

NH Veterans Home Seeks Christmas Sponsorships for Vets

TILTON, NH - Santa Claus visits the New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH) each year, bringing gifts for the residents, but this year he could use some help. The Veterans Home Resident Benefit Christmas Fund needs monetary donations to help fill the stockings of 200 elderly veterans.

After a resident makes up a "Wish List," a team of elves goes shopping and wraps presents so that each resident receives a gift from Santa himself a few days before Christmas and a gift under the tree on Christmas morning. "Some residents have no families and might not receive anything at Christmas if it weren't for this," says Lisa Punderson, Volunteer Coordinator. "We've had to cut back this year, but we'd like to be able to spend \$50.00 per resident—so we need support from the community."

Punderson added, "We are asking for monetary donations because that allows us to buy things for the residents that they really need or want. In the past we've often ended up with old books no one wanted to read, clothes that didn't fit, or way too many pairs of socks."

Donors may sponsor a specific veteran or several veterans, make a gift in honor or in memory of a loved one, or just make a donation. "Veterans' service organizations or civic groups often like to 'adopt' veterans from their home town. It's all very much appreciated," says Punderson. "You should see their eyes light up when Santa calls their names."

Checks should be made out to NHVH Resident Benefit Fund, with a reference to "Christmas" and the resident's name on the Memo line if the donor chooses to sponsor a specific resident.

For more details on sponsoring a resident or group of residents, please call Gayle Bestick in the Recreation Department at 603-527-4816.

Additional information is available from Lisa Punderson, Volunteer Coordinator, at 603-527-4449.

Established in Tilton in 1890 as the Soldier's Home for Civil War Veterans, the New Hampshire Veterans Home is one of just four New Hampshire nursing homes to win the first Quality of Life Award from the NH Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS). NHVH was recognized again this year by DHHS for its continuing commitment to nursing home culture change and quality of life. The NHVH campus is home to 200 men and women who have served their country and fellow New Hampshire citizens. The mission of NHVH is to provide high quality, professional long-term care services to the Granite State's elderly and disabled veterans. NHVH is the only long-term care facility in the Granite State that is dedicated exclusively to veterans.

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Chuck Lewis, NH Veterans Home (NHVH) Recreation Assistant II with Santa Claus and Lisa Punderson, NHVH Volunteer Coordinator, getting ready for Christmas at the New Hampshire Veterans Home.