

# Voluntary Service Newsletter

Edition 1 Volume 2

August 1, 2009

## WELCOME JACQUELINE (JACKIE) WILLIAMS

Voluntary Service has a new staff member, Mrs. Jacqueline (Jackie) Williams, who joined the team on July 6, 2009. As a Voluntary Service Specialist, she will be responsible for developing and overseeing the Home Respite Care Program, a new program designed to recruit and train qualified volunteers to assist in the homes of veterans receiving home-bound care. Jackie's office is located in Voluntary Service, Building 28/Room 14, at Leestown and her phone number is ext.3564.



The Home Respite Care Volunteer Program provides veterans with qualified and trained volunteers who come to their homes to provide their primary caregiver a brief break. Jackie will be working to develop policies, procedures, and a training program over the next few weeks so volunteers can be placed in the Home Respite Care program.

Jackie has worked for the federal government for over 22 years. She comes to us from the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons. She has been around the military for over 29 years and her husband Larry Williams Sr., is a 20 year retired veteran. She has one son named Larry Jr. and a daughter-in-law named Krista. Both her husband and son work for VA. Please join us in welcoming Jackie to the VA and Voluntary Service.

## VA EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

When reporting emergency/urgent situations, call:

Police Emergency- ext. 4445  
Medical Emergency (Code Blue)-ext. 4500  
Fire Emergency (Code Red)  
Leestown- ext. 3600; Cooper- ext. 4500  
Environmental Management Service (Spill Clean-Up)  
Leestown-ext. 3908; Cooper- ext. 4908

**Give the dispatcher your building, room number, and description of the situation.**

## THE PATIENT CLOTHING ROOM HAS MOVED

The Patient Clothing Room at the Leestown Division has moved to Building 28, Room 15. Please call Brenda Brooks at 233-4511, VA ext. 3323 if you need additional information regarding donations of clothing items or would like to schedule a clothing donation drop off.

Particular donations needed for the Patient Clothing Room at the present time include (a) tennis shoes, (b) socks, (c) underwear, and (d) reading glasses. Monetary donations can, also, be made that allow us to purchase new clothing items that are urgently need.

## CHANGE AT DAV SERVICE OFFICE

Donny and Gleda Blevins have stepped down from the DAV Service Office at the Cooper Division after several years of providing benefit assistance and coordinating the DAV Volunteer Transportation Network at the Lexington VAMC. Voluntary Service would like to extend their deep appreciation to both for their dedicated service to veterans and families during their time in this office. **Bobby Walling** assumed responsibility for the office on July 13<sup>th</sup> and can be reached Monday-Thursday between 9A - 3P at 859-381-5902 in room A-105 at the Cooper Division.

## DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE GIFTS FOR VETERANS PROJECT

Monetary donations are needed to General Post Fund (GPF) #49 to enable VA Voluntary Service to purchase assorted gift items that will be placed in specially marked bags and given to hospitalized veterans on Christmas Day (December 25). Every veteran who is an inpatient at the Cooper and Leestown divisions as well as those veterans on the Homeless Veterans Transition Unit located at the Leestown Division will receive a gift bag. We are estimating a need of about \$3,000.00 in monetary donations for this project. Checks should be mailed to the Voluntary Service office. Your support will be greatly appreciated.



Greg Anderson, Chief, Voluntary Service: 859-281-4930 – [Greg.Anderson@va.gov](mailto:Greg.Anderson@va.gov)  
Danielle Hester, Voluntary Service Specialist for CD: 859-281-4930 – [Sherry.Hester@va.gov](mailto:Sherry.Hester@va.gov)  
Bryon Boehmke, Voluntary Service Specialist for LD: 859-281-3930 - [Bryon.Boehmke@va.gov](mailto:Bryon.Boehmke@va.gov)  
Jackie Williams, Voluntary Service Specialist for LD: 859-281-3930—[Jacqueline.Williams6@va.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.Williams6@va.gov)

# Voluntary Service Newsletter



**SAVE THESE DATES!**

**VA Volunteer Summer "Pot-Luck" Luncheon**

**Saturday—August 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Noon**

**Cooper Auditorium**

All VA volunteers are invited to bring in their favorite food item to share. Voluntary Service will provide soft drinks, paper products, fried chicken, and hot dogs. There will be door prize drawings for VA volunteers in attendance.



**DAV Van Drivers Recognized by United Way**

In April 2009, the Lexington VAMC Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Transportation Network volunteer van drivers received an award for their outstanding volunteer service from the United Way of the Bluegrass in the Adult Group

Award category. The theme of this year's ceremony was "Volunteer All Stars." The DAV Transportation Network volunteers received an engraved miniature Louisville Slugger, a certificate and baseball cards featuring a group photo and the statistics for the transportation program. Congratulations to our dedicated volunteer van drivers for this well deserved recognition!

Last year, the DAV Transportation Network consisted of 7 vans, 30 volunteer drivers, driving 231,668 miles transporting nearly 4,000 veterans! The network provides free transportation to veterans who do not have other means of transportation and who are receiving care at the Lexington VAMC or its community-based clinics. It is not unusual for the drivers to volunteer 10-12 hours each time they drive.



**POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony**

**Friday—September 18, 2009**

**10:30A**

**Outside—front lawn area at Leestown**  
Ceremony is open to the public.

**Victory 5K (3.1 Mile) Run/Walk at VA**

**Saturday—November 7, 2009 at 9A**

**Leestown Division**

Proceeds will be donated to the Gifts for Veterans Project. To participate, contact David Webster at 859-233-4511, ext. 4197. Cost for registration is \$15.00 postmarked by October 15 and \$20.00 for entries postmarked after October 15. Race day registration will be on November 7 from 7:30-8:30A at the Belvedere picnic shelter.

**Veterans Parade in Downtown Lexington**

**Sunday—November 8, 2009**

**3:30 p.m.**

**Downtown Lexington**

Organizations, groups, and individuals that would like to participate should contact Health Administration Service at (859)281-4877.

**Annual OEF/OIF Welcome Home Celebration**

**Saturday—October 24, 2009,**

**Outside/Tower entrance**

**Cooper Division**

Veterans and their families will receive free tickets to a home UK football game (time TBA at a later date). Monetary donations for this event should be made payable to the Lexington VAMC with a note that the donation is for the Welcome Home Celebration or GPF Account #160. Donations should be sent to Voluntary Service.

Volunteers are also needed to help with set up and serving of refreshments. For more information, please contact Barbara Slater, OEF/OIF Program Manager at 859-233-4511, VA ext. 4273.

**New Volunteer Orientation Schedule**

Individuals interested in volunteering at the Lexington VAMC should plan to attend one of the New Volunteer Orientation sessions listed below. Attendees will receive information about the VA, the medical center, volunteer opportunities, the application process, and various training topics. The sessions last for about one and a half hours, and **will be held in the Cooper Division Auditorium, 2nd Floor (take the main lobby elevators—across from the Parking Garage elevators—to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor).**

- Saturday, August 8 at 10A
- Saturday, August 22 at 10A
- Saturday, September 5 at 10A
- Saturday, September 12 at 10A
- Monday, September 21 at 3P
- Saturday, October 3 at 10A
- Saturday, October 17 at 10A
- Saturday, November 7 at 10A
- Saturday, November 21 at 10A
- Saturday, December 5 at 10A
- Saturday, December 19 at 10A

Please contact the VA Voluntary Service office at (859) 281-4930 if you would like to be scheduled to attend a session or you need additional information.

## Monetary Donation Needs

**Personal Care Items:** to purchase comfort kits of personal care items and other assorted individual-sized personal care items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, body powder, nail clippers, shaving cream, disposable razors, body lotion, etc.) for veterans who need them while receiving care as inpatients. A \$187.00 donation will purchase a case of 100 comfort kits. We use 40 cases annually at a cost of about \$10,000.00 annually for the comfort kits and other assorted personal care items. (GPF #93).

**Recreation Fund:** to purchase recreation items in support of activities for patients (bingos, picnics, parties, community outings, refreshments, paper products, popcorn supplies, etc.) Recreation Therapy uses about \$2,500.00 annually, which includes popcorn that is provided to patients. (GPF #1066).

**Social Work Quick Fund:** to provide patients in urgent situations with travel when no other transportation is available or other urgent financial situations that cannot be met by any other means. (GPF #7).

**Polytrauma Veterans Fund:** a newly established GPF account for monetary donations to benefit severely wounded veterans who have served in Afghanistan or Iraq who are receiving medical care at the VA. This fund will be administered by some of our Social Work staff. (GPF #1158).

**Coffee Fund:** to purchase supplies including coffee, cups, creamers, sugars, sweeteners, stir sticks, and cup lids) so that free coffee is available to veterans and family members on designated inpatient units and in outpatient waiting areas. Approximately 400 cups are served daily Monday—Friday at the Cooper Division. Coffee is provided at an annual cost of \$10,000.00. (GPF #59).

**Patient Bowling Program:** to assist in paying fees for Recreation Therapy staff to take inpatients at the Leestown Division bowling several times each month. (GPF #24).

**Gifts for Veterans Project:** to purchase assorted gift items that are placed in a specially-marked travel bag and given out on Christmas morning to every veteran hospitalized as inpatients and those veterans receiving care on the Homeless Veterans transition Unit at LD. We spend around \$5,000.00 each year to provide the specially marked travel bags and the assorted gift items that are packed in the bags that are given to approximately 200 inpatients on Christmas Day. (GPF #49).

**Welcome Home Celebration:** to purchase food, t-shirts, recognition pins, entertainment, etc. for an annual event honoring recently returning service members and veterans who have served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan. (GPF #160)

**General Purpose Fund:** to purchase various items that help to enhance the personal comfort, morale, and general well-being of veterans receiving care through the Lexington VA Medical Center. (GPF #59).

**Homeless Veterans Program:** to provide needed assistance to homeless veterans. (GPF #157).

**Checks should be made payable to: Lexington VA Medical Center and mailed to:  
Voluntary Service (135-CD), VA Medical Center, 1101 Veterans Drive,  
Lexington, KY 40502-2236**

## Material Donation Needs

### **Various Individual Size Personal Care Items**

Individual sized shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, disposable razors, hand lotion, combs, liquid soap, body powder, etc. can be donated that will be handed out to inpatients who need them.

### **Clothing**

All sizes of adult male and female clothing items (especially 2XL and 3XL sizes) shirts, sweaters, jackets, pants, shoes, underclothes; as well as, gloves, socks, hats, etc. can be donated that will be made available to patients who need them through the VA Clothing Room. These items can be new or used if in good condition.

### **Toll-Free Phone Cards**

Phone cards are needed for veterans who need to make calls to their family while receiving care in the hospital.

### **Lex-Tran Bus Tokens**

Can be purchased directly from the Lexington Transit Authority and then donated to Voluntary Service. Tokens cost \$1.00 each and will be used to assist veterans in the Lexington area who need transportation to/from the medical center.

### **Coffee Pots**

Coffee is provided to patients and visitors in designated inpatient and outpatient waiting areas of the medical center. 90 cup, 45 cup, and 12 cup coffee makers are needed.

### **Recreation Items**

Large print word search puzzles/crossword puzzles books, playing cards, Wii electronic games, DVD movies, and plastic headphones that can be issued to patients as needed.

### **Coffee Supplies**

Regular coffee, decaffeinated coffee, coffee creamer (canisters/packets), sugar (canisters/packets), artificial sweeteners, stir sticks, etc.

### **Snack Foods**

Individually wrapped snack crackers/granola bars/candy, etc.

### **Various Other Items**

Assorted gardening tools, guitars, and a music stereo system.

# Thank you for your generous support.

Please contact Voluntary Service at (859) 281-5280/4930 if you need additional information or if you are interested in donating any of these items.



## ***Keeping the Promise***

***"To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan ..."***



# Victory 5K

**Saturday**

**November 7, 2009**

**VA Medical Center**

**2250 Leestown Road**

**9:00A**



*The Victory 5K is dedicated to the men and women who have worn our nation's military uniforms—join us and run or walk in honor of a Veteran!*

**Register at: [www.johnsrnwalkshop.com](http://www.johnsrnwalkshop.com)**

*Proceeds will be donated to the "Gifts for Veterans Project," which provides gifts for inpatients and homeless veterans on Christmas Day at the Lexington VA Medical Center.*

# Voluntary Service Newsletter



# Victory 5K

The race will be held at the Lexington VA Medical Center's Leestown Division at 2250 Leestown Road, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Exit & on New Circle: Outbound Leestown Road past Leestown Middle School across from Coca Cola and Amazon.com.



### Pre-Registration

- \$15 for entries postmarked by October 15\*
- \*t-shirt guaranteed to early registrants

### Late Registration

- \$20 for entries postmarked after October 15

### Race Day Registration & Packet Pickup

Bring cash or check from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. to the Belvedere at Leestown.

- Overall Top 3 Male & Top 3 Female
- Top 3 Male & Top 3 Female by age group: 0-9; 10-14; 15-19; 20-24; 25-29; 30-34; 35-39; 40-44; 50-54; 55-59; 60-64; 65-69; 70+

**\*Door Prizes\***

Questions? Contact David Webster: (859) 233-4511 ext. 4197

Mail form and entry fee to:  
The Employee Association (TEA)  
Lexington VAMC 00A5-CD  
1101 Veterans Drive  
Lexington, KY 40502

Entry Fee (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

After Oct. 15 (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to: TEA**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sex : M F

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt Size: S M L XL XXL

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Age on Race Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent or guardian if under 18 years of age. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### WAIVER for participants in the Victory 3K

Each person participating in the Victory 3K is required to sign this waiver.

In consideration of being permitted to take part in the Victory 3K the participant hereby releases, absolves, indemnifies, holds harmless and waives all claims against the Lexington VA Medical Center and the Lexington Fayette-Urban County Government, their members and agents, for any losses or injuries of any kind whatsoever arising out of the Victory 3K

## Upcoming Special Events

### **August 29**

Noon—**VA Volunteer Summer “Pot-Luck” Luncheon** at Noon in the Cooper Drive (CD) 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Auditorium. VA Volunteers are invited to bring a food item to share. Door prize drawings for VA volunteers in attendance.

### **September 18**

10:30A—**POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony**

In front of Building 1 at the Leestown Road Division. Open to the public

### **October 24**

**Welcome Home Celebration** – in front of the Cooper Drive Division. (Time of the event will be determined at a later date – Call Barbara Slater at 859-233-4511, VA ext. 4273 for additional information or if you want to donate to support this event.)

### **October 29**

7:00A—2:00P—**Voluntary Service Annual Arts & Crafts Bake Sale and Hot Dog Luncheon** (11:00 AM – 1:00 PM). Donations are needed of seasonal arts & craft items, home-made baked goods, and/or home-made chili sauce to help support this event. All proceeds support recognition activities for VA volunteers.

### **November 7**

9:00A—**Veterans Victory 5K (3.1 Mile Run/Walk) at LD** – Starts at 9:00 AM – Contact David Webster at 859-233-4511, VA ext. 4197 if you want to pre-register. Registration fee is \$15.00 before October 15<sup>th</sup>; \$20.00 afterwards. Registration from 7:30-8:30 AM at the Belvedere Shelter House at LD the day of the walk/run.

### **November 8**

3:00P—**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Parade** in downtown Lexington

(Contact Judy Rittenhouse or Genia Dorsey at 859-233-4877 for information on participating.)

### **November 11**

2:00P—**Veterans Day Activities at VA**

(Special recreation activities will be held at both divisions at 2:00 PM. Donations are needed for the Leestown Division Bingo of quarters for prizes and homemade baked goods for refreshments)

### **December 25**

8:00 AM – **Gifts for Veterans Project**. Gifts will be distributed to all inpatients at both divisions; and Veterans on the Homeless Veterans Transition Unit at LD. (Monetary donations are needed for General Post Fund #49 to allow us to purchase assorted gift items that will be placed in a specially-marked travel bag to handed out on Christmas Day. Donations should be received by November 15, 2009 in order for them to be used for this year’s Christmas.)

## Current Assignments Needed

### Cooper Division

- Information Desk – late afternoons or weekends
- Radiology Reception Area – 5:00-7:00PM Monday- Friday (you can select a day(s))
- Comment Card Assistant – Ability to enter data in computer programs
- Surgical Waiting Room – Assist family members waiting for relative having surgery. Can be done on as “as needed” basis.
- Volunteer Van Drivers for Lexington Area – Drive donated van to pick up veterans without transportation in the Lexington and surrounding area to come to the medical center.
- Reminder Calls – Make telephone calls to veterans to remind them of upcoming appointments they have in VA specialty clinics.

### Leestown Division

- Voluntary Service Office – Ability to use a computer to input data and assist with correspondence to acknowledge donations.
  - Patient Clothing Room – Volunteers needed to assist in sorting women’s clothing that has been donated.
- Information Desk -12:30P - 3:30PM at the Information Desk Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Voluntary Service (135-CD)  
VA Medical Center  
1101 Veterans Drive  
Lexington, KY 40502-2236  
(859) 281-4930/3930