

# **Focused Donation and VA Needs To Consider**

**Most VA facilities are excepting limited donations. Here are a few examples of the current list of focused Needs that VA Facilities have:**

- Monetary Donations-Send a check to donate for various needs at the facility. Most facility needs can only be purchased by the VA and only from an approved Vendor. Make sure you designate on the check the program(s) you wish the funds to be used for.
- Gift Cards are very convenient and easily distributable By VA Staff. Usually Gift Cards for Grocery Stores, Department Stores, Fast Food restaurants, Gas Stations, are the most desirable, and should be in increments around \$25. These cards can be used by VA Staff to supplement activities being conducted and are convenient for use by Homeless Program Staff for their Veteran's use as a quick help or supplement.
- VISA Cards, Amazon, I-Tunes, and Cards or Passes to Community events are also very useful. These typically would give more flexibility to VA staff to purchase program and/or Veteran needs that are too difficult to obtain otherwise. These would typically be in the \$50 and up range.
- Face Masks. Handmade or otherwise. The more "official/certified" masks are usually reserved for Staff with direct patient contact, while handmade masks are usually used by other VA staff and volunteers, as well as visitors and patients who do not bring or have their own.
- Disinfectant bottles and wipes are always needed. Some Organizations have purchased small bottles from Promotion companies and had their Squadron information imprinted on them.
- Crafts, adult coloring books, and other hobby type donations can also be invaluable to the VA as patients continue to be secured in place and restricted access to others.

**Many VA patients are still secured in place, and volunteers are not available for in-facility activities. Organizations can help with other, as well as virtual opportunities.**

- Were you running or participating in Bingo Games previously? Those events are still taking place but orchestrated by Recreation Staff. Consider donating to the VA and specifying that you want the funds used to purchase Canteen Books, always a hot prize at Bingo. You could also arrange through Recreation to do a "Virtual Bingo". You can roll the wheel and call the numbers at your facility, but broadcast it live to the VA using Zoom or Facetime.
- If you were previously bringing a monthly birthday cake to a particular unit at your VA, you can instead sponsor that activity, again arranging the particulars with Recreation, who will take your donation and hold the party with the funds.
- Has your Organization previously volunteered or sponsored a music group or band to perform at a VA event? Again, you could still have a "Virtual Concert". Bring the group or band together at your Post or location and broadcast it to the VA through Zoom or another computer application.
- Bottom-line, check with Recreation Department and see what you can do for them. They are becoming more and more flexible every day at developing new types of activities and programs, that you might be able to help with virtually, or can assist by sponsoring or donating to.

### **What else would be beneficial that you can do for VA Staff?**

- Provide them with lunch, or snacks, or even breakfast sandwiches. ALL VA staff are working extra hard to keep our Veterans (and each other) safe and healthy. Many staff are assigned to other roles and duties that are essential at this time, but they are ALL essential workers. Provide them a treat.
- Homemade food and or family style food is typically not allowed or discouraged. What many organizations do is purchase individual meals from local restaurants (they could use the business as well), and then donate to a certain group or groups of Staff at the VA. Check with the Voluntary Service Office, and they can help make it happen.