

July 2008

PROJECT NEEDS LIST TOMAH VAMC

Thank you for your interest in the items needed for the veteran patients hospitalized at the VA Great Lakes Health Care System, Tomah, Wisconsin. Our Medical Center is always anxious to improve the comfort and quality of life for the veterans hospitalized here. Through the generous support of our many friends, both organizations and individuals, we are able to provide a rich and diversified atmosphere of recreational and social activities and personal comfort for them.

To insure that donations are properly acknowledged, we ask that all gifts to the Medical Center be coordinated through Voluntary Services. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check out to "VA Medical Center" and include a note identifying what you wish to purchase or support. Your donation can be mailed to:

VA Medical Center
% Voluntary Services (135)
500 East Veterans St
Tomah, WI 54660

If you or your organization is interested in making a donation from this Projects Needs List, PLEASE contact Voluntary Services before making the donation to insure that another organization has not already donated the item(s) you plan to donate.

Following this guideline will help avoid duplications of donations.

THANK YOU! 😊

The following is a listing of items and/or special projects that have been identified as a need for our veterans. If you would like further information about any of these needs, please feel free to contact the Voluntary Services office at (608) 372-1727.

NATIONAL RECREATION EVENTS

Any Amount

The Tomah VA routinely sends veterans to the Department of Veterans Affairs National Recreation Events: National Veterans Golden Age Games, Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, and the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Donations pay for airfare and lodging for the veterans, as well as expenses for staff traveling with the “team.”

- A team of eight veterans are going to the **Golden Age Games** in Indianapolis in **August 2008** and funds are still needed to cover the lodging costs for the group.
- Three veterans have been invited to the **National Veterans Creative Arts Festival** in Riverside, California in **October 2008** and airfare costs will be needed for them.

VETERANS' GOLF COURSE

Requested Assistance: Any Amount

The **Veterans Golf Course**, located on the Tomah VA grounds, has been open to the public for several years. The golf course provides therapeutic activity free of charge for **inpatients**, and has been an integral part of the Tomah school systems intramural sports program for years. Last fall alone, patients played over 300 rounds of golf on this course. The VA is prohibited by law from using appropriated funds to operate this golf course and this year the golf course is in need of financial assistance. Donations are accepted to support this recreational resource for our veterans.

CURRENT and CLASSIC DVD MOVIES

Estimated Cost \$20 each

Our veterans enjoy watching movies and we would like to add new DVD's to our collection. Donations of actual movies (DVD only, please, as we're moving into that technology) or funds with which to purchase movies would be gratefully accepted. If you donate the movies, please keep in mind our patient population and do not send inappropriate movies.

LA CROSSE TRIBUNE SUBSCRIPTION

COST: \$3750 / Year - 20 copies

The Library at the Tomah VA subscribes to the La Crosse Tribune, ordering enough copies for each ward as well as the library. Funding is needed to continue receiving this local newspaper. Funding is now available for Fiscal Year 2008, but we can always start saving toward FY09!

MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCES

Estimated COST: \$200 per month

As part of our Bereavement Program, the Tomah VA Medical Center has been sending floral arrangements to the funerals of veterans who have passed away at our facility or who have been home-care hospice patients. The floral arrangements have been a way of showing that the Medical Center and our staff care about the veterans and their families. Each arrangement costs an average of \$30 (many funerals are out of town, so additional charges are incurred). Families have been very touched with this gesture and it helps them in their grieving process. In 2004, 69 arrangements were ordered.

AVIARIES MAINTENANCE - \$1,000 Each Quarter / \$4,000 A Year

We have five aviaries that are maintained every three months by the company from which the aviaries were purchased. The quarterly maintenance costs about \$1000 each visit. We like to have at least a six-month reserve on hand, so are recruiting funds for this account

PET THERAPY ACCOUNT: COST: \$2,022 /Year

Funds in this account pay for a contract for the care of the facility's five aquariums which are placed in patient day rooms on the wards.

VETERANS WELFARE ACCOUNT Any Amount

The Veterans Welfare Account is used to pay for emergency travel for veterans when there is an illness or death in the family, or when a veteran is discharged and has no other way to get home. Funds are used for bus and train tickets, as well as gasoline for the veteran's car. In addition, funds in this account are used to help pay for dental treatment for veterans being treated under the Keller Fund as most veterans' needs exceed the limits set by this generous grant.

READING MATERIAL Any Amount

The General Library has provided us with a list of magazines and newspaper subscriptions that would be of interest to the inpatients and outpatients at the medical center for their reading enjoyment. Prices vary for each subscription and range from \$14.00 to \$100.00 per subscription. Approximately 20 copies of each magazine and/or newspaper is needed for distribution to the wards and clinical areas and waiting rooms throughout the medical center. The **La Crosse Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)** has also requested reading material for the clinic.

RECREATION ACTIVITY SUPPLIES: COST: \$500/Quarter or \$2000/Year

Recreation staff provides activities for patients seven days a week and on most days, from morning until night. Patients enjoy socialization activities and volunteer-sponsored activities such as bingo, Night at the Races, Vegas Night, etc. in our recreation hall. Donated funds are needed to purchase refreshments, such as coffee, cookies, cakes, etc. Funding is also needed to purchase supplies such as cups, plates, napkins, "silverware" (plastic), coffee, creamer, sugar, popcorn, popcorn oil, sugar-free Kool-aid, etc.

RECREATION EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES: Any Amount Needed

There is a continuous need for recreation equipment and supplies needed for the benefit of the hospitalized veterans. Items include equipment and/or supplies to support the golf shack, bowling alley, items needed on the hospital wards such as DVD players, radios, aromatherapy diffusers, microwaves, pizza ovens, supplies/games for Nintendo Wii's, Nesco roasters, toasters, and miscellaneous therapeutic supplies.

REFRESHMENTS / SNACKS/ PERSONAL COMFORT ITEMS

The Medical Center provides the basic three meals a day and some snacks but the following list of refreshments and personal comfort items are always enjoyed and used by our veterans during their hospital stay:

Non-Skid Slipper Socks	Current magazines	Polident
Regular and/or	Dandruff shampoo	Postage stamps
Decaffeinated coffee	Disposable razors	Puzzle books
Coffee Creamer	Electric tooth brushes	Puzzles
Peanut Butter	Emery boards	Reading Glasses
Crackers	Envelopes	Scarves
Bread Machine Mixes	Female personal hygiene items	Shaving cream
Hard Candy	Chapstick	Shoelaces
Hot Chocolate	Fruit	Shower gel
Sugar-free Kool- Aid/Lemonade	Gloves	<u>NO BAR SOAP, PLEASE!!!</u>
Popsicles any flavor, <u>sugar-free</u>	Hand lotion	Socks
After-shave (NON-Alcoholic!!!)	Handkerchiefs	Stocking caps
Cheese & cracker snacks	Head phones	Sugar free hot chocolate mix
Christmas Cards	Jelly	Suspenders
Coffee	Mouthwash - alcohol-free	Tea bags
Combs	Nail clippers	Toothpaste
Cookies	Peanut butter	Videos/DVD's - Westerns
Creamer	Peanut butter cracker snacks	Writing tablets
Crossword puzzle books	Phone cards	

Any of these items can be donated in-kind and in any quantities. They will be distributed accordingly to the patient wards and/or clinics. Or, monetary donations are welcome in any dollar amount and we will purchase according to the needs.

Updated: 7/17/08