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#### MACV NEWSLETTER - May 2021



### MACV in the News



#### We're at the State Fair Kick Off!

If you're attending Kickoff to Summer at the Fair, we ask you to please consider bringing a donation for unsheltered Veterans and young people who are accessing services to achieve supportive and sustainable housing.

[Donation List](#)

#### Chaska's Beyond the Yellow Ribbon to Host Golf Tournament for MACV



Chaska's Beyond the Yellow Ribbon chapter is teaming up with MACV to host a golf tournament and silent auction on September 2, 2021, with proceeds benefitting the expansion of housing options for Veterans at-risk or experiencing homelessness in Carver County. Hosted at Deer Run Golf Club, we cannot wait to enjoy the beautiful September weather with our longtime supporters and hit the course! For more details, please

watch the short video created to spread the word about this event.

[Link to Video](#)

#### 5K Benefitting MACV

MACV recently benefitted from a 5k in Mankato named Running for Heroes. Erik Jensen, who worked with local



staff to make the run possible, has been a part of Running for Rescue events in years prior.

The event had over 120 people sign up to run, and people of all ages came out to participate. The organizers were excited to see everyone coming together to support Veterans in need.

[Read More](#)

## Volunteers build wheelchair ramp for Minneapolis Veteran



This past Wednesday, volunteers helped build a wheelchair ramp in front of a veteran's home. Rebuilding Together Twin Cities built the ramp with support from Republic Services.

"If we were to contract this project out, it'd be about \$15,000. By having Republic sponsor and build the ramp, we're letting (Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans) take that \$15,000 and use it toward another program," explains Tony Sjogren, the program director for Rebuilding Together Twin Cities.

[Watch Video](#)

## Case Story: Megan's Journey



U.S. Navy Veteran Megan's life had not been easy for some time. While Megan lived in Mississippi, she could no longer stay with her family due to overcrowding and so they paid for her to live in a hotel. Things started looking up after Megan's mom referred her a job for the post office in Minnesota. Megan applied, got the job, and started on March 22nd, 2021.

When Megan came to Minnesota from Mississippi to work at the post office in March, she did not have a place to live. But as a single Veteran with no dependents, she decided to live out of her car until she could afford long-term housing. However, this decision had its own impacts. After being late for a couple trainings, Megan was let go from the post office. Without a source of income, she started earning cash by driving a friend to and from work.

Fast forward to April. After MACV Case Manager Amanda Hooper (pictured on the right) secured an initial intake from Megan, MACV encountered difficulty verifying her Veteran status in any system. She turned to Lina at the St. Paul Vet Center, who found Megan's verification and other information. Lina then brought the Veteran to the MACV office and Amanda helped Megan complete an on-the-spot intake for our hotel program. MACV Case Manager Shelbe Robertson had already completed Megan's background, so as soon as Megan filled out the paperwork, our team squared away her reservation with one of our hotel partners as a stopgap while figuring out the next steps.

Hooper connected Megan with a couple Veteran assistance programs during her intake and realized that she would be a perfect candidate for the women's transitional home managed by MACV. So she called MACV Metro Housing Team Leader Dave Nguyen, who immediately added Megan to the queue.

After completing paperwork for the assistance programs for which she was eligible, Megan secured insurance, financial assistance, and moved into transitional housing within one week. The remarkable collaboration between MACV providers and our partners at the Vet Center has resulted in stable housing for a Veteran who thought she would lose everything just a few weeks ago. Today, Megan is looking for jobs, getting medical appointments set up, and has a safe and stable place to stay.

"I want to say a huge THANK YOU to all the moving parts because this was a case that moved so smooth," relates Ms. Hooper. Teamwork like what came together to support Megan exemplifies MACV's approach to ending Veteran homelessness. Our team is committed to empowering Megan in her journey to a stable, happy life in Minnesota, and we are honored to walk alongside her.



## Welcome to our New MACV Board Members!

**Shauna Bednar**



Shauna Bednar served in the U.S. Air Force as a Flight Engineer on C130s from 2010-2016. During her time she did two tours overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Freedom Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve.

Shauna currently works for U.S. Bank as a Trust Officer in the Private Wealth Management division. She also is the Vice President of the Twin Cities chapter of "Proud to Serve" Employee Business Resource Group

**Charles Dolson**



Charles Dolson enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps out of high school, serving in the presidential helicopter squadron commonly known as Marine 1. Before Dolson turned 19, he had a Top-Secret, Yankee White Security Clearance and carried a loaded firearm within arm's reach of the President. Before he was 20, he was in charge of security teams guarding assets deemed vital to national security.

Dolson currently works as a Staff Attorney with Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. He resides in Bemidji with his

supporting Service Members, Veterans and their families who are employees or customers of U.S. Bank.

Shauna currently resides in Eagan with her husband and daughter.

wife and daughters. Dolson is a registered member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, and takes pride in growing up on the reservation.

## Volunteer with MACV

Volunteering with MACV connects you with our vibrant community while contributing to the end of Veteran homelessness in Minnesota. If you would like to volunteer or receive notifications of potential opportunities, click the link to update your contact information and complete a short survey to let us know more about your individual or group skills.

### [Volunteer Sign-Up and Survey](#)

Once you are notified of a volunteer opportunity that matches your interests with an identified need for the Veterans we serve, you can count on engaging with a robust introduction to MACV and its work, as well as valuable training to help you succeed in your role.

## Partner Spotlight: Ecolab

Longtime supporter Ecolab has awarded MACV with grants from their Foundation for several consecutive years, with their most recent gift arriving in April. The company also sent four helpful volunteers to assist with staining a fence and cleaning up one of MACV's transitional homes in time for summertime living on May 6! The employees got to model MACV's brand-new volunteer t-shirts and get some time outside on a beautiful day, all while helping us improve the quality of life for Veterans working toward housing stability. Thanks again, guys!



## Upcoming Events

**Eagle Group Virtual Job Meeting:** Tuesdays (weekly), 5pm - [Join Online](#)

**Online Interviewing Skills:** Thursday (weekly), 1pm - [Request Invite](#)

**State Fair Kickoff to Summer:** Fri-Mon May 27 to 31 - [Website](#)

**Salute to Service Women Golf Classic:** Tuesday, June 22 - [Sign up now](#)

**Veteran Resource Fair:** Thursday, June 24th - Rochester Soldiers Memorial Field Park

**Veterans Career Fair:** Wednesday, June 9 - [Get Registered](#)

**IGYSIX Ride:** Saturday, July 10 - [Rider Registration](#)

**Veteran Resource Fair:** Sunday, July 11 - Mankato ISG Field



**Golf Tournament at Deer Run:** Wednesday, Sept. 1 - [Get Registered](#)

**Tee It Up for the Troops:** Monday, Sept. 13 - [Sign Up](#)

For more events, check out our [Upcoming Events](#) page at [www.mac-v.org](http://www.mac-v.org).

## Donor Spotlight

### Bob Woodruff Foundation

We are proud to announce that MACV has received a grant from the Bob Woodruff Foundation (BWF) to further our mission of ending Veteran homelessness in Minnesota. BWF leverages its expertise and collaborative network to find, fund and shape innovative programs that help our impacted Veterans, service members and their families thrive.

Receiving a grant from BWF is an honor that recognizes the dedication, focus and effectiveness of our staff, volunteers and supporters. Thank you for your help, BWF!



### DAV Chapter 32

The Fairmont chapter of Disabled American Veterans has supported MACV with funding awards since 2014, resulting in \$17,000 donated to our services. Their latest award of \$2,000 helps MACV responsively serve Veterans who often require unique engagement and trust-building strategies, making our work as effective as possible. Thanks again, Fairmont DAV!

## Thank You to Last Month's Donors

### Annual Gifts over \$50,000

Bob Woodruff Foundation  
National Guard Support Our Troops Fund  
Minnesota Masonic Charities  
Duluth CARES

### Gifts over \$5,000

Ecolab Foundation

### Gifts over \$1,000

Patrick Casey Household  
Jason Zuehlke Household  
Amvets Post 1  
Proto Labs  
Lions Forest Lake Club  
Ronald and Bonnie Loidolt Household  
DAV Chapter 32

### Gifts over \$100

Marilyn Schlager Household  
Barbara Bruce Household  
Richard Wilson Household  
Anne Simonet Household  
Dave's River Valley Harley-Davidson  
Dale Moritz Household  
Community Giving  
VFW Post 1816  
Red Wing Shoe Co. Foundation  
Richard Wilson Household  
Darren Maturi Household  
Nathan Olson Household  
Lake Superior Consulting LLC  
Thomas Kivel Household  
Ronald & Debra Schultz Household



Rosanna Chambliss Household  
 Jasmine Jirele Household  
 Kevin and Rita Hamernick Charitable Fund  
 William Gaumond Household  
 Joe and Mickey Ferguson  
 Richard Wilson Household  
 CAF America  
 Nora Whiteman Household  
 American Legion Post 49

## You Can Help End Veteran Homelessness

**Our team is working hard to stabilize Veterans across Minnesota.**

Hope is on the horizon. Many of us are looking forward to the months ahead with hope for renewing the parts of life we put on hold for the past year.

Minnesota nonprofits and schools are working hard to help keep us healthy, meet basic needs, and gather around common goals, interests, and experiences. They are also addressing the long-term economic crisis of the pandemic, which puts even more Veterans at-risk of homelessness.

[Join the fight to end Veteran homelessness](#)

**Accepting Donations for Unsheltered Veterans in Minnesota**

- New men's boxers, briefs, undershirts and sweatpants
- New women's underwear, sports bras, leggings and sweatpants
- New men's and women's sweatshirts
- New bath towels and washcloths
- Full-size shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant
- Full-size toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Toilet paper and paper towels
- Full-size liquid dish soap and laundry detergent
- Disinfecting wipes
- Most needed

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR  
**Community GIVES**  
 ★ TOGETHER ★

CHARITY NAVIGATOR 100  
 GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE

4-STAR PLATINUM TRANSPARENCY  
 2021

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