

NHVH Veterans and Staff Help Servicemen in Iraq and Afghanistan

TILTON, NH - Donna Lamprey, Housekeeping Supervisor at the New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH), wears more than one hat. In her spare time she coordinates the "Veterans Helping Veterans" Program at the Home. Now more than three years old, the Veterans Helping Veterans Program is designed to help improve the quality of life of current servicemen and women while also improving the quality of life of NHVH residents.

"All of our residents have served our country during a time of war," Lamprey explains, "so they can understand what our current servicemen and women are experiencing. By helping assemble 'Care' packages, creating homemade greeting cards, and writing letters to servicepeople, our residents continue to have a strong



Jarred DeMontigny with his mom, Shirley Ray, NHVH Admissions Counselor.

sense of purpose. They know their efforts make a difference because we get wonderful letters back from the servicepeople. We post the letters so everyone can read them, and we give an update every month at the Resident Council Meeting."

This month the Veterans Helping Veterans Program held a Spring Gardening Theme raffle and raised \$675.00. The wagon full of goodies included seeds and bulbs, gardening tools, potting soil and pots, a watering can, sunscreen, insect repellent, a mosquito net, a hose, and garden decorations. The raffle was won by Flo Davis, Transportation Clerk at NHVH. The next raffle theme will be Men's Outdoor Hobbies and is expected to include fishing and hunting gear.

The proceeds from the Spring Gardening Theme raffle will benefit four servicemen:

- Scott Dimond, serving in South Afghanistan, is the son of Marie Gnerre, who is a Restorative Aide at NHVH.
- Jarred DeMontigny, serving in Iraq, is the son of Shirley Ray, NHVH Admissions Counselor.
- Daniel Eagan, serving in Iraq, is the son-in-law of Mary Ann Wareing, a dietician at NHVH.
- Andrew Lane, serving in Iraq, is a family friend of Alice J. Brown, who works in Housekeeping at NHVH.

Lamprey and her volunteers will soon be assembling the Care packages. She says, "We buy items based on the needs of our servicemen and women. For those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, they really appreciate receiving toothpaste, soap, deodorant, insect repellent, sunscreen, lip balm with sunblock, nutritional snacks, and powdered drink mixes.

She also lets all Veterans Home staff know that if any of them has a loved one serving in the military on active duty and would like the Veterans Helping Veterans Program to send them a package, to let her know and she will send something as soon as possible.