

DMV[®] **OF MINNESOTA** **FOUNDATION**

2024 Annual Report | 2025 Objectives



From the Executive Director



Greetings DAV Members, Donors, Volunteers and Supporters,

As we embrace a time of growth and adaptation, we are thrilled to share the incredible progress of the Foundation. We are navigating through numerous changes while steadfastly adhering to our mission of serving Veterans.

Since our inception in 1992, the Foundation has proudly contributed over \$4.4 million to support Veteran programs, services, community grants, and projects. Our commitment to transparency and accountability has earned us the Meets Standards seal from the Charities Review Council – an affirmation of our integrity. The DAV of Minnesota Foundation is continuously taking proactive steps to enhance our financial resilience and ensure sustainability for the future.

The involvement of our corporate donors, individual donors, and chapters is vital in our efforts to deliver impactful grants to Minnesota Veterans, their families, and survivors. Together, we can create significant and lasting change in their lives.

We are immensely proud that our programs and services have led to remarkable transformations among the Veterans we serve. This report highlights stories of personal change, but also new initiatives made possible through your generous contributions. These narratives exemplify the strength and unity of our community, and we celebrate the successes we have achieved together.

Now, more than ever, the purpose of the Board is crucial. On behalf of the Board, I want to express our sincere gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support and shared commitment to uplifting the lives of Veterans and their families.

Together, we can continue to make a profound impact.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauri Brooke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lauri Brooke
Executive Director
DAV of Minnesota Foundation

About the Foundation

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of Minnesota Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization serving as the “Giving Arm” of the DAV of Minnesota. The Foundation provides financial resources that support DAV of Minnesota programs, services, community grants, and projects. By keeping administrative costs low, the Foundation maximizes direct support for these initiatives. Members of the Foundation’s Board of Directors contribute voluntarily, without compensation, conducting all business with a high standard of ethics. Their dedication ensures that both donors and grant recipients receive the care and transparency they deserve.

Our mission is to empower and assist Veterans in overcoming challenges and achieving their full potential. We offer vital programs and services, including adaptive sports clinics, transportation, and therapeutic outdoor activities, fostering a sense of community, independence, and well-being among Veterans. The Foundation’s continued efforts are made possible through the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our volunteers and the unwavering support of our community partners.

Foundation Board of Directors



Michael McLaughlin
Board Chair



Joel Schilling
Director



Chris Magnusson
Director



Tony Tengwall
Director



John Walker
Director



Paul Pederson
Director



Scott Berndt
Treasurer



Stephen Whitehead
Advisor



Oather Martin
Advisor



Josh Vrtacnik
Secretary

Charities Review Certification and Approval



The DAV of Minnesota Foundation is proud to announce its approval for another three years by the Charities Review Council, earning the prestigious Meets Standards® seal. This endorsement reaffirms our commitment to transparency, accountability and excellence. The thorough review process evaluated our practices in Public Disclosure, Governance, Financial Activity, and Fundraising, ensuring we meet the highest standards of accountability. By participating in this review, the Foundation demonstrates responsibility, integrity, and transparency to our donors and the public.



Grants

Since 1992, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of Minnesota Foundation has operated as the organization's "giving arm." Separate from the DAV of Minnesota, the Foundation is run by a Board of Directors who manage the funding of programs and services for the DAV of Minnesota, as well as other organizations across the state. Last year the DAV of Minnesota Foundation contributed over \$335,000 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.

- **\$25,000** to support the Center for Development and Civic Engagement and Recreation Departments at VA Medical Centers, Food Pantry and Sports Clinics.
- **\$146,000** towards programs that assist Veterans to live independently with dignity and a sense of normalcy.
- **\$55,000** towards transportation programs at the DAV of Minnesota Department and Chapters.
- **\$95,000** to make the outdoors accessible to all Veterans. Specifically, this went towards the DAV of Minnesota Outdoor programs at the Department and Chapter levels, Camp Ripley Outdoors programs, and Wilderness Inquiry. Wilderness Inquiry provided trips to the Apostle Islands, Voyageurs National Park, Superior Hiking Trail, Mississippi River Canoe Trip, and Glacier National Park. These adventures inspired personal growth, enhanced awareness of the environment and encouraged Veterans to open themselves to new possibilities and opportunities.

These grants fund impactful programs that ensure Veterans receive the resources and assistance needed to thrive. The Foundation continues to lean forward to support the ever-changing needs of Minnesota Veterans and their families, including this list of all 22 Grant Recipients in Fiscal Year 2024.

2024 Grant Recipients

- Hope Dental Clinic
- Minnesota Association of County Veteran Service Officers (MACVSO) Education Grant
- DAV National Service Foundation
- Healing Rhythms
- DAV of Minnesota Auxiliary
- Minnesota Council of Foundations
- Open Arms
- DAV Chapter 38 – Veterans Benefits Programs
- 2024 Grant Recipients:
 - Veterans Day on the Hill
 - Combat to Creative
 - National Service Officer Outreach
 - Women Veterans to DAV Midwinter Conference
 - Every Third Saturday
 - DAV Chapter 37 Transportation Program
 - DAV of Minnesota Transportation Program
 - Wilderness Inquiry
 - Camp Ripley Outdoors Programs
 - National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic
 - National Winter Sports Clinic
 - Luverne Veterans Home
 - Minneapolis Veterans Home



Thank You For Your Support

DAV of Minnesota Foundation is honored to receive generous grant support from numerous organizations. These contributions are essential to advancing our mission of serving Minnesota's disabled Veterans and their families. We are deeply grateful to the following organizations for their partnership and commitment, which enable us to expand our impact and provide critical resources to those who have selflessly served our nation.

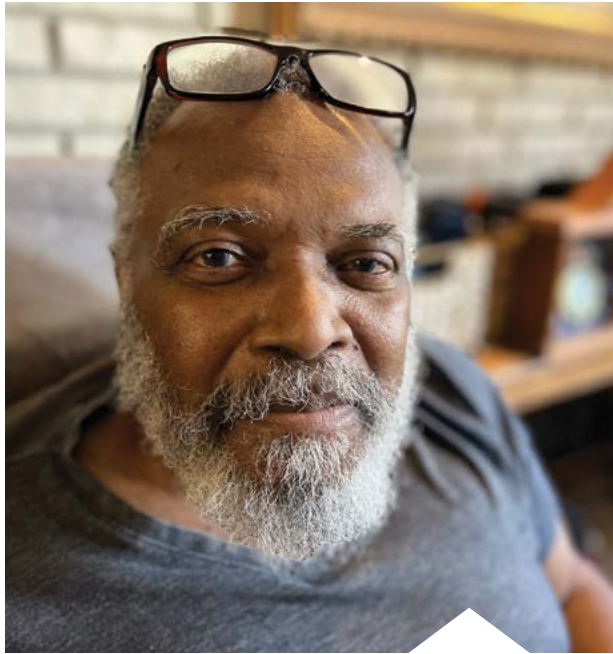
Grantee Highlight: VA Food Pantry

The DAV of Minnesota Foundation awarded a grant to support this critical initiative. **Food insecurity affects 11% of working-age Veterans**, with higher rates among certain subgroups. Veterans in rural or low-income areas face additional challenges. In 2017, the VA implemented a food insecurity screening tool. The Minneapolis VA Medical Center started a monthly pop-up food pantry in May 2024, aiming to serve 200 Veterans with shelf-stable items and educational resources. A food closet is also available for discharged Veterans in need. This grant helps address food insecurity and supports the health and well-being of our Veterans.



Grantee Highlight: CAM Roofing Project

The Contractors Association of Minnesota (CAM) again teamed up with the DAV of Minnesota Foundation to provide much-needed assistance to a local hero. James Roggenbuck, a 37-year-old Air Force Veteran residing in Apple Valley, has received a new roof installation thanks to the collaborative efforts of SMC Construction, CAM, and the DAV of Minnesota Foundation.



Grantee Highlight: Baths for the Brave

In November, the DAV of Minnesota partnered with Tundraland and Your Home Improvement Company on a nationwide effort by the non-profit Baths for the Brave. This initiative aims to improve the lives of Veterans with mobility issues by providing free, single-day bathroom remodels, eliminating barriers and offering much-needed freedom and self-reliance. On Veterans Day, Richard Walker, a U.S. Navy electrical engineer who served from 1976 to 1997, received a bathroom remodel. Walker, who has undergone various surgeries affecting his mobility, benefited greatly from the remodel, which was completed in a single day to minimize disruption.

Inside the Wolf Den

On February 13, Inside the Wolf Den took place at Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel in partnership with Audacy and 102.9 The Wolf. The event featured acoustic storytelling performances by Parmalee, Joe Nichols, The Frontmen, Dillon Carmichael, and Chayce Beckham. A portion of the ticket sales was donated to the DAV of Minnesota Foundation. With over 1,000 people in attendance, the event raised a total of \$7,388.



"Thank you to our donors, supporters, and volunteers for your dedication in 2024. Your generosity made a profound impact on Veterans and their families. We look forward to continued success together."

- Lauri Brooke, Executive Director of the DAV of Minnesota Foundation and Gold Star Mother

Foundation-Sponsored Events

Veterans' Trip to Glacier National Park

A Journey of Healing and Adventure

In July, the DAV of Minnesota Foundation, in collaboration with Wilderness Inquiry, sponsored an unforgettable six-day trip to Glacier National Park for seven Veterans from across Minnesota. This initiative aimed to provide these Veterans, most of whom were attending their first organized Veteran-specific event, with a unique opportunity to explore the breathtaking landscapes of Glacier National Park and connect with fellow servicemen and women.

Day-by-Day Recap

Day 1: The journey began early at 2 a.m. with Veterans heading to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport for early flights. Upon arrival in Glacier, they embarked on a scenic hike through the Trail of Cedars and up to Avalanche Lake, where the group quickly bonded over their shared experiences. One Veteran noted, "Nature is so peaceful and always brings me back to my center. I didn't know how much I needed this. Thank you!"

Day 2: The adventure continued with an early start towards the Road to the Sun. Veterans reached Logan Pass and hiked the Hidden Lake and Highline Trails, covering over nine miles and encountering wildlife such as mountain goats, bears and deer. Reflecting on the challenging hike, a Veteran shared, "I'm doing things on this trip I wouldn't have experienced traveling here myself. Now I know I can."

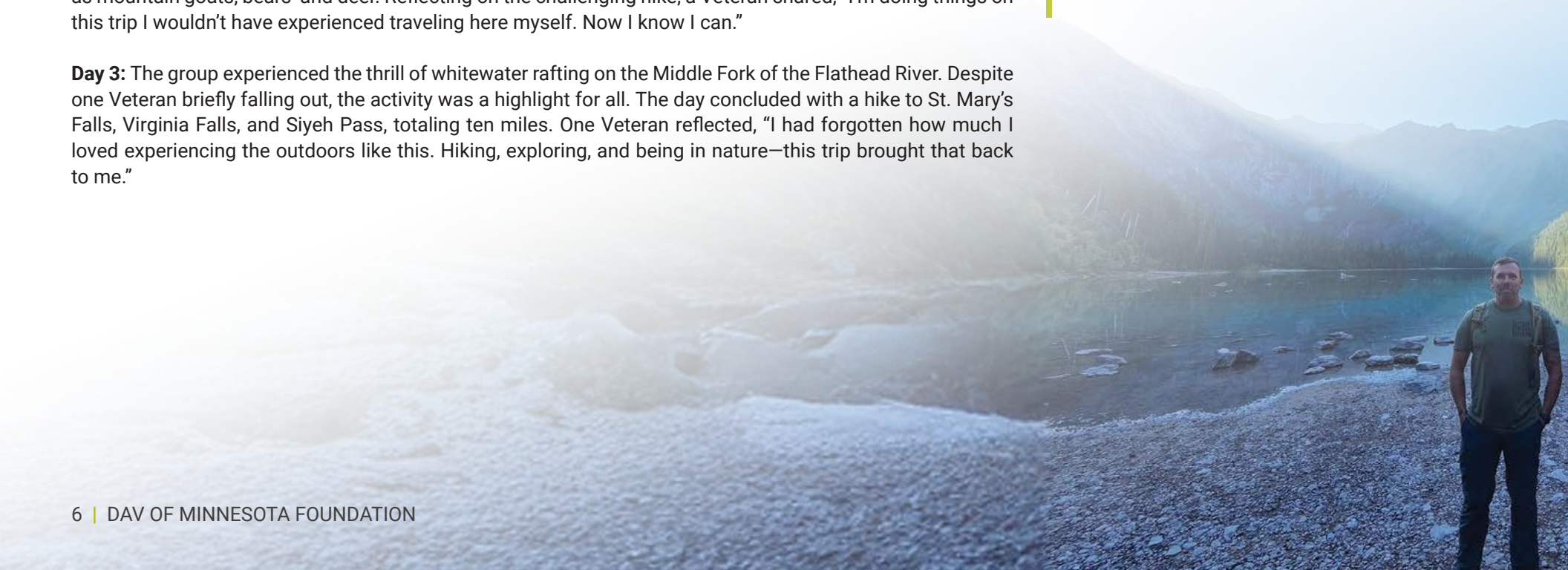
Day 3: The group experienced the thrill of whitewater rafting on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. Despite one Veteran briefly falling out, the activity was a highlight for all. The day concluded with a hike to St. Mary's Falls, Virginia Falls, and Siyeh Pass, totaling ten miles. One Veteran reflected, "I had forgotten how much I loved experiencing the outdoors like this. Hiking, exploring, and being in nature—this trip brought that back to me."

As their adventure drew to a close, the Veterans shared their gratitude and reflections:

"This trip was an incredible way to connect with nature while getting to know a great group of fellow Veterans."

"An incredible once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that allowed them to bond over shared experiences and enjoy the stunning natural beauty of Glacier National Park."

"Had an outstanding time connecting with and bonding with fellow Veterans. Beautiful sights and scenery along the way as well."





DAV of Minnesota Foundation Revenue and Support Fiscal Year 2024 | 1 July 2023 – 30 June, 2024:

| REVENUE & SUPPORT | WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS | WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Contributions and bequests | \$283,799 | \$157,835 | \$441,634 |
| In-kind contributions | | | |
| Fundraising events, net of costs that directly benefited donors of \$14,028 | \$29,330 | | \$29,330 |
| Investment Return | \$313,575 | | \$313,575 |
| Net assets released from donor restriction | \$259,367 | \$259,367 | |
| Total revenue and support | \$886,071 | \$101,532 | \$784,539 |
| Change in net assets | \$67,588 | (\$4,765) | \$62,823 |

DAV of Minnesota Foundation Expenses Fiscal Year 2024 | 1 July 2023 – 30 June, 2024:

| EXPENSES | WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS | WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Program | \$640,626 | | \$640,626 |
| Management and general | \$87,927 | | \$87,927 |
| Fundraising | \$17,558 | | \$17,558 |
| Total expenses | \$746,111 | | \$746,111 |
| Change in net assets | | | |
| Net assets, beginning of the year | \$3,711,321 | \$1,152,869 | \$4,864,190 |
| Net assets, end of year | \$3,858,681 | \$1,152,869 | \$4,801,122 |

2024/2025 Objectives

1 Promote and develop support for the Foundation by engaging the community through fundraising, partnerships and events.

2 Strengthen and ensure timely and equitable access to behavioral health services.

3 Enhance organizational strength and agility by partnering with the Department Executive Board, Chapters and Auxiliaries to align stakeholders around strategic priorities.

4 Develop a communications strategy to better publicize goals and programs.

5 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.

6 Objective - reach \$4.5 million in giving, over the last 20 years.



National Disabled Veteran Golf Clinic

Volunteer Testimonial from Ryan Emerson



“Volunteering at the National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic was a transformative experience. Initially hesitant due to my non-Veteran status and business responsibilities, I soon realized this was a unique opportunity to honor those who served our nation. Upon arriving in Iowa, I was amazed by the number of disabled Veterans and their service dogs. As a golf buddy, I had the privilege of assisting Veterans like Rowena, a blind Army Veteran and cancer survivor, and Devora, who overcame her ankle injuries to contribute significantly to our team. This event was one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life, exceeding all my expectations. The resilience and camaraderie of these Veterans were truly inspiring. I encourage everyone, Veteran or not, to find something you are passionate about and volunteer. It’s an incredible way to give back and be part of something truly special.”





Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota

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