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BOISE VETERANS HOME

Volunteer and Activity Services Program Update

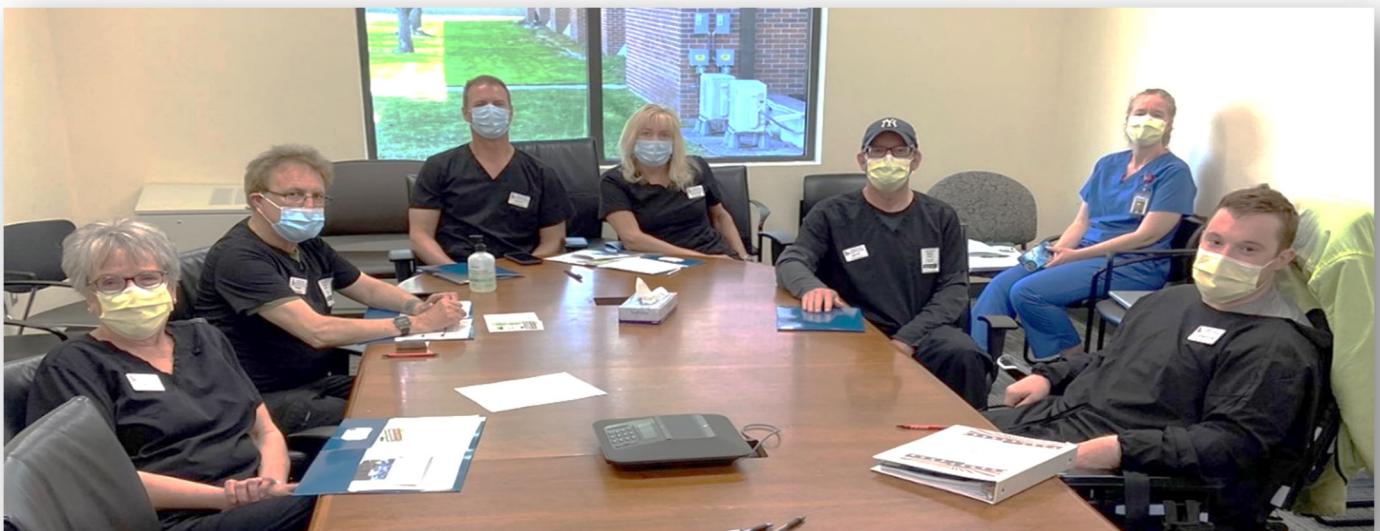
May 2022

Volunteer Opportunities

Update: 5/1/2022 "Golden Unicorn" remains a fantasy...

The Golden Unicorn...Nurse Manager Matt Jessen let me know that he is looking for a volunteer to work in the evenings (after 10 pm) to help with wheelchair cleaning. We cannot clean them during the day – because the residents are using them. As we continue to struggle filling vacant positions, this is something that we would like to ask your help with. Is there a "night owl" who would like to help? Matt figured finding someone to help would be like finding the Golden Unicorn. I have seen you respond to amazing things and I believe with your support anything is possible! Let me know if you are feeling particularly "golden." Jo Ann (208) 780-1700.

Resolved - Kappy's Starbucks Coffee pickup: Dave Richey/American Legion took the helm and worked with Kappy to formulate a plan to keep this valuable program going. Several American Legion members showed up Saturday to the "Lloyd's Koffee Klatch" in Meridian with each bringing something to the table. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!



Volunteer Orientation – so happy to welcome returning volunteers Dakota, Daisy, Sherie, Andy, and some new faces! **Who is that guy with the Yankees hat...**He wore that hat intentionally knowing that he would provoke a "binary response" (I had to look up what that means!)? He certainly elicited a response (and some expletives). Welcome aboard Jeff, happy to have you volunteering at the Vets Home!

Boise Veterans Home News

Census: Skilled Nursing - 71; Residential – 16

We are now a 5 Star Facility! The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is the regulatory body which sets forth and surveys hospitals and skilled nursing facilities for compliance to regulations. Facilities are given a "star rating" from 1 to 5 stars depending on their results in: Survey Results, Staffing Numbers, and Quality Measures.

Six years ago, the Boise home was a 1-star facility due to the survey in January 2016 in which we were issued an Immediate Jeopardy citation. Over the past several years, we have worked diligently to maintain compliance with state and federal regulations, as well as monitoring our staffing numbers and quality measures. Most recently, our survey which concluded on December 3, 2021 resulted in only three minor citations. That survey has now been uploaded into the CMS Five Star system and we are now a **FIVE STAR FACILITY!!** For more information check out this link: [5 Star Rating](#)

2022 Veterans Parade: The parade committee suggested changing the route to include the VA Hospital and Boise Veterans Home. The VA gave it their stamp of approval. Now it will be taken up with the ACHD and Boise City.

New Hires: We hired a Staff Screener, an Infection Protocol Nurse, a temporary PRN RN Sr., and Dietary Aide Senior. **Our biggest need** and challenge continue to be staffing the dietary department as well as the evening and NOC shifts for both CNAs and Nurses.

COVID-Veterans Home Covid Hotline: (208) 780-1336

0 residents positive, 2 staff positive (updated 5/01/2022)

As of 4/21/2022 The community transmission levels are at moderate (yellow) for Ada, Canyon, and Elmore counties. Due to the decrease in county transmission levels, we can replace N95 masks and eye protection for regular surgical masks. **Everyone at the Veterans home is celebrating this wonderful news!**

May Events: upcoming outings/activities

Activity staff continue to be redirected to support the nursing staff – this will remain in place until census/staffing numbers increase. Even So, Activity Coordinator April Floyd continues to develop a robust calendar and with the support of volunteers we can offer multiple opportunities for residents in the home and outside the facility.

May

2, 9, 23- Shopping with residents at Walmart. **We can always use volunteers for shopping trips.**

4 - "May the Fourth Be with You" Star Wars Party"

5 - Cinco De Mayo, Churros, Bingo

6 - Kentucky Derby Race (Group games)

7 - "Mother's Day" Brunch; Kentucky Derby

11 – Sam Mattise/Storyteller/Musician/Food Social

18 – Chicago Connection Pizza Party

21 - Boise **Chordsmen Show**- a cappella in the barbershop style.

25 - Banjo man Dan/Ice Cream Social on back patio

27 – "Let's Putt" back patio putting green

May 30 – Memorial Day Presentation at the Boise Veterans Cemetery – We could use some volunteers to help

For a comprehensive list of events – please visit here: [Calendar of Events](#)

IVAL hosted their quarterly meeting and approved funding for several projects at the Idaho State Veterans Home to include the following:

Putting Green Update: Several newsletters ago – I mentioned that we were working to finish the putting green by putting in knee walls and other improvements. Because of the pending construction for the new Boise Veterans Home, those plans were cancelled. Instead, based on the recommendation from Jay Romlein (AL #113) and Boise Parks and Recreation, we will install xeriscape in the form of a "Pollinator Garden." IVAL has agreed to fund the purchase of plants and ground cover.

Shade Cloths for SCU (Special Care Unit) Several trees were removed due to bore damage leaving very little shade for residents sitting outside. With plans to replace the Boise Veterans Home, it did not make sense to replace them. Instead we will be installing shade cloths at strategic locations.

Volunteer Appreciation Week – April 17-23

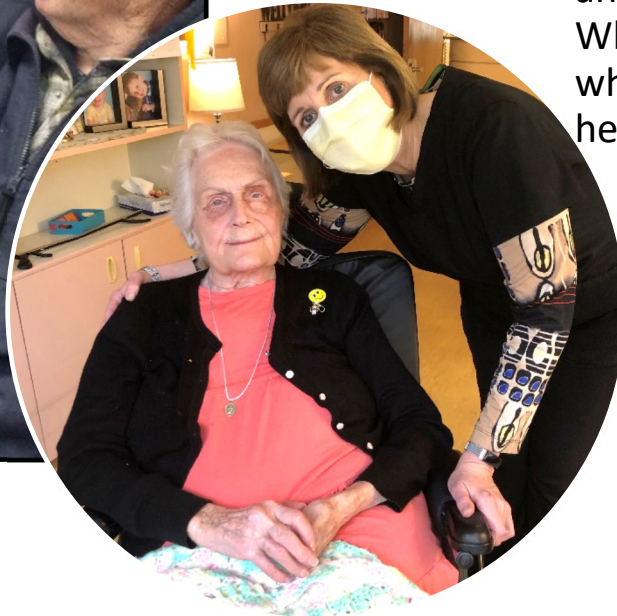
The Current Estimated National Value of Each Volunteer Hour Is \$29.95

Michele and I had the honor of focusing on "Appreciation" of our Volunteers! Letters went out to volunteers and community partners and sweet treats were prepared for our onsite volunteers. We made house calls too and enjoyed reconnecting with some we haven't seen since COVID started. You all bring your unique skills, qualities and abilities to benefit the residents at the Veterans Home – in our opinion your value is underestimated –how can you put a value on the selflessness and service you provide on the behalf of others...providing what they need in this moment...priceless. If you are curious about the

methodology you can check out the site here:

[Independent Sector](#)





Along with a visit from the Easter Bunny aka Thane Eddington, Chaplain Norm offered an Easter Service. Thank you to Debbie Gyer, and Kelleen Whitmire and who came in to help!

Boise State Students!

So nice to see BSU students come by and say hello – they dropped off donuts and treats- thank you!!



Italian Sodas



and Smoothies!

"Cover A Vet"

Thanks Joel Robinson and Alan Rice of POW/MIA for providing brand new covers for our military veterans!



Cornhole...

can bring out the competitor in all of us and what veteran doesn't like to compete!



Rare April "Snow" Showers



Volunteer Spotlight: Vicki Van Vliet has been volunteering at ISVH since 2018



She currently helps in the Canteen but has been our go to person for almost everything. When we needed someone to answer phones and help in the office, we called Vicki. When we needed someone to help us develop our Library Program, she researched, developed and implemented the "Homebound Services" book delivery from the Boise Municipal Library – which our voracious readers enjoy tremendously! She and her husband Jon (also a volunteer) came in when we were short staffed and helped pass meal trays on the units – the staff enjoyed their help so much they began to request them by name!

Vicki is originally from Butte, Mt. and is a Montana State Bobcat! Vicki came to Boise to visit for the summer, landed a job with the city, and stayed 39 years! She was a single mom for nine years, raised two daughters and then met Jon, who wore her down and convinced her that she should marry him.

We also share Vicki with three grandchildren so if the canteen is closed Thursday afternoons, it's because she's doing grandparent duty! She loves to travel and excels at finding the best fares and then fills her remaining time with cooking.

I asked Vicki why she chose the Boise Veterans Home to volunteer? She shared that she had neighbors who were both veterans and when she passed, her neighbor became a resident at the Veterans home. "I saw the need for visiting and I would come visit her a lot." "After I retired, I decided to volunteer!"

When I asked Vicki about a favorite memory, she mentioned that "one resident would come to the canteen and have me get her three doughnuts, and two cappuccinos and hide them in her wheelchair saddle bags so she could get them by the nurses station!" Ayi, yi, some things, as volunteer coordinator, I do not want to hear!

Moving on to the next question - Vicki acknowledged that because of her volunteering, she has "more empathy for seniors." "You see people and you think, why are they here and you hear what they went through and what their life was like on the outside. And if my being here makes their day better then it's validating, and I feel I've achieved my purpose."



I FEEL LIKE THESE TWO ARE CONSPIRING!

Come Join Us!



As you can see Volunteers help in so many ways but at the end of the day, it's the kindness, compassion and extra care that makes the Veteran's day better. If you want to be part of the magic at the Idaho State Veterans Home, come Join Us!

Scan the QR code to fill out a volunteer application or follow this link: [Veterans Home Volunteer Application](#)

After filling out the application, we will set up an interview with you where we will discuss opportunities in the home and the onboarding in more detail.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

320 Collins Road, Boise, ID 83702 Phone: (208) 780-1700 Email: BVHvolunteers@veterans.idaho.gov