

## The Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation

The VFW Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity established in 1996.

The mission of the VFW Foundation is to support non-political programs that secure, manage and distribute resources to improve the lives of veterans, military service personnel, their families and communities.



We are proud of the fact that administrative costs of the VFW Foundation are extremely low. Charity watchdog groups like the Independent Charities of America have consistently given the VFW Foundation a “*Best of America*” rating.



### Who We Help

the VFW Foundation seeks to return the favor! Thus we fill in governmental assistance gaps that are currently lacking or that do not exist relevant to our service population: our troops abroad, deserving military families back home in the U.S. and America’s often forgotten veterans.

We are also involved in numerous educational, patriotic and civic improvement activities in communities all across America.

To keep VFW programs healthy and viable, we seek financial support from various sources such as corporations, foundations and individuals. As a 501(c)(3) foundation ourselves, we can also offer donors tax benefits and various recognition opportunities.

### What We Do

The VFW Foundation helps to fund a wide variety of VFW core programs and events such as:

**(A) NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICE** (*Unmet Needs, Operation Uplink’s Free Call Days and Military Assistance Program*—especially “welcome home” and “send-off” events for military service personnel and their families);

**(B) NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE** (support for general NVS activities and training; to ensure NVS representation at Benefits Delivery at Discharge sites for returning Iraq/Afghanistan veterans; and assistance to Departments to help them secure funding for their state NVS operations).

**(C) PATRIOTIC STUDENT ESSAY CONTESTS** (Patriot’s Pen and Voice of Democracy) and;

**(D) VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION**

## PLANNED GIVING AT THE VFW FOUNDATION

Consider a bequest to the VFW Foundation. We can provide sample bequest language to create a fund in your name or in the name of a loved one. Your fund may be unrestricted or designated to support any VFW Post, Department or VFW national program you so desire.



Name the VFW Foundation as a beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement plan. You may give the VFW Foundation a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your plan. Use this gift to create a fund.

Name the VFW Foundation as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. If you name the VFW Foundation as both the owner and beneficiary of the policy, any premium payments made will qualify as income tax charitable contributions.

Make a life income gift to benefit the VFW Foundation. In this way, you can make a charitable gift and receive income back from that gift for the rest of your lifetime. Call us for details and a calculation illustrating the financial benefits. You may be eligible to receive current income and an income tax charitable deduction!



Establish a trust that pays current income to the VFW Foundation and then passes assets to your children or grandchildren. Call to get a list of estate planning attorneys in your area.

Do you have appreciated property, such as stocks, bonds or real estate? Such an asset can be a very tax-efficient gift to the VFW Foundation.

For any questions, please contact **John Lowe at 816-968-2720** or email him at [jlowe@vfw.org](mailto:jlowe@vfw.org) or **Dan Shea at 816-968-1158** or email him at [dshea@vfw.org](mailto:dshea@vfw.org).

## GRANTS: A NEW SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY



In days past, VFW Departments and Posts often could meet their financial needs entirely through membership fees and traditional fundraising activities. Revenues from bingo, rental of your building for events such as weddings, on-site public breakfasts and dinners, and canteen sales might have provided more than enough money.

Today, many of these financial sources have diminished. So too, expenses such as property tax, building repair, insurance and utilities seem to constantly rise. Perhaps you also have costs associated with *Patriot's Pen*, *Voice of Democracy* and other worthwhile community programs/projects.

**Therefore, it is important that you consider grants as a way to raise money.**

In fact grants (donations from corporations and foundations in your geographic area) can often result in large financial gifts for a wide variety of your needs.

Other local non-profit groups such as the YMCA, Salvation Army and Boys & Girls Clubs have been receiving grants for many years. It is time that VFW Departments and Posts receive our rightful share of this money. After all, the services we provide to our communities are just as worthy of support!

**Although, your knowledge of the grant process might be minimal at present, do not worry as The VFW Foundation is here to help you in every way possible!**



Our goal is to enhance your familiarity with grants by:

- (1) Increasing your awareness of national and local grant opportunities—in fact, we will even research local foundations in your area;
- (2) Conducting educational grant seminars at regional and national membership conferences;
- (3) Providing useful grant information on the VFW Foundation website; and
- (4) Supplying you with easy-to-understand tools such as fundraising template letters

If you have any questions check with your Department Headquarters or do not hesitate to call **Richard Freiburghouse, Manager of Grants Development** at **(816) 968-1124** or email him at [rfreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:rfreiburghouse@vfw.org)



### **HOME DEPOT GRANTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO VFW POSTS!**

The Home Depot has once again revised their grant program which is now entitled “Building Healthy Community Grants.”

The VFW Foundation has an easy-to-understand template to help your Post apply over the Internet. Please contact Monica Levy, Program Coordinator, at (816) 968-2787 or [mlevy@vfw.org](mailto:mlevy@vfw.org).

There is no guarantee of funding as our Posts will be competing against a variety of nonprofit groups from all across the United States.

Posts will need to have a specific project in mind and a budget for activities that is \$2,500 or less. If funding is awarded the project must be completed within six months by Post volunteers (money cannot be used to outsource Post activities).

Please note that all information including award notification is provided through V-mail.

Some examples of projects might include handicapped accessible ramps or bathrooms, kitchen remodels, painting, roofing, landscaping, windows, insulation, etc. Projects that promote energy efficiency most usually receive higher consideration.

Good luck to all!