

HOME SERVICE – BARBARA SKILLMAN

“Rolling Forward with the American Legion Auxiliary and Family” Auxiliary members let us Roll Forward and serve our Veterans in VA Homes and Hospitals by making their time bright, cheery and fun.

SO let’s start making tray favors (table favors) and centerpieces for the VA Homes and Hospitals. Do you sew, cook or make crafts? Are you a first time volunteer? If yes, we need you to report as a new home service worker. We need to increase our home service volunteers in our Department. The National Organization is asking each Department to increase their number of Home Service volunteers by 10. I know we can do this.

Let’s volunteer to help make a Veteran feel a little bit better in his or her day.

Following are some suggested projects:

1. Sewing, knitting, crocheting comfort items such as bibs, booties, lap robes, etc.
2. Providing baked goods for special occasions such as holiday cookies, birthday cakes, etc. (need to be baked in a state certified kitchen).
3. Preparing refreshments such as sandwiches, relish trays, fruit bowls, fried chicken, potato salad, desserts, etc, for Bingo parties, Las Vegas nights, picnics and other special events.
4. Making tray favors and centerpieces.
5. Sending Holiday greeting cards, birthday cards, get-well wishes, remembrance cards and letters to Veterans.
6. Purchasing and/or making your donation to the Christmas Gift Shop.
7. Shopping for gift wrap and supplies for the above-mentioned projects.
8. Any other projects deemed necessary or requested for the rehabilitation and comfort of our Veterans as long as these projects fit within the parameters of the Home Service program.

GUIDELINES FOR HOME SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

In order for a project to qualify as a Home Service project and in order for a volunteer to receive Home Service credit for her hours, the following guidelines are recommended.

First time Volunteers for Home Service:

Recipients of Home Service projects must be Veterans (a) in a VA Medical Center; (b) in a Veterans Home; (c) in a local nursing home; (d) in a community hospital; (e) confined to their homes; or (f) the homeless veteran.

Home Service projects should be completed in the volunteer’s own home, without direct contact with the Veteran.

PLEASE NOTE:

If the volunteer delivers her project directly to the veteran(s), the time spent with the Veteran(s) may NOT be counted as Home Service hours, but rather Field Service or VA&R hours.

Each Home Service volunteer should report the hours and monetary value of her project to her Unit or VA&R chairman.

Let's record each month so that no hours or expenditures are lost or forgotten at the end of the year. Remember- to please send all your requests for tray favors, centerpieces or serving assignments to me; Barbara Skillman, 6910 SW 91st, Denton NE 68339. Call 402-429-2395 or 402-797-2121 or email: bskillman@windstream.net.

When requesting assignments – Please remember to give the specific holiday and the Veterans facility you want to make favors for.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

These hours can be accumulated over a period of years. According to Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Guide; “The cost of the Home Service pin and hour bars are to be defrayed by the Unit unless otherwise specified by Department”. Home Service bars are available for 50, 100, 300, 500 and 1,000 hours of Home Service.

After reaching 1,000 hours, bars are available in increasing increments of 1,000.

A certificate of Appreciation may be presented by a Unit to a Non-Affiliated volunteer after 50 hours of Home Service have been accumulated.

HOME SERVICE VOLUNTEER HOURS AWARD

A citation plaque will be presented to a Home Service volunteer serving the greatest number of hours from April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012, in each Division for Junior or Senior members. Units should send their nominee to this Home Service chairman after certifying the volunteer hours by May 10, 2012.