



**Department of California
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
December 2023 Bulletin**

VA Center for Development
and Civic Engagement

Volunteers are a priceless asset to the
Nations Veterans

The VA has many programs that you can volunteer your time with, such as becoming a Volunteer Transportation Network Driver, greeting Veterans at the main entrance as a Red Coat Ambassador, or becoming part of the Compassionate Contact Corps by contacting socially isolated Veterans through phone calls. Your time commitment is up to you. **If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at one of VA's medical centers or national cemeteries, you can easily connect to the local office by clicking on the following link:**

<https://www.volunteer.va.gov/directory/index.asp>.

Application Process: Contact the local Center for Development and Civic Engagement Dept. (formerly Volunteer Service) to obtain an application form. After filling out and returning the form, schedule an appointment for an interview with the Specialist. After the interview, prospective volunteers must attend an orientation and complete the onboarding process. Tell their staff of your interest in becoming a VA Volunteer. The staff will take care of everything else including your interview, orientation, and assignment.

Volunteer Benefits: Volunteers will receive free parking, identification badge, jacket/vests, initial tuberculin testing, and annual flu vaccinations. Volunteers are honored with award ceremonies and special activities. Respect and admiration abound from serving those who served.

Volunteer Programs:

- The Adopt-a-Holiday Program furnishes tray covers and napkins for patients' dinner trays on special holidays.
- The Clothes Closet Program furnishes needy veterans with clean, used clothing and new underwear.

- Health and Occupations Careers Program provides underprivileged youth an opportunity to learn about jobs, careers, and social interaction.
- Mobile Coffee Cart Program provides free coffee to Veterans and their families in the various waiting rooms throughout the hospital.

These are just a few of the programs volunteers can sign up for.

Wishing each of you a joyous holiday season and many blessings in the new year.

Until next time, we remain United as One,

Susan Baker, VA&R Chair
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VA



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