

2020

## Happy Holidays, VA Volunteers!

Volunteers,

I am sending this letter for two reasons: the first is to wish you Happy Holidays! We all miss seeing you around the VA. We are anxious for this whole COVID-19 situation to resolve so that you can resume your volunteer roles. In the meantime, the Voluntary Service team hopes that you enjoy this holiday gift meant to keep you warm during these cold winter months and it reminds you of how important you are to us!

My second reason for this letter is to let you know that I recently accepted a new position with VA Central Office working for the VA National Center for Ethics in Health Care. My last day in Voluntary Service will be 11/19/20; however, you can be sure that in my heart, I will never leave this department. Voluntary Service gets in your blood. It will always be a part of me.

What is most important to me, as I exit this role, is that you know how much you are appreciated. Thank you for your time, your hard work, your dedication to Veterans, and your patience during the pandemic. You stood by me and this department during times of change, new staff, babies and maternity leave, and all the growing pains that come with building a successful department. I appreciate every single one of you for that.

When I took over Voluntary Service, we were a small department: one Chief and one Program Assistant with 325 volunteers. Our annual donations were just under \$170,000. However, thanks to you and our wonderful staff, I leave this department with a staff of four full-time employees, pre-pandemic volunteer numbers over 500, annual donations of over \$580,000, and a pre-pandemic annual monetary impact of over \$1.7 million. I hope that the work we have done together will have a lasting impact on the VA and the Veterans we serve.

It's hard to say good-bye, but even more difficult to say good-bye knowing that it has been so long since I've been able to interact with many of you. I will be thinking of you all and praying for your safety. Take care. Until we meet again.

Sincerely,  
Karinne Davidson and  
The Voluntary Service Team

