

# VAVS Program Information



The Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) has provided over 66 years of service to America's Veterans seeking care in VA health care facilities. Since 1946, VAVS volunteers have donated over 748.9 million hours of service.

VAVS is one of the largest volunteer programs in the Federal government. More than 7,400 national and community organizations support VAVS. The program is supported by a VAVS National Advisory Committee, comprising 55 major Veteran, civic, and service organizations, which reports to the Secretary through the Under Secretary for Health.

As VA has expanded its care of Veteran patients into the community, volunteers have continued to be involved. They assist Veteran patients by augmenting staff in such settings as hospital wards, Community Living Centers, outpatient clinics, community-based volunteer programs, end-of-life care programs, respite care programs, adaptive sports, creative arts, Veteran outreach centers, National cemeteries, and Veterans benefits offices.

VAVS Program Managers are increasing their involvement at their facilities. They are being selected to serve on committees and support initiatives, such as, PlaneTree and Patient Aligned Care Teams. Some facilities even host national concerts for Veterans during National Salute to Veteran Patients. Voter Registration continues to be a major focal point for VAVS Program Managers who continue to assist Veterans with the registration process. VAMC Internet websites have been updated with a link to the U.S. Election Assistance website to better support and inform America's Veterans registering to vote.

There were 139,383 volunteers on the rolls during FY 2012, with 83,648 active VAVS volunteers contributing a total of 12,207,443 hours. The FY 2012 total VAVS hours equate to 5,869 full-time employee equivalent (FTEE) positions. The current monetary value of the 12,207,443 hours from all VAVS volunteers is over \$266 million based on the 2011 Independent Sector's formula of \$21.79 per hour. VAVS volunteers and their organizations contributed over \$87 million in gifts and donations in FY 2012 for a total value of \$354.6 million in volunteer giving.

Monetary estimates aside, it is impossible to calculate the amount of caring and sharing that these VAVS volunteers provide to Veteran patients. VAVS volunteers are a priceless asset to the Nation's Veterans and to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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