

# Community Service Program

## **Vision Statement:**

For the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Hawaii; to be the premiere Veteran based organization in the state enriching the lives of Veterans, their families and our community.

## **Mission Statement:**

The VFW members volunteer in their communities and give back to our troops and their families as we know how important community service is to America, with volunteerism benefiting education, the environment, health sciences and civic projects.

**Year Goals:** Each year the objective is to get a 10 % increase in the number of community service hours and community service monetary donations to the community

## **General Information:**

### **VFW'S VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROGRAM**

VFW members and supporters have been volunteering their time at VA medical facilities nationwide, donating hundreds of thousands of service hours annually and providing much needed support and companionship to our nation's heroes and their families. The VFW's VA Voluntary Service program offers a unique level of support and experience that only an organization with a strong service history like the VFW's can provide. From experienced VFW mentors with a clear understanding of VA infrastructure and providing the support you need, to national recognition for volunteer accomplishments and dedication, the VFW is here to ensure sure you get the most out of your volunteer service experience.

With over 6,000 regular volunteers at over 150 health care facilities, the VFW's volunteer representatives perform a vital role at VA health care facilities nationwide. The VFW can help identify volunteer opportunities that align with your interests, such as sports and recreation, social work, arts and music, personal assistance, writing, chapel services, companionship, transportation and escort services and so much more.

### **VFW POST COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANTS**

For more than 11 decades, VFW Posts have been the pillars of support in their communities. From building local playgrounds and organizing clothing drives, to military support events and disaster relief efforts, the VFW takes great pride in its long history of service to communities across the globe. If your Post is interested in a grant to help with the cost of your next Post event, the VFW Foundation may be able to help!

## **VFW FOUNDATION COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT**

VFW community service projects are extremely important and shouldn't be hindered by budgetary limitations. In an effort to help VFW Posts and Auxiliaries succeed serving their communities, the VFW Foundation - the official 501 (c)(3) charity of the VFW - established the VFW Foundation Community Service Grant to help fund local community service projects.

Available to any VFW Post or Auxiliary, a VFW Foundation Community Service Grant will provide up to \$1,000 for performing important and needed qualifying outreach project in their community!

With an easy and streamlined application process, Posts and Auxiliaries can expect to receive a decision within thirty (30) days of their application submission.

*APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED STARTING SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.*

## **VFW FOUNDATION REGULAR GRANT**

No one understands military and veteran support quite like the VFW. To help VFW Departments, Posts and their Auxiliaries, as well as qualifying nonprofits provide the vital support America's heroes and their families deserve, the VFW Foundation has established the VFW Foundation Regular Grant.

Grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$15,000, will be awarded for activities that directly benefit veterans, active duty military personnel and their families. Requests displaying innovation in service delivery, unique program design that addresses an underserved need and the likelihood of sustainability after the grant period ends will be given special consideration.

## **VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM**

Schools often study the wars in which our nation has participated. Teachers regularly seek out veterans of these wars to provide personal accounts of events and personal stories to illustrate that time in America's history. Veterans who are willing to participate in the classroom can create valuable relationships that bring honor to all America's veterans and our great organization. In addition, providing VFW members to a school opens doors for our scholarship programs and teacher awards.

Visit this website <http://www.vfw.org/Classroom/> and download the "Veterans in the Classroom" manual.

## **ENCOURAGING PATRIOTISM**

An important role of every VFW and Auxiliary member is the sharing of our patriotism and encouragement of others to express their love of country and support for our young men and women in uniform.

This need is most important for our youth. If this nation is to remain strong and continue to demonstrate the values upon which it was created and has been sustained, it will depend on future generations. We must impart our patriotism to the next generation. A separate booklet entitled, "VFW in the Classroom," has been prepared to provide guidance and resources to help your Post and Auxiliary become a resource to your local schools and their teachers. Visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) – and you would log in from the VFW home page (then go to "MY VFW") and under the General Members Tools & Resources heading you would click on "VFW Training and Support." Go to the "Community Service, Youth Scholarships and Activities" area. Look to the right under ADDITIONAL RESOURCES – and click on "Citizenship & Education." That is where you will find the helpful "VFW in the Classroom" booklet.

## **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

This program is designed to provide recognition and awards to VFW members who volunteer their time in service through outside organizations. Recognition is in the form of certificates and/or lapel pins which are given to volunteers who have completed the number of hours prescribed for those awards.

The individual in charge of a local community service organization such as a school, youth group, a food pantry or a shelter must sign the validation form for the VFW or non-member VFW volunteer.

The VFW Programs Department will provide the appropriate award for presentation to the volunteer upon receipt of a completed request form properly signed by the coordinator for the community service program, Post Commander and the Department Adjutant. The completed, signed forms must be submitted to the following:

VFW Programs (VFW National Headquarters)  
406 West 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
Fax: (816) 968-1149 E-mail:  
[nclifton@vfw.org](mailto:nclifton@vfw.org)  
Phone: (816) 968-1148

Awards are provided as follows:

1. 100 hours certificate
2. 150 hours lapel pin
3. 300 hours lapel pin
4. 500 hours lapel pin and certificate
5. 1,000 hours lapel pin
6. 2,000 hours lapel pin and certificate
7. 3,000 hours lapel pin
8. 4,000 hours lapel pin
9. 5,000 hours lapel pin and certificate
10. 6,000 hours lapel pin
11. 8,000 hours lapel pin
12. 9,000 hours lapel pin
13. 10,000 hours lapel pin and certificate
14. 12,500 hours lapel pin
15. 15,000 hours certificate
16. 17,500 hours certificate
17. 20,000 hours lapel pin and certificate
18. 30,000 hours certificate
19. 35,000 hours certificate
20. 50,000 hours lapel pin and certificate

The award pin includes the Cross of Malta, the words “Community Service and VFW Volunteer” and the accumulated volunteer hours. The certificate will recognize the volunteer for attaining the appropriate cumulative hour level.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for this recognition, an individual must:

1. Be a VFW member in good standing performing volunteer service for a community service organization.
2. Such volunteer service must be given under the representation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Volunteer service rendered under sponsorship of any other organization is not recognized for this purpose. Some examples of volunteer work benefitting nonmembers are: coaching youth, working at a food pantry, conducting flag presentations in front of schools or youth groups and supporting funeral homes and cemeteries by providing honor guard details for non- member veterans.

### **OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE POST**

There should be at least one Post in your Department that will be selected as a National Outstanding Community Service Post. Each Department will select at least one

Post(depending on Department size –see below) to receive the National Outstanding Community Service Post Award at the VFW National Convention.

The award includes a plaque inscribed with the name of the VFW Post and its Auxiliary (if applicable), a \$599 stipend to cover part of the Post representative's expenses to the National Convention, publication of the Post's name in the Convention program booklet and a street sign identifying this national award for the Post to put up in their community.

Your VFW Department is responsible for the selection criteria for this award and sending the name of the selected Post(s) to the National Programs Department by May 1 each year. Contact your Department for the selection criteria and further information about this award. Nominations should be as follows:

Departments w/less than 200 Posts – 1 entry  
Departments w/201 than 399 Posts - 2 entries  
Departments w/400 + Posts - 3 entries

### **POST SPECIAL PROJECT AWARD**

If your Post, County Council, District or Department conducted a special project that you think should be nationally recognized by VFW National Headquarters, we would like to hear from you.

To be considered your entry must include the following:

- 1) Copy of the minutes of the VFW meeting at which the project was authorized.
- 2) Signed statement from the Commander summarizing the impact of the project.
- 3) Photos (limit of twenty) of the activity.
- 4) Newspaper clippings featuring the project.
- 5) Letters of congratulation/recognition from civic and local leaders.
- 6) Copy of the project budget/expense sheet.
- 7) Narrative telling how the project was planned and executed and its impact on the community.
- 8) Entry form (on following page), signed by the Department Community Service Chairman and the Department Adjutant.

Judging is conducted solely on the basis of the information indicated above. Points are awarded for each element and will be deducted for missing items. All documentation must be limited to one binder. Entries must be postmarked by April 30th. Projects must be executed and nominated within the 12 months preceding national judging.

All entries receive a Community Service Citation. Noteworthy entries receive a Merit Award Plaque. Exceptional entries receive an Award of Excellence. All recipients of the Award of

Excellence are automatically entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Award competition.

### **FRED C. HALL MEMORIAL OUTSTANDING POST SPECIAL PROJECT AWARD**

Every Post Special Project receiving the award of excellence in the May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project competition.

The winning Post receives a plaque at the VFW National Convention and a \$1,000 service scholarship for community projects. The Post Commander (or designated representative) and a guest will receive round-trip air fare, a cash stipend and accommodations to receive the award at the VFW National Convention.

All resources needed for chairmen to conduct the Community Service Program are online. Visit <http://www.vfw.org> and you would log in as a VFW member (and make sure you click on "MY VFW"). Under the RESOURCES heading you would click on "VFW Training and Support." Go to the "Community Service, Youth Scholarships and Activities" area. You will find the following resources on that page:

- [CommunityandCitizenshipChairman'sManual](#)

Please also look to the right-hand side on this web page, in the grey box where it says "Chairman's Manuals." After clicking on that link, you will see six separate chairman manuals for each VFW Programs area

### **Post Chairmen are responsible for the following:**

As chairman, your talents must be varied. Consequently, your organizational skills should be fully developed.

Some of your specific duties include:

- ✓ **recruiting and maintaining a pool of active volunteers**
- ✓ **identifying and initiating programs needed in your community**
- ✓ **motivating your Post members, community volunteers and sponsors involved in your various projects**
- ✓ **recognizing your volunteers' efforts**

✓ **organizing and maintaining records, photos and newspaper clippings the document your activities**

✓ [Reporting to your Department chairman the volunteer hours, dollars donated by VFW, Auxiliary, Cooties, Junior Girls and Men's Auxiliary members and other information requested.](#)

Recognize VFW volunteers throughout the year. Follow the steps below to be sure your volunteers receive the recognition they so greatly deserve.

- Provide recognition to individual VFW members and supporters using the National Community Service Volunteer Recognition Award. Also, be sure to recognize your volunteers during National Volunteer Week held each year in April/May.
- Select a date and time during National Volunteer Week to recognize the individuals at your Post home.
- Appoint a committee of at least three, including your Auxiliary representative, to select a VFW and Auxiliary member, a local community service group, educator or youth leader, youth volunteer, military volunteer and a local family to receive a citation.
- Invite local government officials and leaders in your community. Be sure to introduce them at the beginning of the ceremony.

#### **Community Service Deadlines:**

- 15 November 2016: All Posts submissions to Department Chairperson for Mid-Year Report
- 1 December 2016: Department Mid-Year Report to National VFW Programs by email or FAX (816-968-1149)

\*\*\*Note: All reported hours and donations are for the time period of 1 May 2016 to 31 November 2016

- 15 April 2017: All Posts submissions to Department Chairperson for Annual Year Report
- 1 May 2017: Department Annual Year Report to National VFW Programs by email or FAX (816-968-1149)

\*\*\*Note: All reported hours and donations are for the time period of 1 May 2016 to 31 April 2017

- 1 May 2017: Department Outstanding Post Community Service submit completed form to National VFW Programs by email or FAX (816-968-1149)

**Department of Hawaii Community Service Chairperson:**

*To Be Announced*

Or if you need additional information contact

Randy Grant- Post 2875

[rwgrant@live.com](mailto:rwgrant@live.com)

808-347-2936

**Website for more information:**

<http://www.vfw.org> and you would log in as a VFW member (and make sure you click on "MY VFW"). Under the RESOURCES heading you would click on "VFW Training and Support." Go to the "Community Service, Youth Scholarships and Activities" area.

Approved: Cmdr



**Year 2015-2016 Community Service (Annual Report):**

VFW National Programs Department  
Community Service Year Report  
**Report from Department of Hawaii**

Confirmation of Joint Report: verified by

*Randy Grant*

Department Community Service Chairperson

List All Posts/Auxiliaries who reported Community Service projects  
from 1 May 2015 - 31 April 2016

Post and Auxiliary Number	Total amount of monies expended to complete activities	Number of Volunteer Hours
110	\$2,855.20	171
2875	\$711.20	112
3292	\$39,746.83	1,837
3830	\$6,292.00	2,429
3855	\$1,500.00	200
8616	\$1,304.00	7,088
10154	\$180.00	452
10276	\$22,393.40	5,097
Department of Hawaii Totals 1 May 2015 - 31 April 2016	\$75,514.63	17,746

**Combined VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Information**

Total Dollar Amount

**Total Amount of**

**Monies** \$75,514.63

**Total Amount of Hours** 17,746

Return to VFW Programs by FAX (816-968-1149)

**Completed Form by 1 May 2016**

**Year 2015 -2016 Outstanding Community Service Post:**

To: Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States National Programs

Attn: John Linstra

From: Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Hawaii, Community Service Chairperson

Subject: Outstanding Community Service Post for 2015 – 2016

VFW Department of Hawaii selects **VFW Post 10276** for the community Service Post for 2015 - 2016. The Post Commander is Calvin Sagara. His email address is [calsagara@yahoo.com](mailto:calsagara@yahoo.com). The Quartermaster for the Post is Fred Chang. The Post mailing address is 1214 Puu Poni St, Pearl City Hawaii 96782-2549. The post email address is [fchang217@gmail.com](mailto:fchang217@gmail.com) .

VFW Post 10276 has performed 5,097 volunteer hours and donated \$22,393.40 in contributions for community service efforts. The post is a fine example of the Aloha spirit that the Hawaiian Posts share with the community.

Please contact the Department chairperson, Randy Grant, if you have any questions. He can be reached at (808) 347-2936 or by email: [rwgrant@live.com](mailto:rwgrant@live.com).

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Randy Grant  
Community Service Chairperson  
VFW Department of Hawaii

## Community Service Reportable Information

### **Types of services Reportable:**

- Use of the Post Home by a community service organization
- Donating to Goodwill, Salvation Army, Boys and Girls Club or other similar organizations. (Get the estimated value for the items donated)
- Visiting an elderly center or helping at an elderly center
- Taking care of graves at the State and National Cemeteries
- Adopt-a-highway or beach cleanup
- Helping with volunteer projects at Waimea Valley or other natural parks
- Helping Foster Kids events
- Helping with the various Marathons, Triathlons, and other sporting events on the Islands
- Helping a Robotics competition
- Working with homeless
- Volunteering hours and dollars for hospital work
- Report the number of miles that you travel for the event (If you live in Mililani and go to the Battleship Missouri to help clean, the mileage is about 14 miles and you can determine \$.14 per mile both ways as monetary donation)
- Sponsoring an event where no funds are received but benefits the community (not the VFW)
- Community Service, as defined by the National Community Service Trust Act “encompasses any human act serving the common good; in the interest of the community.”

### **Types of Services **NOT** reportable:**

- Any Special events on Veterans Day, Pearl Harbor Day, and Memorial Day where several Veterans Organizations gather to honor Veterans
- VFW Sponsored events (such as recruiting, information tables, Single Solider Christmas Party, Military Assistance Program (MAP) or other events that the VFW paid to participate or is working to achieve VFW membership or programs requirements)
- Buddy Poppy distribution
- Council of Administration, State Convention, National Convention, Returning Troop ceremonies, Escorting Visiting National VFW representatives
- Cooking or serving a meal for a Post fundraiser
- Flag retirement ceremony (unless this is performed for the entire community)
- ***Tithes and offering to religious groups (Does not benefit the community at large)***
- **Any event where you receive money or gifts then it is not a community service event**

VFW Community Service Program  
Post/Auxiliary Report Form

Dear Post Commander/Auxiliary President:

Please assist your Department by completing this six-month Community Service Report Form (May 1 - October 31) and return it to the Department Headquarters or to the designated individual (Chairperson) by **November 15**.

Post/Auxiliary No.	Total amount of monies expended to complete activities	Total number of volunteer hours

Completed by:

Post/Auxiliary Officer or Chairperson's signature

RETURN FORM TO DEPARTMENT OR CHAIRPERSON BY NOVEMBER 15

Keep copy for Post records

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**VFW Community Service Program  
Post/Auxiliary Report Form**

Dear Post Commander/Auxiliary President:

Please assist your Department by completing this six-month Community Service Report Form (December 1 - April 31) and return it to the Department Headquarters or to the designated individual (Chairperson) by **April 15**.

Post/Auxiliary No.	Total amount of monies expended to complete activities	Total number of volunteer hours

Completed by:

Post/Auxiliary Officer or Chairperson's signature

RETURN FORM TO DEPARTMENT OR CHAIRPERSON BY APRIL 15

Keep copy for Post records