

VHWC DISPATCH

November 2025

FOUNDATION

The VHWC brings together parties to build or expand pathways through which Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and their care partners optimize health and wellness outcomes.

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CORE TEAM UPDATE

The Administrative Core Team continues to promote initiatives that align with our 2025 priority areas: Housing Insecurity, Oral Health, Suicide Prevention, and Transition. We invite partners to share these opportunities across networks to expand our collective reach. Contact us at ihp.vhwc@msu.edu or join the [list-serve](#) for the latest updates.

This month, the Veterans Health and Wellness Collaborative joined partners across Michigan in honoring Veterans Day, a time to reflect on the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of those who served our nation. Their service represents the very best of what it means to stand for something greater than oneself. We recognize that the spirit of service does not end when the uniform comes off. It continues in the ways our veterans strengthen their families, communities, and each other every day through their continued leadership and resilience. Their commitment inspires our mission. Their example guides our work, and their legacy reminds us that service is what keeps our nation strong. We remain deeply grateful to every veteran and the communities that support them.

SPOTLIGHT:

MiVeteran App

MVAA has launched a new mobile application, [MiVeteran](#), designed to help veterans and transitioning service members easily navigate their earned benefits and connect with essential resources. The app provides quick, on-the-go access to information on employment, education, housing assistance, healthcare, disability benefits, Michigan Veterans Homes, and more. The app is free to download on iOS and Android devices.

A NOTE FROM THE VHWC TEAM

The holiday season can be a time of joy and connection, but it can also bring moments of loneliness, grief, and emotional strain. For many veterans, this time of year can stir memories of those who have been lost, feelings of isolation, or heighten the pressures that come with expectations.

If you or someone you know is struggling this holiday season, please remember you are not alone. Reach out to a local VA facility or contact the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency ([MVAA](#)) at 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838) to get connected with local supports and resources. In times of crisis, the [Veteran Crisis Line](#) is available 24/7; just dial 988, then press 1 to speak with someone who understands.

As we reflect on the spirit of the season, we also invite you to reconnect with the sense of service and community that unites us. Small acts of kindness can make meaningful differences whether that means:

- Volunteering your time at a local veteran serving organization,
- Donating food, clothing, or household items to those in need,
- Participating in a gift drive, or
- Simply checking in on a fellow veteran, friend, or neighbor.

These gestures of compassion honor the same values that define military service. By giving back, we strengthen our communities and nurture our own well-being. This season, let us continue to look out for one another and carry forward the spirit of service.

UPDATES: 2025 PRIORITY AREAS

We invite organizations to let us know when they have local, regional, or state events to advertise. Events needing volunteers should also reach out to recruit assistance. We do not ask collaborative members for monetary contributions to support VHWC related activities. Our goal is to emphasize the sharing of *time and talents* between partners.

Housing Insecurity: Events to encourage landlord participation with veteran-related housing programs are under consideration.

Oral Health: Information is being collected regarding dental-related occupation trainings available through the state.

Suicide Prevention: The VHWC recently completed the evaluation for the [Lansing Area Veterans Coalition](#)'s (LAVC) Harms Reduction event, which highlighted important conversations around

medication and veteran suicide prevention. VHWC is available to assist partners with evaluation needs for future trainings or events. Please reach out if you're interested in this type of support.

Transition: We remain interested in a resource having multiple individual modules, as referenced above in the Housing Security section.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Webinars:

We are interested to offer MI-based webinars in addition to sharing national resources. Reach out if you have a topic that you would like to present to our members. The goal is to offer one hour of content and record sessions to allow for later viewing. Email ihp.vhwc@msu.edu to introduce yourself, your idea(s), or make referrals to subject matter experts. Our staff is available to arrange for technical support(s).

Events/Programs:

Don't hesitate to inform us about your upcoming events! We promote these through the [Resources and Events](#) tab of our website and emails to help boost engagement in addition to directed emails and inclusion in our newsletter. Below are a couple of Michigan-based programs offering holiday support and opportunities for veterans and military families this season.

- Volunteers of America Michigan (VOAMI): Their annual [Adopt-A-Family Program](#) provides holiday gifts and essential support to low-income families, seniors, and veterans.
- American Red Cross: The Holidays for Heroes program enables Americans to "Give Something That Means Something" this holiday season and other holidays year-round. They invite the public to join their local Red Cross offices to thank and recognize members of the military, veterans, and their families through a variety of activities. Please check with your [local Red Cross office](#) for details.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Subscribe at our website and share with your networks.
- Participate with Advisory Council or subcommittee activities.
- Volunteer your expertise: Whether you have ever served in the military, are a health care professional, community leader, or advocate, your input can make a difference.

"Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world. A Veteran doesn't have that problem."

Ronald Reagan