

Veterans Committee

As the Fiscal Elk Year comes to an end, we want to give an update on our recent donations. We made a donation to the James A Haley VA Hospital Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Department. The SCI Department wanted to develop a remote controlled car and drone program that the patients could build and operate. We were able to purchase several remote controlled cars and a healthy supply of batteries for them. A donation of 66 care kits that included toiletries, socks, cards, games, etc. was delivered to the VA hospital for their veterans in need and their homeless veteran program. The remote controlled cars and care kits were delivered to the hospital by Steve Masterton, PER, and



John “Mac” McArthur. A special thank you to both of them for doing this.

We also sponsored a group of ten SCI Veterans to attend the Super Cross Event at the Raymond James Stadium. They were treated to a pre-event fan fest to meet riders and had special seating.

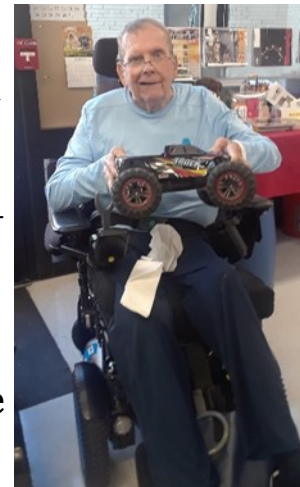
We supported the JA Haley inpatient active duty patients with traumatic brain injury and PTSD by sponsoring a

trip to an Escape Room to offer team building and cognitive strategy planning which are primary goals for community reintegration. We will be sponsoring a Low Ropes course at USF for these patients also.



Flight to Honor Mission #6 was scheduled for April 28th from Lakeland Linder Airport but has been postponed until further notice. We are helping to sponsor a caregiver to take one of the Medical Foster Veterans from the JA Haley program.

In order to continue with our ability to support veterans in need, please mark your calendar and **“Save the Date”** for our next fundraising event, which will be



held on Armed Forces Day, Saturday May 16th. Please join us for a steak dinner, with a silent auction

and raffles. Join us in paying tribute to all military branches. See our flier for further details.

Veterans Committee

continued



We were again able to donate to the Lakeland Veterans Center. We donated \$500.00 of beverages, which included 12 cans of coffee, 24 creamers, 1 case of sugar packets, 1 case of Splenda packets, 12 cases of water and 24 cases of soda. The facility does not have a provision for this in their budget. Local veterans use this donation during group and individual counseling sessions.

We want to give a special thanks to

Penny Deig. She provides a take home novelty each month for the JA Haley Medical Foster Veterans when they visit on the second Wednesday. Penny gives these items a lot of thought and care. She wants the items to be useful for the veterans. Here are some comments from Kathryn regarding these monthly gifts:

“Thanks Char for EVERYTHING. The Lakeland Elks are such a Wonderful partner for us and I am appreciative of everything. I must say again, Penny rocked it out of the park. The details she spends on these gifts are true treasures and mean so much to our Veterans. It was so sweet to see them ALL lined up on Mr. Rodriguez’s dresser drawer.” “I use these monthly trinkets for my HBPC/Medical Foster Veterans to not only brighten their day and to be used as a therapeutic “tool.” What a perfect way for cognitive orientation. Thanks to the Lakeland Elks for ALWAYS providing such AWESOME cheer to our Veterans.”

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this another great year. It is because of you, the members, that we are able to make these things possible. Your support and assistance is truly appreciated.

Char and Kristen