



VETERANS VOICE

Winnebago County Department of Veterans Services Newsletter

January 2022

Turn Your Day Around By Giving Blood This January

With the start of a new year, you, your friends, and family can make a big difference by pledging to give blood twice in 2022 to help save lives and in the process - you can turn your day around through this simple, essential, and lifesaving act.

Why Donate?

The nation's blood supply depends on altruism in the form of blood donation from a diverse pool of donors. All blood types are needed. It takes 24 - 48 hours to process, test and prepare a pint of blood for transfusion.

Someone requires blood every two seconds.

Doing so ensures the availability of the nation's blood supply for Veterans and patients in need. America's Blood Centers - and its community blood centers around the country - depend on a diverse pool of donors of all ethnicities to maintain the nation's blood supply to meet the needs of the one in seven patients entering a hospital that requires a blood transfusion.

While Veterans and active duty military members know the importance of blood donation, we ask that you help spread awareness of the need for blood donors among those who may not realize their own ability to impact patients throughout the U.S. Beginning this January with the arrival of National Blood Donor Month, the national community is encouraging all eligible individuals to commit to donating blood at least twice throughout 2022.

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**I AM A
PROUD
BLOOD DONOR**



“Whatever you do, always give 100%. Unless you’re donating blood.”

- Bill Murray

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Turn Someone's Day Around. Give Blood.



Continued...

Blood shortages have become a national epidemic with communities throughout the U.S. experiencing these shortages more frequently and for prolonged periods of time nationwide due to disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Now is the time for you to make a difference.

If every eligible individual pledges and also follows through on donating blood at least one more time than they did in 2021, blood shortages would be eliminated. It is safe and easy to donate blood. All eligible individuals are encouraged to schedule an appointment to help maintain the nation's blood supply for its availability whenever and wherever it is needed.

This National Blood Donor Month, we thank you, all current and future blood donors, for your resiliency, reliability and commitment to turn your day around by making an appointment to donate blood, assisting blood centers in performing their essential, lifesaving missions.

During emergencies, it is the blood on the shelf that has been donated, collected, tested and processed that saves lives. Do your part and help to stabilize your local community's blood supply to prevent hospitals from potentially being forced to alter treatment for some patients or cancel patient surgeries.

More than 33,000 daily donations are required throughout the U.S. to meet patient needs. Be the difference in potentially saving a life by making blood donation a habit this January for you, your friends and family, and committing to donating blood at least twice this year.

National Blood Donor Month

According to the American Red Cross, winter is "one of the most difficult times of year to collect enough blood products to meet patient needs." That's because of, among other things, busy holiday schedules and bad weather often resulting in canceled blood drives. Furthermore, seasonal illnesses such as the flu force potential donors to forgo their blood donations.

That's just one of the reasons that National Blood Donor Month, which has taken place each January since 1970, is such an important observance. Donating blood saves many lives and improves health for many people.

Five amazing facts about blood donations:

1. According to the American Red Cross, about 38% of the US population can donate blood but only 10% actually do.
2. Brookhaven National Laboratory says that people who begin donating blood at age 17 and donate every 8 weeks will have donated 48 gallons of blood by age 76.
3. When we donate blood, labs examine the donation for multiple infectious diseases, such as HIV and West Nile virus.
4. Your dog can donate blood, too. Check with your veterinarian and the Humane Society to make sure you know the local rules and regulations for this type of donation.
5. Every time we donate one pint of blood, the potential is there to save three lives.

Incarcerated Veterans

Veterans can sometimes run into issues with law enforcement and the criminal justice system resulting in incarceration. It is important justice-involved Veterans are familiar with VA benefits including what VA benefits they may still be eligible to receive, what happens to the VA benefits they are already receiving if they become incarcerated, and what programs are available to assist them with reintegrating back into the community once released from incarceration.

VA Programs for Justice-Involved Veterans

The [Health Care for Re-entry Veterans \(HCRV\) Program](#) is designed to help incarcerated Veterans successfully reintegrate back into the community after their release. A critical part of HCRV is providing information to Veterans while they are incarcerated, so they can plan for re-entry themselves. A primary goal of the HCRV program is to prevent Veterans from becoming homeless once they are reintegrated back into the community.

The [Veteran Justice Outreach \(VJO\) Initiative](#) is designed to help Veterans avoid unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration by ensuring eligible justice-involved Veterans receive timely access to VA health care, specifically mental health and substance use services (if clinically indicated) and other VA services and benefits as appropriate.

How Incarceration Affects Eligibility for VA Benefits

VA can pay certain benefits to Veterans who are incarcerated in a Federal, State, or local penal institution; however, the amount depends on the type of benefit and reason for incarceration.

Disability Compensation - VA disability compensation payments are reduced if a Veteran is convicted of a felony and imprisoned for more than 60 days. Veterans rated 20% or more are limited to the 10% disability rate. For a Veteran whose disability rating is 10%, the payment is reduced by one-half. Once a Veteran is released from prison, compensation payments may be reinstated based upon the severity of the service connected disability(ies) at that time. Payments are not reduced for recipients participating in work release programs, residing in halfway houses (also known as “residential re-entry centers”), or under community control. The amount of any increased compensation awarded to an incarcerated Veteran that results from other than a statutory rate increase may be subject to reduction due to incarceration.

Pension - Veterans in receipt of VA pension will have payments terminated effective the 61st day after imprisonment in a Federal, State, or local penal institution for conviction of a felony or misdemeanor. Payments may be resumed upon release from prison if the Veteran meets VA eligibility requirements. Failure to notify VA of a Veteran’s incarceration could result in the loss of all financial benefits until the overpayment is recovered.

Apportionment to Spouse or Children - All or part of the compensation not paid to an incarcerated Veteran may be apportioned to the Veteran’s spouse, child or children, and dependent parents on the basis of individual need. In determining individual need, consideration shall be given to such factors as the claimant’s income and living expenses, the amount of compensation available to be apportioned, the needs and living expenses of other claimants as well as any special needs, if any, of all claimants.

Education Benefits - Beneficiaries incarcerated for other than a felony can receive full monthly benefits, if otherwise entitled. Convicted felons residing in halfway houses (also known as “residential re-entry centers”), or participating in work-release programs also can receive full monthly benefits. Claimants incarcerated for a felony conviction can be paid only the costs of tuition, fees, and necessary books, equipment, and supplies. VA cannot make these payments if another Federal, State or local program pays these costs in full. If another government program pays only a part of the costs then VA can authorize payment for the remaining part of the costs.

Upcoming Event

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE
STORY OF FOUR CHAPLAINS
FEBRUARY 3rd, 2022
1:00 PM
ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
NESHKORO, WI 54960



GEORGE L. FOX



ALEXANDER D.
GOODE



CLARK V.
POLING



JOHN P.
WASHINGTON

Wells-Krause, VFW POST 2925
Berlin, WI 54923

CONTACT US

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fits; join our e-mail list.
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Visit us on the web at:

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For a list of more events,
check out our [calendar!](#)