

Family & Friends Newsletter

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



Administrator Update: April is here and it feels like winter doesn't want to give up! There has been more progress at the new Home site. The construction bids are in the process of being awarded. The first one awarded is to clear the land, and if you have been by the site, you can see that most of the building site on the northern side of Venture Drive has been cleared. It's great to see the progress! There will be an official groundbreaking happening sometime in May. When I have more specifics, I will let you know. As always thank you for your support and trust. Ron Oja, Administrator



March 31, 2025

Our March weather brought a few challenges! An early-in-the-month blizzard caused special events like our Live Auction, Jeffries lunch outing, and onsite Elks lunch to be postponed. Then, warm weather caused our final ice fishing event with Courage Incorporated to be canceled due to melting and unsafe lake ice conditions. THEN, expected big weather mid-month, caused our Vegas Days event to be postponed. (This event requires 20+ volunteers and we didn't want volunteers traveling the roads). In that same week, our sleigh ride luncheon with The Up North Lodge and Select Realty was postponed due to mud (sleigh or wheeled sleighs do not do well in this condition). WAH! Come on Spring. We send big appreciation to our members, their loved ones, staff, volunteers and donors who adjust, as needed and keep their eye on the prize - serving those who served us and bringing goodness to our veteran members! AND, this is a great segue into **Volunteer Appreciation Week which is April 20-26** this year.

Our volunteers come in many forms: Registered volunteers who help our activities run smoothly, allowing us to do big, better activities and events; the volunteers who visit members one-on-one, sharing quality time and meaningful interactions; behind-the-scenes volunteers who return cans and help keep our donation rooms organized; pet therapy volunteers who bring in their pooches that bring so much joy; the incredible volunteers who ensure No Member Dies Alone; special guest volunteers and groups who come in one-time only and share time with our veterans bringing fun, sharing talents (e.g. music, cribbage, homemade treats, crafting, sponsoring bingo and other treats); the donor volunteers who sponsor special events both onsite and offsite, hosting our veterans for luncheons, hockey, baseball, bingo... and so much more. And, let us not forget the individuals and groups who make monetary and wish list donations. Collectively, they help us deliver the best of the best to the veterans who call MVH D.J. Jacobetti home.

*On behalf of our veteran members, their loved ones, and our staff, thank you. Thank You. **THANK YOU!***

In April:

- Our Live Auction is rescheduled for April 30th at 1:30pm
- Talent Show is rescheduled for April 16th at 1:30pm - Join the fun! Seeking guest stars to sing, joke, yodel...
- Outings to the Rec Show, Up North Lodge sleigh ride and lunch thanks to Select Realty, American Legion Post 44 luncheon, a breakfast at Jeffries, and shopping at Walmart
- Mission Six Service Dogs is coming on Dog Therapy Appreciation Day (April 11) <https://www.missionsix.org/>
- Luau Happy Hour with American Legion Post 44 and an onsite lunch compliments of Elks Lodge 405, and a Tigers Home Opener Party
- Paint classes with Marlene, chair yoga with Micaiah, Spring crafts, seed starting, lots of live music, bingo, special church services for Good Friday and Easter/Resurrection Sunday
- And so much more.....

Supporting Our Veteran Members:

- **SAVE THE DATE!!** We are having a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, June 14th from 8am-11am. (See attached poster for details). All donations go to MVHDJ's Charitable Support Fund to enrich the lives of our veteran members.
- Attached, find our April 2025 Wish List. On the list you will find requests for personal care items, our Amazon Wish List Registry and ideas for event sponsorships.
- Come volunteer! We always welcome new volunteers - We 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 - or bring your talent (music or magic, perhaps) 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>

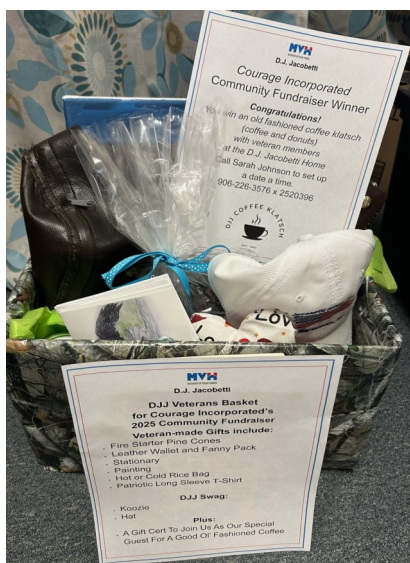
DJJ In the News:

- DJJ is Hiring! <https://www.radioresultsnetwork.com/2025/03/19/marquettes-jacobetti-home-for-veterans-has-nursing-job-openings/>

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.

DJJ Veterans Spread The Goodness

In March, our veteran members picked favorite recipes and helped make 15 different pies for Spread Goodness Day and Pi Day. To really spread the goodness, we invited in our local police officers, our staff and volunteers to join us for a pie social to share appreciation for their good work. We are thrilled that SGD founder, Anna, stopped by to say hello!



Our veteran members also contributed to a raffle basket for Courage Incorporated's Community Fundraiser. Our basket includes member-made custom t-shirt, fire starter pine cones, leather wallet and fanny pack, stationery, plus a DJJ koozie, hat and special invite to join us at Coffee Klatsch. The fundraiser event is open to the public.

Courage Incorporated's Community Fundraiser
Saturday, April 12th 3pm-7pm at Upper Peninsula Brewing Company

We Are Thankful and Blessed...❤️



Game Night was fun with NMU Black Student Union Members



Thanks to an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant written by the Ishpeming Elks Lodge 447, painting with Marlene and Chair Yoga with Micaiah has been a hit.



We celebrated National Rosie the Riveter Day! For more photos go to www.facebook.com/MiVeteranHomesDJJ/



We incubated and hatched chicks!



St. Paddy's festivities included a Member-made Irish Stew, a Big Buck\$ Bingo, Shamrock Shakes, Poker Run, and live Celtic music with Marshall Codd!



Our Ladies Tea Party brought our 5 female members together (and a couple family members too) for tea, sweets, and conversation!



Jam Session! Veteran member, John plays guitar with Tim Weingarten. We are hoping they are practicing for April's Talent Show!

National Vietnam War Veterans Day

March 29th was National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Our planned social was cancelled due to illness within our Home. Despite this, we recognized and thanked the 73 DJ Jacobetti veterans who served our country during the Vietnam-era and currently call DJJ home.

Special thanks to the many community members who were ready to help make our celebration special: Sons of American Legion Squad 44 for sponsoring the dessert; Jim Provost, Michigan's Veteran of the Year and a fellow Vietnam veteran, who was going to share a few words; and Lois Westman who was ready to sing and play. #welcomehome