



**DMAV<sup>®</sup>**  
**OF MINNESOTA**  
**FOUNDATION**

2023 Annual Report | 2024 Objectives

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Veterans and their families are at the heart of everything we do at the DAV of Minnesota Foundation. Keeping our promise to the men and women who served is our guiding principle. As I reflect on 2023 and its uncertainties, our remarkable story is one of resilience and focus. While the economy has created a challenging environment for Veterans, their families, and those that serve them, the Board of Directors has been steadfast, seeking out grant opportunities to fill gaps. I am proud to report that we were successful in this endeavor, fulfilling 43 grants totaling more than \$527,000 this year. That is a 28% increase from last year!

Like many nonprofits across Minnesota challenged by current economic worries the DAV of Minnesota Foundation continues to examine the way it conducts business to ensure sustainability through streamlined and sound fiscal practices.

As we look to 2024, we have difficult but necessary work to do to embody our commitment to Veterans. With the vision and support of our Board of Directors, incredible staff, volunteers, and donors, I know that next year will be like this year – we will continue to do what is right for the long-term interest of the Foundation and the Veterans and families we serve.



Lauri Brooke  
Executive Director  
DAV of Minnesota Foundation



## CONTENTS

2023 ANNUAL REPORT | 2024 OBJECTIVES

- 3 About Us & Board of Directors
- 4 2023 Grants
- 6 2023 Foundation-Sponsored Events
- 8 2023 Financials and 2024 Objectives

Back Cover DAV of Minnesota



## ABOUT US

The DAV of Minnesota Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that serves as the “Giving Arm” of the DAV of Minnesota. The Foundation provides financial resources that support DAV of Minnesota programs and services, community grants and projects.

In order to maximize the direct support of these programs, the Foundation takes care to keep administrative costs low.

Members of the Foundation’s Board of Directors contribute to this objective through voluntary service, without compensation. They conduct all business with a high standard of ethics, applying their best efforts, skills and resources to ensure that both donors and grant recipients receive the care that they deserve.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mike McLaughlin  
Chapter 10  
Board Chair



Joel Schilling  
Chapter 1  
Director



Chris Magnusson  
Chapter 3  
Director



Paul Pederson  
Chapter 6  
Director



Tony Tengwall  
Chapter 39  
Director



Oather Martin  
Chapter 37  
Director



Scott Berndt  
Chapter 39  
Treasurer

## NON-VOTING MEMBERS



Ellsworth Fields  
Chapter 28  
Advisor



Stephen Whitehead  
Chapter 10  
Advisor



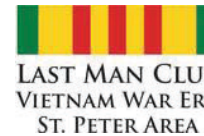
Josh Vrtacnik  
Chapter 20  
Secretary



Lauri Brooke  
Chapter 31  
Executive Director



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
 Fargo VA Health Care System



# 2023 GRANT RECIPIENTS



- Chapter 28 – Outdoors
- Chapter 38 – Outdoors
- Chapter 38 – Service to Veterans Programs
- Chapter 41 – Transportation Program
- DAV Department of Minnesota Transportation Program
- DAV National Service Foundation
- Escape to the Lake
- Every Third Saturday
- Ironwood Gold Star Retreat
- Last Man Club
- Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
- Minnesota State Veterans Homes – Multiple Grants
- National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic
- National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic
- Open Arms
- St. Cloud Standdown
- St. Paul Saints
- Veterans Affairs Medical Center - Fargo
- Veterans Affairs Medical Center - Minneapolis
- Veterans Affairs Medical Center - Minneapolis Summer Sports Clinic
- Veterans Affairs Medical Center - St. Cloud
- Veterans Day on Hill
- Wilderness Inquiry
- Women Veteran Mid-Winter Conference

## 2023 GRANTS

Since 1992, the Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota Foundation has operated as the organization’s “giving arm.” Separate from DAV of Minnesota, the Foundation is run by a Board of Directors who manage the funding of programs and services for DAV of Minnesota, as well as other organizations across the state. This year, the DAV of Minnesota Foundation contributed over \$527,000 to programs and services, community grants and projects. The Foundation continues to lean forward to support the ever-changing needs of Minnesota Veterans and their families.

The DAV of Minnesota Foundation supports ongoing partnerships with other Minnesota non-profit organizations that support DAV of Minnesota’s mission. In 2023, grants included:

- \$30,000 to support the Center for Development and Civic Engagement and Recreation/Creative Arts Departments at the VA Medical Centers.
- \$74,000 towards programs that combat Veteran homelessness and food insecurity.
- \$105,000 towards transportation programs at the DAV of Minnesota Department and chapters.

Disabled Veterans need to be able to live independently, with dignity and a sense of normalcy. In 2023, more than

half of the grant money awarded by the Foundation went to programs helping veterans to do just that. They included:

- \$54,000 towards Adaptive Sports programs that promote sports therapy and rehabilitation for Veterans with traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, orthopedic amputations, visual impairments and certain neurological conditions. Often, these experiences provide the catalyst which improves overall physical well-being, mental health, self-esteem, and the ability to re-enter and adjust to community life.
- \$219,000 to make the outdoors accessible to all Veterans. Specifically, this went towards the DAV of Minnesota Outdoor programs at the Department and Chapter levels and Wilderness Inquiry. Wilderness Inquiry provided trips to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Apostle Islands and Olympic National Park. These adventures inspired personal growth, enhanced awareness of the environment and encouraged veterans to open themselves to new possibilities and opportunities.

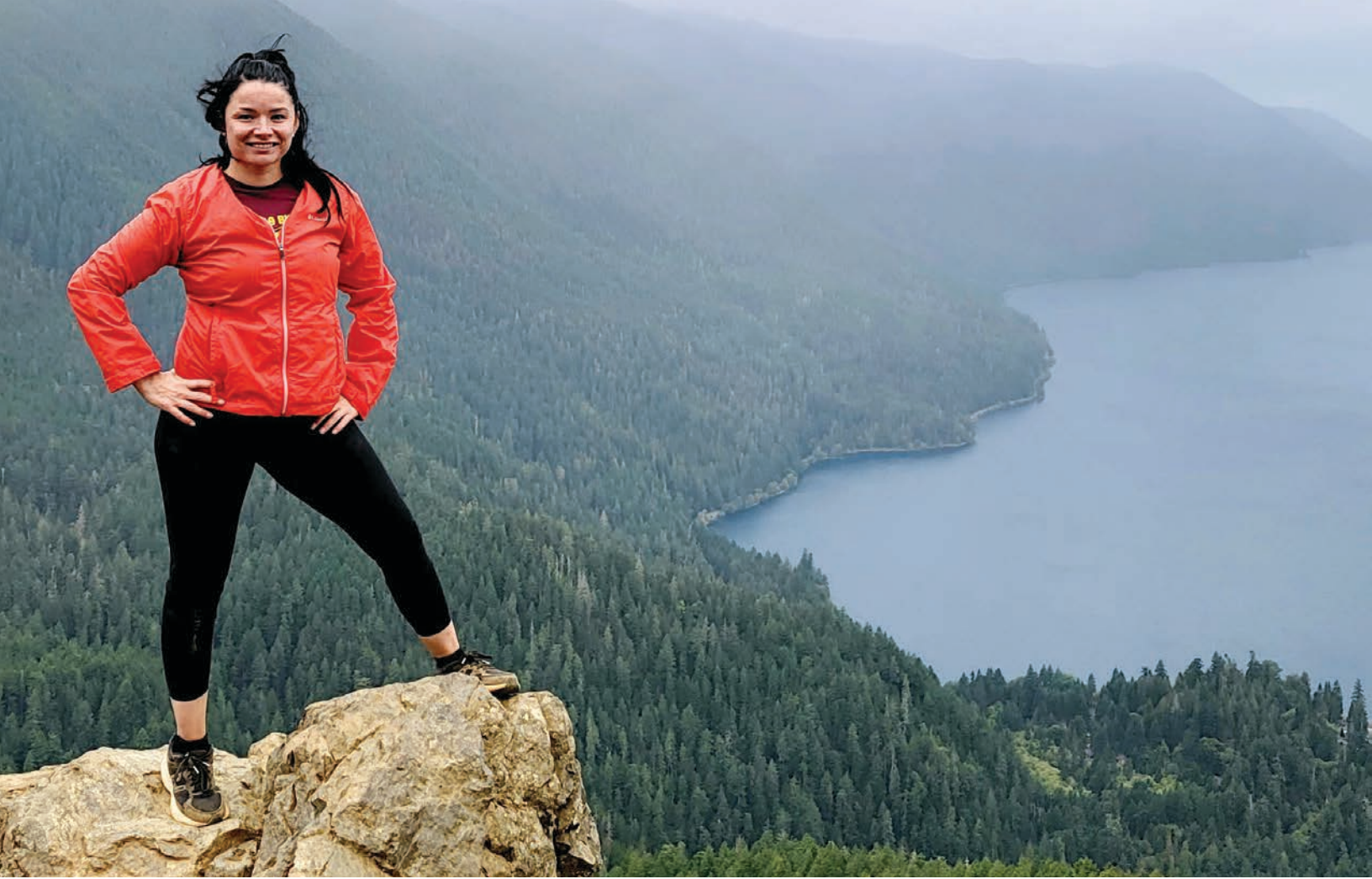
Other grants supported several initiatives to combat Veteran Homelessness and support programs for Women Veterans.



***When we wore the uniform, we got through hard times because we had our brothers and sisters in arms. Now that we are Veterans, the same concept applies. Healing happens in nature surrounded by those facing the same struggles.***



John Carson



**Wilderness Inquiry + Olympic National Park**  
 The DAV of Minnesota Foundation gave a grant to eight Minnesota Veterans to travel through Olympic National Park. This group bonded quickly, getting time to rest, take in new sights, push their limits, and connect with the outdoors.



Day 1: Seattle to Olympic National Park - Lake Crescent

Day 2: Visit to the furthest northwest point in the contiguous US followed by a hike up Storm King Trail, climbing 2,000 feet in just over two miles. The effort, determination and perseverance of every Veteran was amazing!



Day 3: Six-mile hike through the old growth forest ends at natural hot springs



Day 4: Hoh Rainforest hike and unwinding on the coast listening to the waves



Day 5: Hurricane Ridge, Olympic National Park - Home

**Words cannot truly express the gratitude I have to the DAV Foundation, Trent and any others for the Olympic National Park opportunity. Because of this trip, I will never look at the DAV the same again. I believe this trip, and other opportunities like this, are cutting edge and the future of veteran programming. I am thankful for this incredible opportunity. I genuinely hope to serve the DAV further and look forward to being of service in any way I can.**



David N.

## 2023 FOUNDATION-SPONSORED EVENTS

**The hike up the mountain served to remind me to always enjoy the journey, not simply the destination. It was simply inspirational. I'm very thankful to the DAV organization for always taking care of Veterans and being there for us.**



Amy S.

### DAV Golf Classic

The 18th Annual Minnesota DAV Golf Classic, held July 25, 2023, at Crystal Lake Golf Course, was a success. Funds raised from the event helped purchase two new vehicles enabling the Transportation Program to better serve veterans in their communities throughout the State.

### Wilderness Inquiry Guided Trips + A Focus on Women and Families

2023 was the DAV of MN Foundation's second year of partnership with Wilderness Inquiry. Since its inception, this partnership has allowed Veterans and their families to experience the health and wellness benefits the outdoors provides. This year, the Foundation made a concerted effort to provide these same health and wellness benefits to Women Veterans and families, encouraging independence and enhancing the quality of life. The Foundation granted \$51,000 to fulfill this goal, funding two trips for Veterans and their families as well as a first-ever trip for women veterans only.

## 2023 FINANCIALS

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
<b>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>			
Contributions and bequests	\$321,345	\$217,797	\$539,142
In-kind contributions	\$9,993	-	\$9,993
Fundraising events, net of costs that directly benefited donors of \$15,904	\$41,315	-	\$41,315
Investment return	(\$482,622)	-	(\$482,622)
Net assets released from donor restrictions	\$325,523	(\$325,523)	-
<b>Total revenue and support</b>	<b>\$215,554</b>	<b>(\$107,726)</b>	<b>\$107,828</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program	\$549,444	-	\$549,444
Management and general	\$67,487	-	\$67,487
Fundraising	\$9,292	-	\$9,292
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$626,223</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$626,223</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>(\$410,669)</b>	<b>(\$107,726)</b>	<b>(\$518,395)</b>
Net assets, beginning of year	\$4,121,990	\$1,260,595	\$5,382,585
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$3,711,321</b>	<b>\$1,152,869</b>	<b>\$4,864,190</b>

## 2024 OBJECTIVES

- Promote and develop support for the Foundation by engaging the community through fundraising, partnerships, and events.
- Strengthen and ensure timely and equitable access to behavioral health services.
- Enhance organizational strength and agility by partnering with the Department Executive Board, Chapters, and Auxiliaries to align stakeholders around strategic priorities.
- Develop a communications strategy to better publicize goals and programs.
- Streamline the grant process while allowing the Foundation to obtain the information needed to make good grant-making decisions and create efficient processes for grantees to follow.





**Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota Foundation**

State Veterans Service Building, Floor 3  
20 West 12th Street  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-291-1212

---

[davn.org](http://davn.org)