



**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF OHIO FAMILY**

GIFTS FOR YANKS

**A PROGRAM HELPING OUR
HOSPITALIZED VETS**

Donate Today!

"Ohio Helping Heroes"

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.





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.

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 2021, Legionnaires handed out just over 1,717 holiday gifts to veterans who are patients at Ohio VA Medical Centers and Ohio Veterans Homes.



The holiday gifts given were valued at \$23.00 per veteran, including an engraved Christmas ornament, a medium-sized laptop bag, and a blanket. Currently monetary gift cards have replaced the traditional gifts for our veteran's convenience.

GIFTS FOR YANKS MISSION

The mission of the Gifts for Yanks Program is to improve the quality of life of the veteran-patient of Ohio VA Medical Centers and Ohio Veterans Homes by providing funds to support direct-service programs, events, holiday gifts, and VA Voluntary Services. The Gifts for Yanks Program entirely depends on the donations and volunteer hours graciously given by members of our American Legion Family.

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:

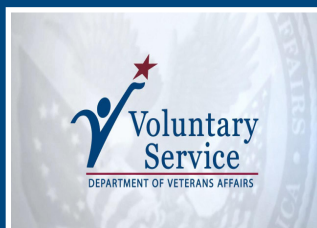
- Golf Carts • Wheelchairs
- Outings & Events • Vans
- Scooters • Computers
- Therapeutic Equipment
- Hospice Equipment
- Bus Passes • Awards
- Meals & Refreshments
- Books & Newspapers

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

In 2021, The Gifts for Yanks Program has raised \$73,898.65 with the support of 95 American Legion Posts. To be considered for Department Convention Post and District, contributions must be turned in by May 31st, 2022.

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:



The Gifts for Yanks Program would love for every American Legion Post in the state of Ohio to have a designated Gifts for Yanks Post Chairman who can be a program ambassador to our local communities.



DONATIONS

In addition to appreciated Legion Family 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.

The Gifts for Yanks Program will recognize the (1) the largest post contribution, (2) the largest amount contributed by a district, (3) the greatest percent of fundraising goal achieved by a post, (4) the greatest percent of fundraising goal achieved by a district, and (5) post contributions of \$5,000.00 or more.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any further questions should be guided to John Robinson, Department Adjutant / GFY Liaison, located at The American Legion Department of Ohio Headquarters in Delaware, Ohio.

THE AMERICAN LEGION-DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

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For further information please contact:

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