# Department of NJ Hospital Coordinator

## Communications 2025/2026

# Barbara Wiener

201 6th St N Brigantine NJ 08203—609-464-1791—barb.wiener@yahoo.com

Welcome to another year!!!

I'm excited and honored to be the hospital coordinator this year, I look forward to a fabulous year with all my reps to the hospitals and the whole Auxiliary.

There will be a department award Promotion this year for the hospitals. It is to implement the 'Honors Escort' program into as many VA/NON VA hospitals as possible. This is a program that offers a ceremonial escort to veteran patients who pass away while at a Medical Center, Community Living Center, Nursing Home or Hospice. I am very excited about bringing this program to all our hospitals in New Jersey. There will be more information on this promotion in the upcoming communications. But if anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Also, there will also be Certificates of Recognition for all Auxiliaries that donate to 5 or more of our sponsored VA Hospitals, we have 7 in total.

If any Hospital Rep or member has a party or an event, I'd like it if you could email the date and time to the event. I would love to attend as many hospital/nursing home parties as possible. Also, very important, make sure you fill out the Hospital & VAVS Activity Reports each month for any of your events. Especially remember to fill out the number of volunteers that go to the hospitals/nursing homes. These numbers are very important for the end of the year. The forms have changed, so please read carefully.

Also, Hospital Reps, if you haven't scheduled your Christmas Hospital party yet, please do so as soon as possible. Some hospitals get booked up quickly, and we don't want to schedule any on top of each other. Once scheduled, please email me the dates, so I can keep the Commander and President informed. Remember, December 7<sup>th</sup> is Pearl Harbor Day, please do not schedule a party that day, thank you. (The Holiday State Party for Vineland is December 14, 2025)

Remember we not only have 7 sponsored VA Hospitals, but there are hundreds of nursing homes and other medical facilities that house our Veterans. They all deserve to be acknowledged and remembered.

# **Hospital Representatives Directory**

# Department of NJ 2025-2026

Hospital Coordinator Barbara Wiener

201 6th St. N. Brigantine NJ 08203

609-464-1791

Barb.wiener@yahoo.com

East Orange VA Med. Center Helen Faison

31 Wellesley St.

Maplewood NJ 07040

973-763-1664

Sisterface1@verizon.net

Lyons VA Med. Center Lorraine Brooks

110 Buttermilk Bridge Rd

Washington, NJ 07882

908-689-2564

Lorrainebrooks52@yahoo.com

Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home Margaret Russo

15 Grant St.

Sewaren, NJ 07077

732-887-7947

Jerseymom1207@yahoo.com

Paramus Veterans Memorial Home Kathleen Shanahan

43 Birk St.

Saddle Brook, NJ 07663

201-410-6814

Shanahank2@gmail.com

**Veterans Haven North** 

**Betty Kitson** 

399 Lincoln Ave.

Cliffside Park, NJ 07010

551-655-0511

Kitsonbetty@gmail.com

**Veterans Haven South** 

Denise Beckler

12 Wright Ave

Stratford NJ 08084

856-448-3501

Denise.beckler@aol.com

**Vineland Veterans Memorial Home** 

Barbara Wiener

201 6th St. North

Brigantine, NJ 08203

609-464-1791

Barb.wiener@yahoo.com

# Hospital & VAVS Activity Report

# Please mail/email this report within 30 days of any activity to

Barbara Wiener 201 6th St. N. Brigantine NJ 08203 barb.wiener@yahoo.com

Auxiliary President	Date			
Auxiliary Name & Number				
Auxiliary Chairman	Phone Number			
If the Event was held by a Hospital Representative and not an Auxiliary				
Hospital Rep Name	Date			
*LIST THE NAMES OF ANY VOLUNTEERS ON THE BACK OF THE SHEET*				
Section 1 – Items or Money Donated to Hospital				
Name of Hospital the donation was made				
Date of Donation	Approx Dollar Amt			
Section 2 – Hospital Party, Non-sponsored Hospital parties or any other activity				
Name of Hospital/Facility the Party was held				
Type of Activity				
NUMBER of VOLUNTEERS	Number of Hours			
Number of Students	Number of Hours			
Section 3 – Reporting Regularly Scheduled Volunteers				
Name of Volunteer				
Name of Hospital/Facility				
Total Hours for this Report	_Dates Volunteered			
Does this Volunteer qualify for a Hospital Service	PinYesNo			
Total Number of Projects for this Report				
Total Number of <b>Members</b> that participated				
Hours worked this reportTotal Miles Trave	eled Total dollar value			

For non-sponsored hospitals, please provide proof for credit

# VFW AUXILIARY 2025-2026 DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM EAST ORAQNGE CAMPUS

HELEN FAISON VAVS REP 31 Wellesley St Maplewood, NJ 07040 ALICE KORDOWSKI DEPUTY REP 86 Chestnut St Kearney, NJ 07032

Thanks for your support and donations to our East Orange Veterans. The joy on their faces when we walk in cannot be explained especially bringing Pizza which they love and sweet treats.

Parties on the PTST Unit are limited to about 10 volunteers and have to be scheduled through CDCE FORMALLY KNOWN AS Volunteer Service.

They will need to know

- 1. Type/theme of event
- 2. Preferred date and alternate if applicable
- 3. Service you're interested in hosting for
- 4. How many participants /volunteers what will be provided to the veterans along with any other information you think will be needed to ensure a successful event

I tried to have a party on the Spinal cord unit but they had food restrictions. Just remember food must be purchased and in original packing or catered nothing homemade. On the PTST UNIT you NEED TO BE CAREFUL OF THE UTENISILS. No pictures of the Veteran signs are posted. On the PTST Unit they are not allowed to leave the unit so outside activities are very limited. Puzzles, word find books and seasonal clothing and packaged candy, crackers and cookies, always appreciated.

To book a party in East Orange please call CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CDCE 973-676-1000 ext.2745

Mercedes Chambliss chief, Latisha Eaves and Thelma Miller

Wish list and donation form attached

Have a great party, if possible, include your youth groups.

# VA NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM (EAST ORANGE)- MATERIAL DONATIONS

# **UPDATED 01/2025**

The Medical Center Director and Voluntary Service Program Manager/Staff are authorized to accept donations that benefit the facility and our Veterans. *All donations must be routed through Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE)*. Please coordinate all material donation in advance of the purchase and delivery by contacting CDCE at:

- Lyons Campus- (908) 604-5814
- East Orange Campus- (973) 676-1000 ext. 20-1387

Donations are accepted by scheduled appointments Monday through Friday, 9am to 3pm.

## VA NJ Health Care System Food Policy Donations:

- We request that all donors adhere to our Medical Center Food Policy, which <u>does not</u> permit homemade food to be accepted on behalf of our Veterans. We do accept commercially prepared food items in the original sealed packaging within the expiration date. These policies are in place to ensure the health and welfare of our Veterans. If you have a question regarding the appropriateness of a food donation, please call the office.

# \*\*\* ALL CLOTHING ITEMS MUST BE NEW WITH TAGS (NO EXCEPTIONS) \*\*\*

# Material donations needed year-round:

- Toiletries (body wash, deodorant, lotion, shampoo & conditioner.)
- Undergarments (men and women- t-shirts, tank tops, socks, sport bras, undergarments, etc.) All sizes from S 6XL. (in need of size small, large and 2xl men and women underwear)
- Season/Weather appropriate clothing for men and women to include: pajamas, long sleeve and short sleeve shirts, shorts, sweat pants, sweat shirts, jackets, coats, hats, and gloves. All sizes S 6XL.
- Slipper socks for men and women. All sizes.
- Shoes/sneakers (with and without velcro)- Men sizes 8-14, women sizes 7-12
- Winter boots for men and women- Men sizes 8-14, women sizes 7-12
- Canteen books- can be purchased at the canteen at either campus.
  - Lyons canteen- 908-647-0180 ext. 21-4405/East Orange canteen- 973-676-1000 ext. 20-1493
- Gift cards (Uber, Visa, Mastercard, AMEX, Dunkin Donuts, McDonalds, etc.)
- Keurig K-Cup Coffee and Ground Coffee
- Snacks (commercially packaged/individually packaged)

# Seasonal/Holiday Gifts:

- Due to our patient population we cannot accept gifts that are wrapped and cards must be placed outside of the envelopes for review. If you would like to donate gift(s) for the Veterans, please donate the item(s) in an appropriate see through gift bag.

## Unit 12B - PTSD / Recreation Therapy:

- Deodorant, body wash, shower shoes, dry shampoo, hair care products and coffee (cans and/or k-cups)
- Weather appropriate clothes without strings (sizes s 6xl)
- Participants to host a social on the unit (IE: pizza, ice cream and or sandwich social)
- Canteen books

# VA NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM (EAST ORANGE)- MATERIAL DONATIONS

- Adult Coloring Books
- Word find books
- Crossword puzzles
- Sudoku books
- Keurig machine
- Games cards, board games, social activity games to support Game Night
- Commercially packaged snacks to support their Friday Evening Game Night (IE: individual packaged chips, cookies and boxed or small bottled juice)

### **Nursing Service and Social Service:**

- Weather appropriate clothing for men and women (sizes range from x-small 6xl)
- Men and women under garments (size ranging from small 6xl)
- Men and women long sleeve and short sleeve t-shirts (size ranging from small 6xl)
- Toiletries (body wash, deodorant, hair brush, hair bonnet/scarf)

## **Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center**

- Gardening seeds
- Gardening pots
- Pill reminder case

# **Spinal Cord Injury:**

- Large clip on fans & mirrors to attach to SCI bed rails
- Emery boards for fingernails
- Air fresheners
- Ear plugs & head phones
- Water bottles

# THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE DONATIONS

SHARP ITEMS (KITCHEN KNIVES, NAIL CLIPPERS, ETC.)
GLASS ITEMS/ALUMINUM CANS
DECORATIVE ITEMS WITH PINS
MEDICATION/STREET DRUGS
BARS OF SOAP

**HOTEL/MOTEL TOILETRIES** 

ALCOHOL CONTAINING ITEMS INCLUDING: AFTERSHAVE, PERFUME, COLOGNE, MOUTHWASH MATCHES/LIGHTERS

TOBACCO PRODUCTS (CIGARS, CIGARETTES, E-CIGARETTES, HOOKAH)

AERSOL/FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT
HELEN FAISON 973-763-1664
Sisterfacele verizonanet



# VA New Jersey Health Care System

# East Orange Campus **Donations**

Date:
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Donor				
Donated by: (Please check one):Organization Name: Title_ Organization Address:	Telephone # 			
Donation Description				
Activity Dollar Value of Canteen Books:  Dollar Value of Refreshments:  Misc. Items:  Value  Donated item(s) please give a brief description and what is the purpose of the check:	Check Cash Money Order  Check Number: Amount: Check Date: In Memory of: General Post Fund Account Name and #  d value/estimated value: If you donated a check-			
<b>Disposition</b>				
Item(s) delivered to:Donors Name  Donors Signature				
Acknowledgement letter mailed to donor	Date:			

# **VA New Jersey** Health Care System East Orange Campus

DONATION INFOR CONTINUED:	NAME OF DONOR	<u>DATE</u>	DONATION
		-	
Additional information that you wo	ould like to provide to us ab	out your donation:	
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# Department of New Jersey VA New Jersey Health Care System Lyons Campus

Lorraine Brooks, Representative 110 Buttermilk Bridge Road Washington, M. J. 07882 908-6892564 Lorrainebrooks52@yahoo.com

I want to thank Madam President for allowing me to stay on as the VAVS representative. In the past I have enjoyed this position and I am looking forward to a bright New Year. I will continue to work with voluntary services, so that not only both our organizations will strive forward, but our Heroes will have their needs and wishes at hand. Our Veterans gave their all for our freedom and now it is our turn to serve our beloved heroes.

If you want to volunteer, you will need to call Voluntary Services at 908-604-5814. To order canteen books you need to call in advance 908-647-0280. If you would like to book a party or an outing, you will need to call Recreation Therapy Department to schedule 908-604-5810. The head of voluntary services is Mercedes Chambliss, and she is for Lyons and East Orange campuses. Kim Gregory is the Lyons Voluntary Services.

May God's love help us to strive to continue to show our Veterans we support them, appreciate all they gave for us, and we will always be there to give them hope for a brighter future.

**Lorraine Brooks** 

# MENLO PARK VETERANS HOME EDISON NEW JERSEY 2023-2024 PROGRAM YEAR

Margaret Russo 15 Grant St. Sewaren, NJ 07077

732-887-7947 jerseymom1207@aol.com

I am happy to once again be appointed as Menlo Park Hospital Representative.

I want to thank all the Auxiliaries and Posts who have supported the residents this year by attending the activities that were planned.

As you know the Home is now cashless so if you are going to book a bingo party, you will need to either bring a check made payable to the Home, or hand the cash over the night of the bingo to the recreation staff. So far the Auxiliaries that have held bingo parties since its cashless have had no complaints.

Please contact me if you would like to book a bingo or any other activity/event. This year we had parties for Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter & Christmas. If you can't host an event by yourself please contact me and we can put you with another Auxiliary to host an event. Or maybe you are interested in making a monetary donation, if so please send them to Department Treasurer, Paula Pinto.

I am in the process of obtaining dates for upcoming events, once the dates are confirmed I will pass them on.

Once again thank you for all your past support and I look forward to working with all the Auxiliaries again this year in making the lives of our Veterans at Menlo a little sweeter.

What better way to Forever Serve Veterans than by taking care of our hospitalized veterans.

# Paramus Home

Welcome to another year of supporting our Paramus Home Veterans! We are looking forward to a busy year. Below is a tentative list of activities that we are looking forward to for the 2025 -2026 program year. Details, dates, etc. will be available ASAP. I'll be making updates in my promos and on the Department Facebook page. As always, we appreciate your generous donations and the time you spend with our senior vets.

- Red, White, & Blue lemon ice
- Karaoke Dance Party
- Tea Party
- Halloween event
- 63rd Army Band
- Annual Christmas party
- Sock Hop
- National Carrot Cake Day (2/2)
- Spring Art Show
- Ice Cream Split Social
- Kentucky Derby
- Garden Day

Yours in Service Kathleen Shanahan NJ VFWA Paramus Hm Rep shanahank2@gmail.com 201-410-6814

# VETERANS HAVEN NORTH

# 2025-2026

ELIZABETH (BETTY) KITSON kitsonbetty@gmail.com (551)655-0511

399 LINCOLN AVE CLIFFSIDE PK, NJ 07010

Veteran's Haven North is in Glen Gardner, NJ. It is a program that was established in September 2012. The program is a perfect combination for a highly effective and efficient transitional housing program for homeless Veterans.

Vet Haven North is a two-year transitional housing program. The goal is to support veterans in developing a permanent solution to their homelessness. They offer skills training and counseling to help them to graduate from the program with a job and their own place to live.

Admission Criteria: Veterans must be homeless. Individuals must be a Veteran under USDVA guidelines. Veterans must be eligible for VA healthcare benefits. Applicants must be drug and alcohol free at the time of admission.

There are so many things we can do as an Auxiliary to help them achieve their goal to become a contributing member of society by hosting special events, parties, social or even just by visiting and talking to the veterans trying to make them feel that they have people who care and support them. We need to make them feel someone cares about them.

Through the year I will be putting out the wish list for Vets Haven North. They always need books and puzzles. Personal hygiene products like shampoo, conditioner, soap, and such are always needed. They also need female hygiene products. They have been looking for women's slippers and undergarments. I will be putting out what they need during the year.

If you are having something at the facility, please let me know so I can try to attend. Any department events I will share the dates. If you need any help scheduling any event call and I will help.

Our veterans need our help.

LOYALLY,
BETTY KITSON

# VETERANS HAVEN SOUTH 301 SPRING GARDEN RD HAMMONTON, NJ 2025-2026 PROGRAM YEAR

Denise Beckler 856-448-3501 / denise.beckler@aol.com

12 Wright Ave Stratford, NJ 08084

Veterans Haven South is a state run facility, that gives a homeless veteran a chance to get back on his/her feet and re-establish quality of life. That is the core purpose of VHS. It hasn't been easy for a lot of our veterans, coming back from serving. Many suffer PTSD from their experiences and some turn to alcohol and drugs to deal with the issues they suffer from. Unfortunately, substance abuse leads to homelessness, isolation, loss of family and a hard road to get back to their normal life. Veterans Haven South offers these struggling veterans just such a chance.

VHS gives up to 90 homeless vets, male and female, the opportunity to re-establish their lives. This is a drug and alcohol free facility where they run 3 phases in the rehabilitation process: Treatment, Self-Reclamation and Community Reintegration. Each phase lasts from three to six months and is tailored to individual treatment needs and vocational interests. Once ready, the vet finds employment, which hopefully grows in to a sustainable income and within 2 and a half years, is able to set up their own housing and go on to live their lives again as contributing members of society. VHS has about an 80% success rate and a number of the former residents even come back to visit with their fellow comrades and help them progress to a better life as well.

Veterans Haven South is funded by the State of New Jersey and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, so their core needs are taken care of: utilities, meals and rehabilitation programs. What the facility receives from donors like the VFW Auxiliary are the "luxuries" in life we all take for granted. Socks, toiletries, a new pillow or blanket, snacks and treats and much more. These are the items that help make a dormitory like stay nicer. Additionally, when a veteran completes the program and moves on to an apartment or home of their own, it's often without anything, including a bed. Donations of towels, beds, kitchen equipment are always badly needed, to help a veteran set up their new home.

Each year, we ask Auxiliaries to make a hospital cheer donation. These funds help pay for the annual Christmas party we throw jointly with the VFW. Please be sure to send your cheer donation in early – we start shopping as early as October, to get the best deals for our veterans!

I hear a lot of auxiliaries say they can't "throw a party" or host an event, because they don't have the funds to do it. If that's the case, then can I recommend you make a monetary donation, in any dollar amount to the Veterans Haven Budget? \$5.00 here, \$10 there, adds up and with pooled donations, we're able to hold a party for you – send some pizza their way or just drop off treats for them to enjoy. Knowing they're not doing this alone, that someone is thinking of them, helps boost their confidence so they can get better and go on to live a productive life. Imagine being part of that!

Any questions? Give me a call any time!

# **VETERANS HAVEN SOUTH DONATION SUGGESTIONS**

# SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR VETERANS TRANSITIONING TO AN APARTMENT

shower curtain and liners toilet paper bath mats bedding (sheets and blankets) dishes silverware

trash bags non-perishable food items

kitchen towels

towels
bathroom toiletries
beds (twin or full) or air matresses
pillows
glassware
pots and pans
paper towel
trash cans

## SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR THOSE LIVING IN THE FACILITY

A pizza dinner!
a new blanket or pillow
soda or snacks for the fridge in their room
socks/slippers
storage containers for storage of snacks
dryer sheets

individually wrapped snacks for their room personal size alarm clocks
Gift cards to WaWa (for gas as many work) sweat pants/shorts/T-shirts
cleaning wipes to keep room clean double and triple A batteries for remotes/clocks

# Two important items to note:

- When you donate items, be sure to fill out a receipt slip VHS keeps a copy so they
  know who the donator was and your copy should go with a hospital activity report within
  a month of the visit to the Hospital Coordinator Barbara Wiener. This helps us keep
  track of the great work you're doing and gives us a running total of donations by the
  VFWA.
- Donate ONLY new clothing used clothing can no longer be accepted!

"From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans"

"Forever Serving Veterans"

# Vineland Veterans Memorial Home

# Barbara Wiener - Vineland Representative

609-464-1791 barb.wiener@yahoo.com 201 6th St N Brigantine NJ 08203

Hello everyone, as you can see, I'm back. I look forward to another amazing year ahead. There will be lots of surprises, laughs and fun-fun-fun.

Attached is the updated Amazon wish list if anyone is interested. It is updated monthly. They are currently in need of ALCOHOL-FREE mouthwash.

Here is a list of some of the upcoming events, as the time gets closer, more information to follow on any of the activities.

September 17----National Playdoh Day

October 31----Halloween

November 19---Turkey Bowling

December 14---State VFW/Aux Christmas Party

As always, they are always welcome to visitors, please volunteer when you can. I have a lot of events and everyone is welcome, no invitation is necessary.

I will have a monthly update on all VFW Auxiliary activities every month.

I look forward to seeing you all at the events. Any questions, please call or email me.

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries that donate monies to Vineland, without you all we would not be able to have the parties and gatherings that we do.

THANK YOU

# KESIDEN! NEED AN' WISH LIS! 2025 524 NW E levard Vineland, NJ 08360-2895

856-405-4214 (Volunteer Office)

RJ Morrison -Volunteer Services Assistant-Raymond.Morrison@dmava.nj.gov



It is through the generous contributions of organizations and individuals that we are able to provide many of the "extras" as we care for our residents. Listed below are ongoing wishes, special needs, and future projects that we have identified for our Home.

# SPECIFIC NEEDS (New Products Only)

- Body Wash- Scents that can be used for men or women.
  - Hard Soled Slippers/Sneakers (Full foot, no slip ins. All sizes, Men & Women)
- Body Powder (UNMEDICATED)
- Reading Glasses & Sunglasses
  - Tissues (Boxes)
- ► Small Craft Kits- Model Kits Skill Level 1, Wooded kits
- Denture Adhesive and Denture Cleaning Tablets
  - Sweatshirts & Sweatpants (S-5XL)
    - Electric Razors
- ➤ Wireless Headphones for TV or Music- Insignia Brand from Best Buy (Model:NS-HAWHP2 Sku#6281625)
  - ➤ Wheelchair Cup Holders & Bags
- Newspaper & Magazine Subscriptions
- Books of Postage Stamps for mailing cards to loved ones. (Prefer "Forever Stamps"
- ✓ Undershirts (White) Sizes S-5XL
- Refreshments (Please Check Expiration Dates)
- Tasty Cakes Regular & Diet (Individually Wrapped)
  - Chips and Pretzels (Individually Wrapped)
    - Candy Bars (Snickers, Hershey, Etc.)
      - ♥ Gift Cards
- Wal-Mart, Target, Visa, Amazon

# MONETARY DONATIONS FOR ONGOING PROGRAMS

- Sponsorship of Music Programs
- Sponsored Food Related Activities/Trips

Scan the QR Code below with your phones camera to access our Amazon Wish/Need List-This list frequently changes throughout the year.



# PROJECTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

If you are interested in helping with a specific need item or project and would like more information, please contact the Volunteer Services Assistant at (856) 405-4214. If you would like to make a donation to the general fund so that we can use your funds towards upcoming projects or to purchase wish list items, you may send a check, please make the check payable to: New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland (NJVMH of Vineland) – Welfare Fund. Please see our address above.

# Thank you so much for your support

Please note: In the event a donation may be better suited for a community based non profit or Veterans Organization, we will assist in redirecting that donation upon the donor's behalf. We are unable give the profit of the second terms.