



# Soldiers' Angels



## Veteran Affairs (VA) Support Program

In support of Soldiers' Angels mission to support military families and improve the lives of a growing veteran population

# MISSION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Soldiers' Angels is a national charity providing aid and comfort to the men and women of the United States Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and their families and the growing veteran population.

“May No Soldier Go Unloved” encapsulates the motivation behind Soldiers' Angels. The volunteers of Soldiers' Angels work tirelessly in service to the organization and the veterans and military families we support.

## Key Strengths:

- 501(c)(3), tax-exempt nonprofit
- The largest volunteer network of any military charity in the country
- Provided over \$95M in aid to military and veteran families since 2003
- Maintains an **efficiency rating of 92%**, which is significantly above that of the average nonprofit organization
- Fully Accredited by the Better Business Bureau
- Named as one of the top rated charities in America for 2014 by Great Nonprofits
- Sent over 112,000 cards, letters and care packages to deployed troops in 2014
- Provided support to over 100,000 service members, veterans and family members in 2014 alone
  - Organized over 3,500 attendees at luncheons at VA Hospitals
  - Provided sack lunches to over 1,000 homeless veterans
  - Provided hygiene kits and other necessities to over 16,000 veterans



# VETERAN AFFAIRS (VA) SUPPORT

---

Soldiers' Angels Veteran Affairs (VA) Support Program assists veterans at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers.

Soldiers' Angels is **only Post 9-11 nonprofit organization approved to work within the VA Medical Centers and with a voting seat on the VA council**. Soldiers' Angels staff and volunteers are able to coordinate events and activities, organize corporate partner participation, visit patients and approve volunteers to join the VA support program.

## Support Provided:

- **Patient visits**, which includes distribution of comfort items, to include blankets, hygiene kits, clothing, magazines, and recreational items.
- Bi-weekly or monthly **luncheons or dinners** are organized to bring the veteran patients together and offer them a taste of home with a warm meal and friendly volunteer interaction. These may include movie night themed meals, holiday meal events, Thanksgiving dinner, and summer outdoor BBQ's.
- **Box lunches** are provided to VA Medical Center staff to pass out to homeless or low income veterans who may not be able to otherwise provide their next meal.
- VA Medical Centers organize "**Stand Downs**" to bring VA services to homeless veterans in the community. VA staff bring medical and dental expertise and Soldiers' Angels brings meals, hygiene, and other requested items to provide support to these veterans and help encourage homeless veteran participation.
- Soldiers' Angels volunteers **stock the break rooms** at many VA Medical Centers so patients and family members have a plentiful supply of snacks, cereal bars, quick meals, coffee, etc.
- **Renovation and repair** projects are very important to improving the morale of the veteran patients. Soldiers' Angels conducts landscaping, painting, plating and building at VA's across the country.
- **Food fairs** are organized with partnering food banks at VA's nationwide. Each food fair includes the distribution of a full truckload of food for low income veterans and their families.
- **Valor-IT** helps provide voice-controlled/adaptive laptop computers and other necessary technology to support veterans recovering from hand wounds and other severe injuries.
- Each VA has unique needs for their veterans. Soldiers' Angels fulfills these "**wish lists**" through donor partners and volunteer efforts. Soldiers' Angels has fulfilled wish lists, which have included coffee pots for break rooms, wireless internet for patient rooms and waiting rooms, bikes, bike racks, landscaping and even renovating and replacing patios and courtyards.



# PATIENT VISITS

**Patient visits**, which includes distribution of comfort items, to include blankets, hygiene kits, clothing, magazines, and recreational items are so important for the morale and welfare of hospitalized veterans.

Because of the access Soldiers' Angels has to the VA Medical Centers, Soldiers' Angels can escort volunteers to participate in the distribution process. Companies also often participate in our volunteer activities at various VA Hospitals around the country. These visits lift the spirits and provide much needed items to our veteran patients.



# VA HOSPITAL LUNCHEONS OR DINNERS

Soldiers' Angels provides bi-weekly or monthly luncheons or dinners to veterans receiving in-patient and rehabilitative services at 27 VA Medical Centers spanning 25 states.

Many of the veterans/families do not have the funds to purchase lunch and this event offers the opportunity to support our veterans, increase morale and bring the veterans together in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

There is no better way we can thank them for their service!

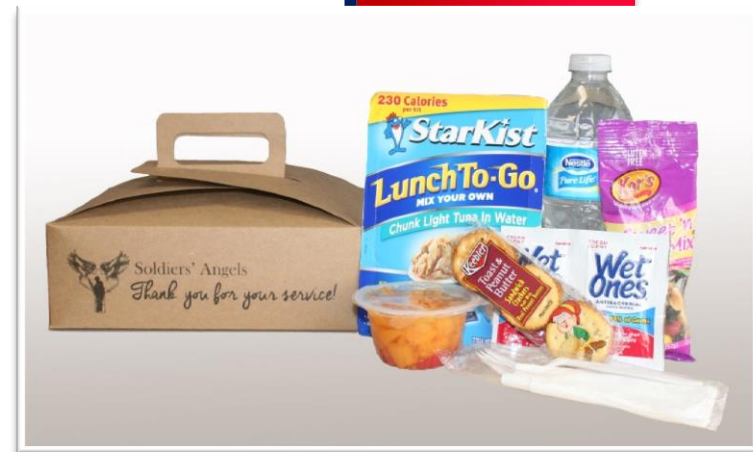


# BOX LUNCHES

In addition to the bi-weekly or monthly lunches or dinners, Soldiers' Angels also provides box lunches. These lunches are designed to allow VA case workers the opportunity to provide a meal to homeless or low income veterans, who may not otherwise know where they will get their next meal.

Box lunches vary based on availability of products but include the following:

- A bottle of water with a cold drink mix packet attached to it
- A ready-to-eat tuna or chicken salad & crackers kit
- A granola or cereal bar
- A fruit cup or squeeze-fruit packet
- A pack of sandwich crackers (cheese or peanut butter)
- A miscellaneous snack, such as trail mix, raisins, fruit snacks, or nutritious variety of cookie (such as oatmeal or Fig Newton)
- A paper plate
- A pre-packaged utensil kit (plastic fork, knife, spoon, napkin, salt & pepper)
- An anti-bacterial moist wipe





# STAND DOWN SUPPORT

Stand Downs are one part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to provide services to homeless veterans. Stand Downs are typically one to three day events providing services to homeless Veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and referrals to a variety of other necessary services, such as housing, employment and substance abuse treatment.

Soldiers' Angels has been instrumental in providing box lunches, other food, clothing and hygiene items to the homeless veterans as part of the stand downs.



# STOCKING BREAK ROOMS

As the drawdown in combat continues, Soldiers' Angels continues to shift support from deployed care packages to VA support. Thousands of items every month are distributed to VA Medical Center break rooms around the country.

While patients and family members visit or patients just enjoy a relaxing afternoon watching TV in the break room, they have access to a wide array of items, provided just for them! Items include cereal bars, coffee, tea, flavored drinks, quick meals like Raviolis, soup and macaroni and cheese, beef jerky, snack crackers, candy, gum, etc.





# RENOVATION AND REPAIR PROJECTS

**Renovation and repair** projects are very important to improving the morale of the veteran patients. Healing is greatly influenced by having a comfortable and warm environment.

These projects are also a great way for corporate volunteers to engage in a meaningful service project. Volunteer groups from 5-300 can be utilized for this type of project.

Soldiers' Angels projects include landscaping, painting, planting, building therapeutic gardens and other building projects at VA's across the country.



# VALOR-IT

Valor-IT helps provide voice-controlled/adaptive laptop computers and other necessary technology to support service members recovering from hand wounds and other severe injuries.

***Items supplied include:***

**Voice-controlled laptops**, which are operated by speaking into a microphone or using other adaptive technologies. They allow wounded service members to maintain connections with the rest of the world during recovery.

**iPads & Personal GPS** - Portable computers like iPads and handheld GPS devices build self-confidence and independence by compensating for short-term memory loss and organizational challenges related to severe TBI and severe PTSD.

To be eligible for this program, service members must be Post 9-11 wounded, ill and injured and must have injuries which require computer and electronics accommodations. Soldiers' Angels works closely with VA case workers to validate eligibility and review necessary supporting documentation.



# WISH LISTS

---

Each VA Medical Center maintains a wish list of items needed to support their local VA. Soldiers' Angels is eager to support wish list items, as funding and volunteers are available to support them.

Soldiers' Angels fulfills many wish list items to include:

- New Coffee pots for break rooms
- Wireless internet for patient areas and waiting rooms
- Landscaping
- Courtyard and Picnic Area Renovations
- Coffee
- Bicycles
- Bike Racks
- Computers or printers

*May No Soldier Go Unloved.*





For more information about veteran support opportunities,  
please contact:

Soldiers' Angels  
2700 NE Loop 410, Suite 310  
San Antonio, TX 78217

P: (210) 629-0020

E: [info@soldiersangels.org](mailto:info@soldiersangels.org)