

Family & Friends Newsletter

Hello Family and Friends of MVH D.J. Jacobetti,



Administrator Update: March is here and it feels like we are on the downhill side to winter! I have some exciting news for everyone: We have closed on the property for the new home! The bidding process has begun and we should start to see some activity on the site. I know that recent Executive orders may have generated some concern for the project, but our VA funding for the project wasn't affected.

We are planning a formal groundbreaking for the project when the snow melts, so keep an eye out for that. We will share information when we have the date. These are exiting times for Jacobetti and it will be amazing how fast this comes together. - Best, Ron Oja, Administrator

What is a soldier's favorite month? March... Hello March!

February held many sweet moments with a fun Super Bowl Tailgate Party with food, games and prizes. Three of our veterans went Ice Fishing on Teal Lake with Courage Incorporated and it was a top notch experience. We had visits from the NMU Hockey Team (Go Cats!), Father Marquette Catholic Academy 3rd graders, Negaunee Middle School 8th grade students and the 4-H group "Hoppers" and their bunnies. The Teal Lake Drummers and Singers played and sang for our veterans and Danny Garceau came in to share more Ojibwe stories, music and traditions. There was an outing to NMU Hockey, Dinner and a Movie, Tabletop Bowling in the Rec Room, an onsite luncheon for our Memory Care Unit members, a breakfast outing to Big Boy, and a lunch and bingo outing to American Legion Post 44. AND, Valentine's was a whole week of fun: music with Cloverland, a performance by 41 West, luncheons or a dinner on each unit/floor with loved ones invited, gift making for our veteran's sweeties, treats and cards from so many of our community supporters. And of course, so much more.....Thank you to everyone who contributed to this goodness!

Thanks to a National Foundation Gratitude Grant written by the Ishpeming Elks Lodge 447, we will begin an art therapy and movement series in March. Marlene Wood, a teaching artist, will lead painting classes and Micaiah Roydes, a yoga instructor and retired Marine veteran (and DJJ volunteer) will lead chair yoga classes for our veterans! Thank you, Ishpeming Elks for providing this fantastic opportunity for the veterans of DJJ!

March also brings:

- Fat Tuesday, paczkis, and a Mardi Gras parade; Spread Goodness Day and Pi Day on 3/14 equals veteran-made pies and the Marquette City Police joining us for goodness; A second ice fishing trip with Courage Incorporated
- On March 19th, we host Vegas Days with 1-hour of Black Jack fun! We need a lot of volunteers for this event (1:00-2:45pm—call or email for details). Then, in the evening, Almost Elvis is doing a concert. EXCITING!!!
- A breakfast outing to Jeffries, an onsite luncheon from Elks Lodge 405, lunch and bingo with American Legion Post 44, and lunch at the Crossroads
- Our 2nd Annual Live Auction is on March 5th and it is going to be a blast. We'll have a caller and members will bid on sweet prizes with (monopoly) \$
- We celebrate National Rosie the Riveter Day on March 21st and staff and members dress up in honor of Rosie. We reminisce on real-life Rosies, take a group photo and enjoy Rosie cookies
- March 29th is National Vietnam War Veterans Day and we are inviting Vietnam Veterans to join us for a social at 1:30pm in the Rec Room sponsored by Sons of the American Legion #44 (PLEASE call/email for details & RSVP)

Supporting Our Veteran Members:

- Attached, find our March 2024 Wish List. Our wish list continues to be pared down due to the incredible generosity we received this holiday season. On our wish list, you will also find an Amazon link to special requests (such as t-shirts for game prizes) Wish List: <https://a.co/8yGuv4w> **IMPORTANT: Amazon no longer provides a way to send a thank you and sometimes donations come in multiple deliveries with no receipt or identifying information. Please reach out so we can share our appreciation (and a donation receipt for your records).**
- Come volunteer! We always welcome new volunteers - and also welcome individuals or groups to come in and one-time, special guest volunteer. There are so many opportunities to join the fun: game nights, happy hour sponsors, cribbage tourneys, gardening, a cooking demonstration, Friday night campfires in the summer.... We guarantee you will have a blast!!!
- Check out our Facebook page! <https://www.facebook.com/MiVeteranHomesDJJ>
- To stay up-to-date on progress of our new U.P. veterans home, visit: <https://bit.ly/NewMVHDJJ>

DJJ In the News:

- Courage Incorporated Ice Fishing Trip <https://www.uppermichiganssource.com/2025/02/09/courage-incorporated-takes-veterans-ice-fishing-teal-lake/>

On behalf of all the staff and members at MVH D.J. Jacobetti, thank you!
Thank you for being champions for the veterans at Michigan Veteran Homes D.J. Jacobetti.

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If you would prefer to not to receive this monthly newsletter, please reply to this email and I'll remove you from future sends.



DJJ Veterans Spread The Love

Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared Feb. 19, 2025 as Hidden Heroes Day, which recognizes the 5.5 million military and veteran caregivers caring for our veteran heroes who have served our nation since WWII and now need care of their own.

Our veteran members decorated and assembled goodie bags to share their appreciation with the amazing staff at our Home.



We Are Thankful and Blessed...❤️

