

# Voluntary Services Seminar

Volunteer Recruitment and Retention



- DAV's mission of empowering veterans to lead high-quality, fulfilled lives relies on the kind-heartedness of the men, women and youth who volunteer.
- We have thousands of devoted volunteers across the country providing our nation's heroes the best possible care, morale and assistance.
- In 2022, DAV dedicated more than **\$29 million** to voluntary service initiatives through our vast network of programs.



- **VolunteerForVeterans.org**
    - This is the overarching suite of DAV's Voluntary Services Programs
  - **DAV Transportation Network**
    - The backbone of DAV Voluntary Services Program
  - **VA Voluntary Services**
    - Volunteering in brick-and-mortar VA Facility
  - **DAV Scholarships Program**
    - Very robust program offering \$110,000 in scholarships annually
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**DAV has revamped the volunteer for veterans website to make it easier for veterans to find the help they need by going online and simply clicking one button!**

**You can also sign up for DAV's many programs while you're here!**

**Volunteer For Veterans**

DAV offers a wide range of opportunities to assist our nation's heroes. Volunteer to transport veterans to and from their VA medical appointments, help at a VA facility or assist veterans in your local community.

No matter who you are, or what your level of experience, you can stand by our nation's veterans.

Are you a veteran or do you know a veteran in need of help?

Click the link below to inform Voluntary Services Department of your need.

**I Need Help**

Do you want to help veterans in your local community?

Click the link below to register with our Voluntary Services Department to find local veterans in need of help in your area.

**I Would Like To Help**

**Other Notable DAV Volunteer Programs**

Drive A Vehicle

**For Veterans**

DAV Scholarships

**For Volunteers**

It is also very resourceful for those volunteers who are not near a VA Medical Facility but still want to make a difference in the lives of our nation's heroes.

Volunteers can visit [www.volunteerforveterans.org](http://www.volunteerforveterans.org) to sign up for opportunities in their local communities. Or, you can visit <https://www.dav.org/help-dav/volunteer/>



[Home](#) > [Help DAV](#) > [Volunteer](#) > [I Need Help](#)

Are you a veteran, or do you know a veteran that needs assistance? Please fill out the form below and a voluntary services representative will reach out to volunteers in your area who may be able to help.

### Personal Information

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Email\*

Phone\*

### Address Information

Address Line 1\*

City\*

State\*

Zip Code\*

### I Need Help With:

Select A Category\*

Description Of Your Need\*

When you fill out an “**I Need Help**” form, all that is needed is your name, email, phone number, physical address (including the city and state), and a brief description of what you need assistance with. Once the form has been submitted, a Voluntary Services worker will contact your local district/chapter office to find a volunteer in the area to help.



[Home](#) > [Help DAV](#) > [Volunteer](#) > [I Would Like To Help](#)

Do you want to help veterans in your community?

Please fill out the form below and a voluntary services representative will try to match you with heroes in need of help.

### Personal Information

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Email\*

Phone\*

### Address Information

Address Line 1\*

City\*

State\*

Zip Code\*

Are you volunteering as a group or individual?

Select A Category\*

Please describe how you can help.\*

When you fill out an “**I Would Like to Help**” form, you have to supply your name, email, phone number, physical address (including the city and state), and a brief description of what you have experience doing. Once the form has been submitted, you will get alerts via e-mail that will notify you when a veteran in your area needs assistance.



# Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP)



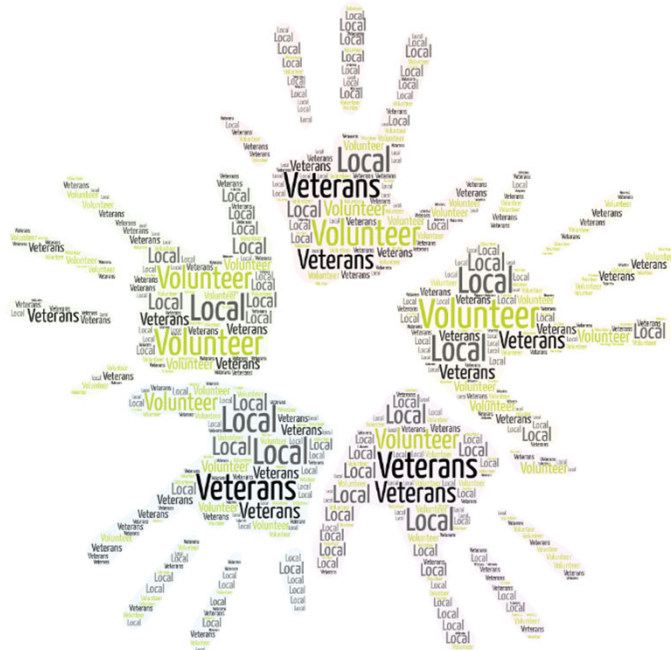
## LVAP volunteers can dedicate their time in the following ways:

- Chapter and Department Service Officer work
- DAV specific outreach efforts and fundraising efforts
- DAV/DAV Auxiliary special events (state fair, homeless assistance including stand downs, etc.)
- Direct assistance to veterans, surviving spouses, or families
- Seminars, training, and activities designed to operate the chapter/department smoothly
- Legislative support





# Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP)



- The Local Veterans Assistance Program was created to allow the many volunteers who want to be involved with veteran support activities outside the VA medical facilities to record their hours of volunteerism and report them to the DAV.
- LVAP allows people to provide needed services to veterans and their families as DAV volunteers. It honors our organization, encourages and recognizes volunteerism.
- LVAP initiatives are managed by state-level DAV departments and are carried out through our departments, chapters, auxiliary units, associated organizations, corporations and individual volunteers.
- In 2022 there was a total of more than **1,751,591** volunteer hours reported with **285,112** hours reported for DAV's Chapter and Department Service Officers. This is an additional **\$8.5 million** in savings for the Veterans Administration that the DAV volunteers provide through their services.





# Transportation Network (TN)

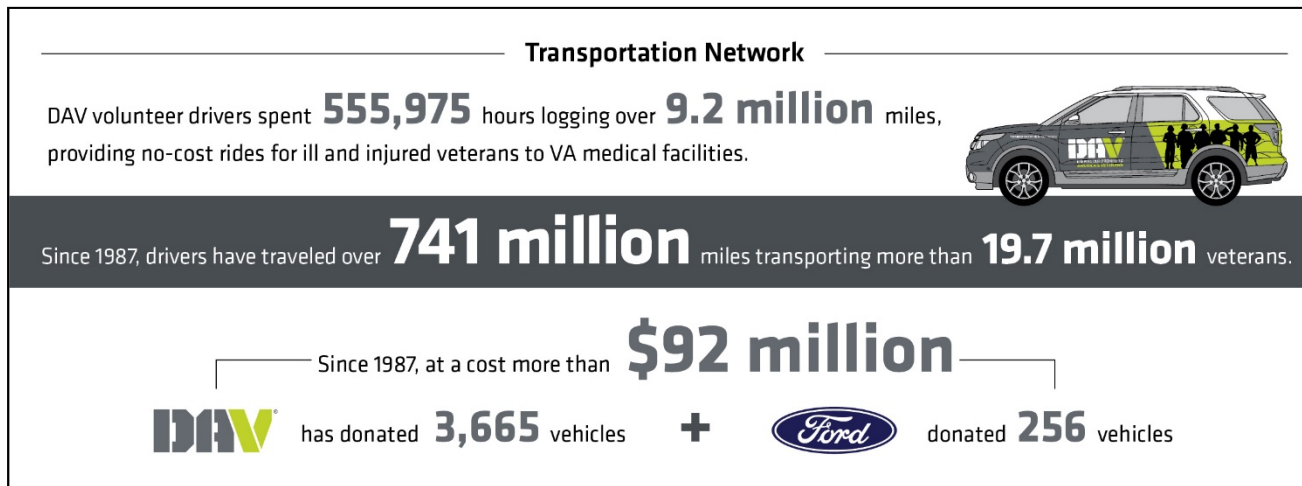
- DAV Transportation Network is the largest program of its kind for veterans in the nation.
- This program ensures our veterans, who may not have access to reliable transportation, are able to get to their VA health care appointments.





## Transportation Network (TN)

DAV Hospital Service Coordinators play an important part in our efforts to assist injured and ill veterans. They are the front line for the DAV Transportation Network, by scheduling rides, keeping vehicles running safely and reporting volunteer activities to DAV National Headquarters.



There are **156 Hospital Service Coordinators** covering transportation programs at more than **243 VA medical facilities**. These DAV HSCs assemble corps of volunteer drivers and coordinate them with hospital transportation requests. The Transportation Network volunteers have transported more than **209,000 veterans** over **9.2 million miles** in 2022 alone!

## Media Ride-alongs

- DAV, in coordination with the VA, arranges for local news outlets in a geographic area to ride along with a volunteer driver who is taking veterans to and from their appointments
- The driver and others interviewed are able to share their story of why they volunteer while sharing the message that the TN needs more volunteer drivers

### **This is a powerful volunteer recruiting tool that:**

- Highlights the critical role of volunteers within the Transportation Network
- Showcases the opportunity to directly make a difference in veterans' lives
- Promotes local chapters' involvement in the community
- Increases DAV's brand awareness
- It highlights our mission
- This is good for donations and memberships
- Earned media



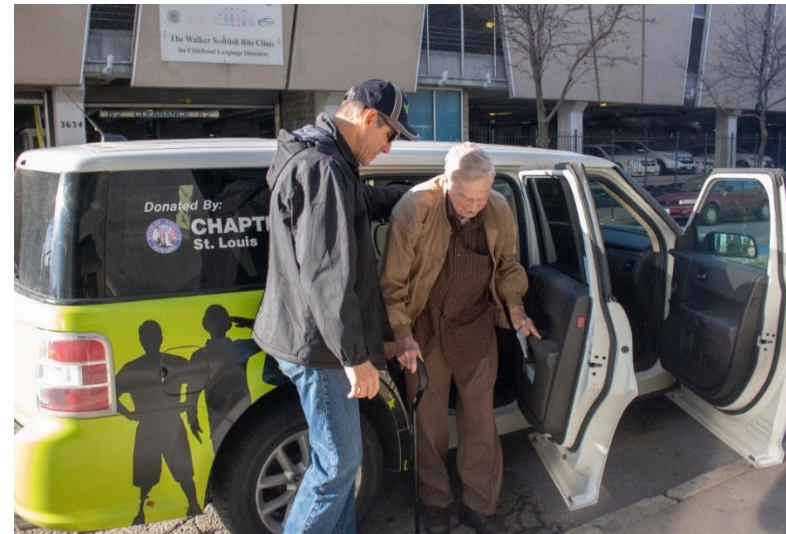
**WKSTP (Minnesota)**





## Media Ride-alongs Considerations

- **A successful ride-along requires coordination between:**
  - DAV Communications
  - DAV Voluntary Services
  - Chapter or Department Volunteer Rep or Dep
  - VA Volunteer Coordinator
  - Local VA public affairs
  
- **Identify a volunteer driver who will represent DAV well**
  - Compelling story
  - Well-spoken
  - Knows the program and the needs well



## Media Ride-alongs Expectations

### DAV Communications will:

- Serve as the central point of contact
- Handle media outreach
- Provide media coaching/interview prep



### The Department or Chapter will:

- **Identify** a willing volunteer driver (and their availability) for the media to highlight
- **Provide** an additional on-camera interview subject who can communicate the need for volunteers and the process for them to sign-up (ideally the Rep or Dep)
- **Assist** DAV Communications as a local VA liaison

**Contact Voluntary Services to learn more and to get started!**

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# VA Voluntary Services Program (VAVS)

**The following are a few traditional ways you can assist as a DAV volunteer in a VA facility:**

- Escorting patients, library circulation and processing assistance.
- Information desk receptionists.
- Preparing displays and assisting patients in menu selections in nutrition and food service.
- Helping with the clinical preparation procedures and patient-motivation activities in the physical therapy clinic.
- Helping patients with socialization and other therapeutic activities.



## **VAVS Representative's and Deputy Representatives**

- These individuals should be very knowledgeable with all of DAV's programs and services.
  - These Reps/Deps are some of your most important volunteers. They need to attend all quarterly meetings and maintain DAV's presence within the VA Medical Facilities.
  - When appointing a Rep/Dep make sure they are willing to attend the meetings. In some facilities your Rep/Dep may do more than one thing to make sure it does not conflict with their day-to-day responsibilities.
  - They are and should be responsible for establishing and maintaining local relationships/presence within the Medical Centers.
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# DAV Scholarships Program



- Recruiting new young adults
- What we have discovered from previous winners.
- The future of these young adults could and likely will benefit DAV and the veterans we serve.

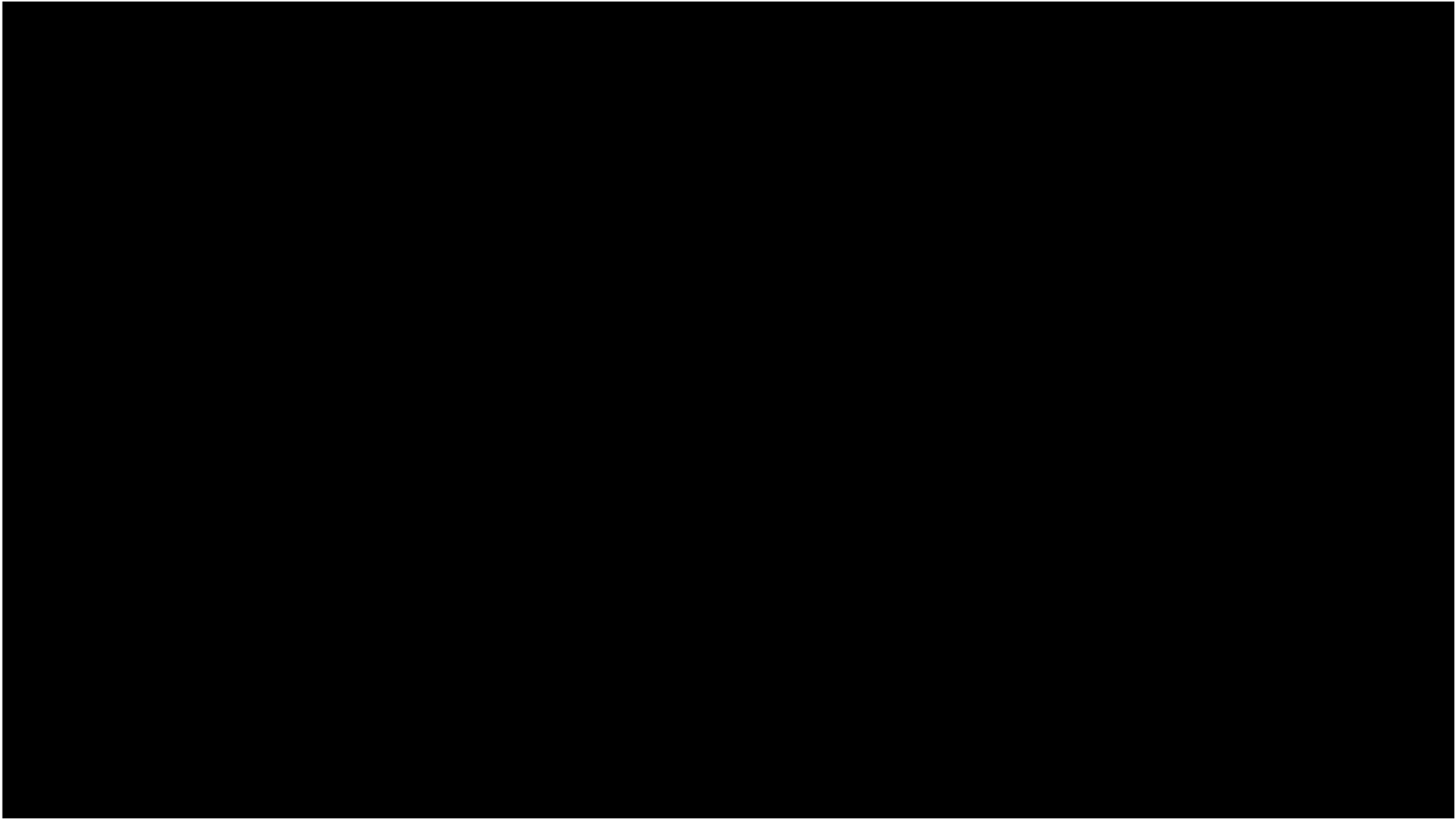
- Since its inception, DAV has awarded **221 individual scholarships**, including this year's winners, valued at more than **\$1.75 million**, which enables these exceptional young people to pursue their goals in higher education and experience the value and satisfaction of volunteering.
- This program was designed to encourage youth volunteers to become active in the DAV's Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) and/or the Department of Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service Program (VAVS).
- DAV now offers ten scholarships that are awarded annually totaling **\$110,000** to help fund the recipient's higher education.

## New Scholarship Amounts:

**\$30,000; \$20,000; \$15,000; \$10,000; (2) \$7,500; and (4) \$5,000**



# DAV Scholarships Program



- **These relationships are local member leaders/volunteers responsibility to maintain**
- **The most precious commodity we have as individuals is our time.**
- **Always be on the lookout for new volunteers.**
- **There is a place in DAV for everyone!**



**DAV EMPOWERS VETERANS**

**RESPECT**

**ADVOCACY**

**HONOR**

**SUPPORT**

**COMMITMENT**