering at a local VAMC or Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) with the VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) program, please contact us and we will route you through the proper channels. The hours and monetary donations involved are imperative as they are reported to our Congress and reflect the efforts of the volunteers and the organizations involved.

It is with great privilege to be able to be a part of an organization and a program that is humble and selfless in its giving and charities.

If you are interested in donating to this worthy cause, please contact us. If you are already a donor, we thank you.

If you are a veteran:



# WELCOME HOME



## DONATIONS

Contributions to the Gifts For Yanks program are welcome and accepted from individuals as well as corporations. Due to the nature of The American Legion as a War-time Veteran Service Organization, this program falls within a 501(c)19 non-profit tax exemption standard, which states the following on behalf of contributions:

IRC 170(c)(3) provides an income tax deduction for contributions to a post of "war veterans" if it is organized in the United States or any of its possessions, and no part of its net earnings inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. To qualify for deductibility of contributions, a veterans' organization may be exempt under IRC 501(c)(19) or any other appropriate section of the Code, but must also satisfy both a membership requirement and a purpose requirement.

Any further questions should be guided to Suzette Price, Service Director, located at The American Legion Department of Ohio Headquarters in Delaware, Ohio.

### The American Legion—Department of Ohio

*Suzette Price*

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## The American Legion

Department of Ohio



Since 1952, the Gifts for Yanks program has raised funds to give Christmas gifts to our hospitalized veterans from members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion.



## ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Donations are gathered from April through the following April. One hundred percent of all contributions received are spent within this program and include any interest earned from the previous year. The accounts are established and maintained by the Service Director, Finance Officer, and Administrative Assistant at department headquarters.

The GFY Committee has 14 Chairmen representing each district whom are appointed by their District Commanders. Each Chairman is expected to attend the GFY Committee meetings held at various times throughout the year. A sub-committee of five delegates is chosen from the GFY Committee to determine the budget and choose the gift items for the coming year.

## HOLIDAY GIFTS

The annual patient "gift" distributed at Christmas time began in 1984 and \$2.50 was allocated to provide a notepad, envelopes, and pen. The gifts have increased over the years, and in 2013, the cost per item was \$20 and included items such as a knitted embroidered cap, reading light, 7-day spring-loaded pill box, pen and pencil set, and a fanny pack that held the items.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

Gifts for Yanks also supports Special Projects at each VAMC facility and at the 40 VA Outpatient Clinics in Ohio. Some of the items purchased are:

- Golf Carts • Wheelchairs
- Outings & Events • Vans
- Scooters • Computers
- Therapeutic Equipment
- Hospice Equipment
- Bus Passes • Awards
- Meals & Refreshments
- Books & Newspapers.

Other support is provided as well, including Homeless Veteran Programs, Welcome Home Programs, Holiday and other activities, Bingo and Indigent Patient Support.

In 2013, over \$127,000 was allocated to assist VAMC's and Ohio Veterans Homes with funds for various needs such as transportation of veterans and the purchase of a Columbarium for the living and deceased veterans residing in these facilities.

## HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

During World War II, Comedian Eddie Cantor started a fundraising effort to provide Christmas gifts for American Military Personnel hospitalized in England as a result of the War. His national project was called "Give to a Yank Who Gave," which precedes the program now named Gifts For Yanks (GFY).

In 1952, Ohio began the program collecting \$8,000, which was used to purchase cigarettes for veterans in Ohio Veterans Hospitals. By 1994, the program had grown to support volunteers in all of the Ohio VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, Ohio Veterans Homes, and veterans residing in state mental health facilities.