



**DMV**<sup>TM</sup>  
**OF MINNESOTA**  
**FOUNDATION**

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## FELLOW MINNESOTANS:

2020 proved to be a challenging year for us all, including Minnesota's veterans. Even with the added burden of the pandemic, economic uncertainty and urgent social justice issues, it was heartening to see our community partners, companies, individuals, and other foundations rally together to continue to support veterans in need.

DAV of Minnesota Foundation stayed true to our mission to be of assistance to veterans and their families. Even through some traditional partners had to redirect their philanthropic giving and we were required to cancel or modify in-person fundraisers, we were able to be agile and maintain meaningful support.

We continue to be focused as the independent "giving arm" of DAV of Minnesota, and have invested the appropriate time, effort and structural changes to continue to be successful in 2021 and beyond. Thank you for your continued support of the DAV of Minnesota Foundation.

**Mark Jaruszewski**  
Chairperson  
DAV of Minnesota Foundation

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## MISSION

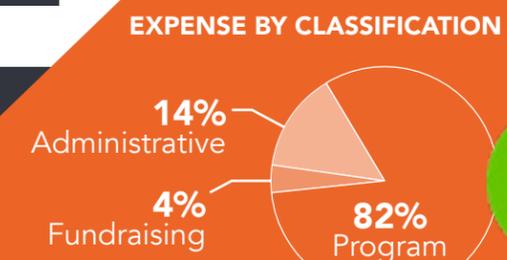
DAV of Minnesota Foundation is the charitable giving arm of the Department, providing financial resources for projects and programs directly supporting veterans and their families throughout Minnesota.

## VALUES

- Veterans First
- Transparency/ Accountability
- Financial Stewardship
- Ethical Standards
- Responsiveness
- Visionary and Transformational Leadership

# FOUNDATION IMPACT

**\$119,169**  
to veteran outdoor programs



**\$52,244**  
to programs at Minnesota State Veterans Homes

**\$33,640**  
to programs that support ending veteran homelessness

**\$100,000**  
was dedicated to supporting DAV Department programs & services

**\$29,669**  
for three new vans for the DAV Department of Minnesota Transportation program

# EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

**"2020 was transformational for the DAV Minnesota Foundation Board of Directors. We have approved an increase of future nominated members from five to seven. With more experienced DAV leaders on our board, we will expand the scrutiny of grant requests and allow for more viewpoints before distributing funds."**

**STEPHEN "BUTCH" WHITEHEAD**  
Executive Director  
DAV of Minnesota Foundation

## BOARD MEMBERS



**Mark Jaruszewski**  
Chairperson  
Minneapolis Chapter 1  
Minneapolis



**Stephen "Butch" Whitehead**  
Executive Director  
Lyle C. Pearson, Sr. Chapter 10  
Rosemount



**Scott Berndt**  
Commander  
Anoka Chapter 39  
Anoka



**John Walker**  
Treasurer  
St. Paul Chapter 2  
St. Paul



**Ron Haugen**  
Lyle C. Pearson, Sr. Chapter 10  
Kasota



**Kerry Allison**  
Mayo Southeast Chapter 28  
Rochester



**Lauri Brooke**  
Lakeland Chapter 31  
Detroit Lakes

**"The impact of both the COVID-19 pandemic and the emphasis on social justice was felt throughout Minnesota over the last year. DAV of Minnesota Foundation remains focused on working through our chapters in communities statewide to be an agent for positive change for our veterans and their families. Despite the challenges we all face, DAV of Minnesota Foundation is open for business."**

**SCOTT BERNDT**  
Commander  
DAV of Minnesota

**OTHER FUNDS PROVIDED IN 2019-20:**

- Minnesota DAV National Service Officer Fund
- DAV Auxiliary Fund
- Homeless Veterans Fund
- Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

DAV of Minnesota has 32 chapters statewide with more than 19,000 members focused on the welfare of veterans, their families, and caregivers. Grant requests to DAV of Minnesota Foundation are often generated by local chapters or members with unique perspectives of needs in their hometown communities.

Local civic organizations, companies, associations, schools and individuals are inspired by the passion they see first-hand in DAV of Minnesota members, and partner with DAV of Minnesota Foundation to fund meaningful programs that add to our veteran's quality of life.

**2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Rent Relief:** Coldwell Banker Realtors donated \$15,000 to the DAV of Minnesota Foundation to help end Veteran Homelessness; the Foundation matched that funding. In total, \$30,000 was granted to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) to help with rent assistance for veterans impacted by COVID-19.

**National DAV COVID-19 Fund:** In order to contribute to the national ramifications of the emerging pandemic, the Foundation contributed \$10,000 to the National DAV COVID-19 fund.

**Homeless Veteran Relief:** The DAV of Minnesota Foundation gave \$10,000 grant to assist with "Operation Pop Smoke," an initiative by Every Third Saturday. Every Third Saturday works with both the VA and MACV to assist homeless veterans or those in danger of becoming homeless.



**Last Man Club:** Vetted by County Veteran Service Officers in Sibley, Nicollet, Blue Earth, Brown, Waseca and Le Sueur Counties, DAV of Minnesota Foundation granted \$5,000 to support special needs requests of veterans in southern Minnesota.

**Plowing for Vets:** A \$3,000 grant from the Foundation enabled funding for maintenance and repair of personal equipment for volunteers that assist veterans with snow plowing.

**Minnesota Military Radio:** DAV of Minnesota Foundation proudly sponsors "Minnesota Military Radio," an hour-long weekly public service show of interest to service members, veterans and military families that is broadcast on more than 60 radio stations statewide.



# ENCOURAGING OUTDOOR SPORTS

Many of the traditional outdoor activities – fishing events, turkey, deer and pheasant hunts – had to be cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. While some of the events had to stop, DAV of Minnesota Foundation’s enthusiasm for outdoor programs remained.

Late 2019 yielded many successes, and the Foundation’s efforts in 2020 have preserved this cornerstone for veteran care for the future, with the objective of enabling veterans to share experiences in nature. Looking ahead to 2021, DAV of Minnesota Foundation is committed to enabling more women veteran outdoor opportunities.

## 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS:

**American Heroes Outdoors.** DAV of Minnesota Foundation committed \$20,000 to American Heroes Outdoors, a weekly television program dedicated to pairing veterans with professional guides in a variety of fishing, hunting and adventure outings.



**Bob Lange Outdoors Event.** Glenwood-based big game hunter Bob Lange has embraced the DAV of Minnesota Foundation’s objective to promote outdoor activities. For six years, he has hosted community members at Nyumba ya Simba (Home of the Lions) to participate in an event-filled fundraiser complete with hot air balloon rides, live music, touring his collection, a delicious meal and refreshments. Mr. Lange has raised more than \$1M for the DAV of Minnesota Foundation’s outdoor programs over the last six years.

**Middle River Veterans Outdoors.** DAV of Minnesota Foundation provided \$4,600 for lodging to Middle River Veterans Outdoors, an organization that provides free outdoor recreation opportunities for veterans.

**Olmsted County / Chapter 28 Deer Hunt.** The Foundation continued sponsorship of this annual tradition in the amount of \$8,700.

**Camp Ripley Hunting Chairs and Blinds.** The Foundation is an advocate for the robust veteran hunting events that occur annually at Camp Ripley. Investing in the future, DAV of Minnesota Foundation provided \$3,500 to replace 60 hunting chairs and assorted blinds for future hunts.

### OTHER FUNDS PROVIDED IN 2019-20:

- Disabled Veterans Outdoors
- Camp Ripley Hunt Fund
- Disabled Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine



**“Minnesotans have a passion for hunting, fishing and experiencing nature. DAV of Minnesota Foundation is pleased to fund programs to bring veterans together in a natural setting. I have personally experienced the incredible healing power of the outdoors, and the Foundation is committed to making these opportunities available for veterans.”**

**RON HAUGEN**  
Board Member  
DAV of Minnesota Foundation

# EMBRACING ADAPTIVE SPORTS

DAV of Minnesota Foundation embraces competitive or recreational sports for veterans with disabilities. These adaptations allow the modifications necessary for veterans with disabilities to participate.

Traditionally the Foundation provides a sponsorship to prominent national adaptive sports golfing and winter sports events. With COVID-19 cancelling these in-person events, DAV of Minnesota Foundation provided funding to set the conditions for future competitions.

## 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS:

**National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.** A partnership between the National DAV and the VA, DAV of Minnesota Foundation is a Gold-level sponsor at \$15,000. When the 2020 event was cancelled, the Minneapolis VA Medical Center coordinated holding the donated funds for use at future sports clinic events. A world leader in rehabilitation, the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic provides nearly 400 profoundly disabled Veterans with training and rehabilitation every year. Veterans with TBIs, spinal cord injuries, visual impairments, amputations and other severe disabilities are challenged to overcome perceived limitations through adaptive skiing, sled hockey, scuba diving, rock wall climbing, education and other activities.



**Strong Vets.** The Foundation supports this unique program that enhances existing VA platforms with specialized equipment that features personal trainers. The strength sessions, boxing and yoga assist pain management as an alternative to medication and enhances overall wellness and mobility.



**100 Holes For Hope.** DAV of Minnesota Foundation partnered again with the PGA of Minnesota for their collaborative VA adapted golf “100 Holes For Hope” at Frontenac Golf Course. The event was restricted to a handful of golf pros and veterans due to the pandemic, but DAV of Minnesota Foundation looks forward to continuing to partner in the years ahead.



**“Veterans are by nature competitive. DAV of Minnesota Foundation is committed to providing opportunities for Minnesota veterans to participate in sports no matter what their ability or disability.”**

**KERRY ALLISON**  
Board Member  
DAV of Minnesota Foundation

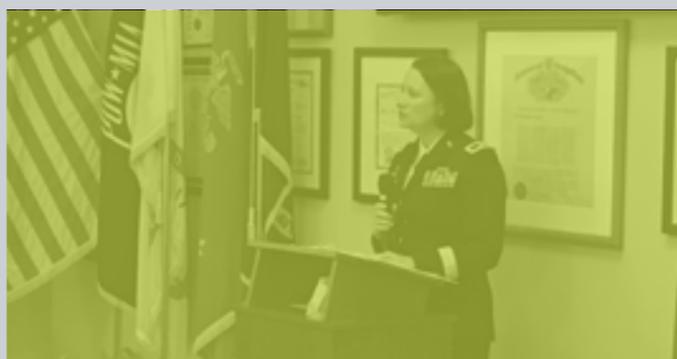
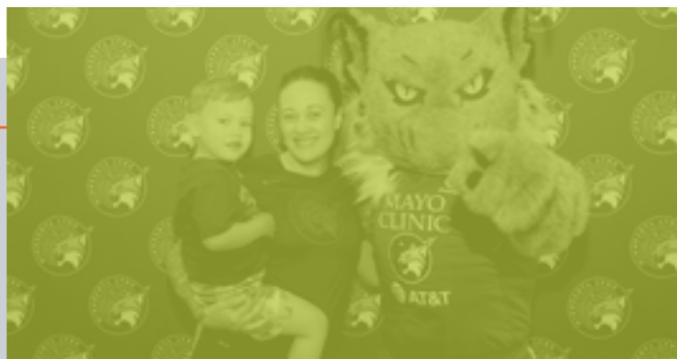
# HIGHLIGHTING WOMEN VETERANS

DAV of Minnesota Foundation has prioritized ensuring that the issues facing women veterans are funded and addressed: primary and gender-specific healthcare, mental health and readjustment services, and disability and employment benefits.

Pre-pandemic, the Foundation funded and resourced a women veteran-specific retreats and events to enable collaboration and developing action plans.

**"As women continue to expand their roles in America's armed forces, DAV of Minnesota Foundation will be there to ensure that resources are available so that the issues affecting women veterans throughout their lifetime are addressed."**

**LAURI BROOKE**  
Board Member  
DAV of Minnesota Foundation



## 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS:

**Minnesota Lynx.** In an unprecedented partnership with the WNBA Minnesota Lynx, DAV of Minnesota Foundation is the exclusive 2-year veteran sponsor of the Minnesota Lynx. The team competed in a COVID-19 "bubble" during the 2020 season, and DAV, female veterans, advocates and supporters were featured virtually.



**Women Veteran Gala.** The 4th annual Chapter 28 Women Veterans Gala was postponed, but funds were secured by DAV of Minnesota Foundation for a future resource fair to assist women with claims, peer-to-peer engagement and DAV activities.

**Southeast Minnesota Women Veteran Retreat.** Women veterans converged to discuss the issues facing them and develop action plans to enhance services, activities and treatment. Funded in part by DAV of Minnesota Foundation, the event resulted in recommended action steps to be implemented by chapters across DAV of Minnesota.

# CONTRIBUTING TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE AT MINNESOTA VETERANS HOMES

Image By Elkman - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3808820>

## 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS:

**Personal Protective Gear.** Chapters from across the state rallied to assist Minnesota State Veterans Homes meet the requirements for personal protective gear. Hutchinson Chapter 37 coordinated with the Foundation to match a \$500 donation to assist medical professionals, providers and residents.

**Mobility.** In order to empower both staff and resident mobility, the DAV of Minnesota Foundation committed \$14K for a golf cart for exclusive use of the Silver Bay State Veterans Home. Adorned with a special DAV graphic wrap, the cart will assist those that have mobility concerns get safely around the grounds.

**Ergonomic Improvements.** The Twins Ports VA Clinic received \$11K for the purpose of assisting residents with ergonomic equipment to improve posture and body posture. This upgraded equipment will add comfort and value to the veterans that live at the home.



**OTHER FUNDS PROVIDED IN 2019-20:**

- DAV Transportation Program
- Minnesota State Veterans Home Funds (Minneapolis, Hastings, Silver Bay, Luverne, and Fergus Falls)

**"You are hard-pressed to find a group of veterans impacted so directly by COVID-19 then the residents of our state veterans homes. Living in a congregate setting and restricted from visitors, the incredible staff ensured that these veterans were cared for. DAV of Minnesota Foundation is honored to contribute to efforts at our veteran's homes."**

**SCOTT BERNDT**  
Commander  
DAV of Minnesota

# ASSISTING THE VA

DAV of Minnesota Foundation works closely with the two VA Medical Centers in Minnesota – Minneapolis and St. Cloud – as well as the neighboring hospitals in nearby Fargo and Sioux Falls – on programs that benefit our veterans. The Foundation provides much of the funding for the DAV vans that provide transportation for veterans not only to the hospitals, but to the fourteen VA Clinics throughout the state.

Close collaboration with the facility volunteer coordinators enable the Foundation to have an accurate understanding of emerging needs so that the board can convene and act quickly. This was especially important as the uncertainties of COVID-19 emerged.

## 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS:

**Hands Free Driving.** The 2019 requirement for having “hands free” driving in Minnesota affected one of the core missions of the DAV of Minnesota: transporting veterans to their appointments at VA medical centers. DAV of Minnesota Foundation dedicated \$6K to upgrade DAV of Minnesota’s fleet to ensure all vehicles complied to the new law.

**VA Summer Games.** The DAV of Minnesota Foundation enabled fourteen veterans to attend the VA Summer Games. Of the travelers, ten were first-time attendees. The \$11,500 donation secured travel costs and branded apparel for the competitors



**Fargo VAMC Suicide Prevention:** DAV of Minnesota Foundation allocated \$5,000 to the Fargo VA Medical Center Suicide Prevention program. At least 17 Minnesota counties are served by the Fargo facility.

**VA Medical Center Vouchers:** DAV of Minnesota Foundation initiated a pilot program for modest vouchers for concessions to be used by volunteer drivers and veterans during medical appointment visits at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

**“DAV of Minnesota Foundation is a strong partner with all the VA Medical Centers that serve Minnesota’s veterans. The VA team is a crucial link for care of our disabled veterans, and our integration into their programs, processes and people are a key part to our success.”**

**STEPHEN “BUTCH” WHITEHEAD**  
Executive Director  
DAV of Minnesota Foundation

**OTHER FUNDS PROVIDED IN 2019-20:**  
– VA Medical Center Fund

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2020	Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash	\$ 174,263	\$ 228,511	\$ (54,248)
Certificates of Deposit	209,023	205,730	3,292
Investments	3,986,184	3,946,726	39,458
Receivables	5,000	147,000	(142,000)
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>4,374,469</b>	<b>4,527,967</b>	<b>(153,498)</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 4,374,469</b>	<b>\$ 4,527,967</b>	<b>\$ (153,498)</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Other Current Liabilities	65,922	66,218	(297)
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 65,922</b>	<b>\$ 66,218</b>	<b>\$ (297)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>			
Without Donor Restrictions	2,724,007	2,778,778	(54,771)
Board Designated	454,335	438,886	15,449
With Donor Restrictions	1,130,205	1,244,085	(113,879)
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>4,308,548</b>	<b>4,461,749</b>	<b>(153,201)</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 4,374,469</b>	<b>\$ 4,527,967</b>	<b>\$ (153,489)</b>

## DONATIONS RECEIVED

**Partnership with Auto Dealers:** In one of the last events prior to the COVID-19 precautions, DAV of Minnesota Foundation was the recipient of a \$19,226 grant from the Greater Minneapolis Auto Dealers Association. The check was presented at the Minneapolis Auto Show.

**Classic Panheads:** This group raised \$20,000 in 2020, and has generously donated more than \$130,000 over the last six years to the Foundation.

**Auditing process updates:** Among the most important items in 2019-20 Fiscal Year was the recommendation from the designated auditor recommended a consolidated audit for both the Foundation and the Department. This auditing process enables a set of “fresh eyes” on the mutual interests and provides oversight to make sure that all interests are considered in the grant process.

**“It was difficult to lose fundraising opportunities like the Old Glory Run 5K and the DAV of Minnesota Convention ‘Parade of Donors’, as well as down-sizing other efforts like our Golf Classic. Even with this adversity, the DAV of Minnesota Foundation is on solid financial footing.”**

**JOHN WALKER**  
Treasurer  
DAV of Minnesota Foundation

# 2020-2021

## "THE WAY AHEAD"

Through the unpredictable tempo of 2020, DAV of Minnesota Foundation leadership innovated meaningful change that will set the organization up for continued success.

**501c(3) Conversion.** The DAV of Minnesota Foundation transformed from its designation with the Internal Revenue Service from a 501c(19), or a Veteran Service Organization non profit organization, to a 501c(3), an operating foundation. This new designation will enable us to better align with grant opportunities from a wide variety of companies, organizations and other foundations.

**Expanding the Board of Directors.** The current board approved an increase of members from 5 to 7 members. This expands the scrutiny of grant requests and allows for more viewpoints when considering distributing funds. Additionally, the selection process changed from members being recommended and appointed by the Department Commander to a recommendation process by current board members and 3-year appointment by the DAV of Minnesota Department Executive Board.

**Bequests.** Bequests have emerged as an important part of funding for the DAV of Minnesota Foundation. The Foundation thanks those that have included our disabled veterans as part of their final wishes, and these contributions have made a difference in countless lives. Consider discussing opportunities for including DAV of Minnesota Foundation in your estate planning.

**Transparency.** DAV of Minnesota Foundation committed much of 2019-2020 on bylaws and process improvements to increase transparency. The organization is committed to consistent reviews of internal policies, conflict of interest statements, whistleblower consideration, privacy, data security and fiduciary responsibility practices.

**"2020 was an insightful year for veteran resiliency, discipline and adapting to emerging challenges. Just like those that have fought and served in our nation's wars, the DAV of Minnesota Foundation has pivoted to respond to the issues at hand. Looking forward, our veterans, their families and caregivers will continue to be in good hands with the DAV of Minnesota Foundation."**

**MARK JARUSZEWSKI**  
Chairperson  
DAV of Minnesota Foundation



# APPLY FOR A GRANT

Founded in 1994, DAV of Minnesota Foundation was created with the initial purpose of being the "giving arm" of the DAV of Minnesota Department. Years of process revisions, community outreach and solid relationship-building have resulted in a unique ability to support veteran-related programs, services, projects and community activities.

Without the efforts of the Foundation, the DAV of Minnesota Department would not have the full resources to successfully deliver the statewide transportation program and life-changing outdoor activities to veterans.

Governed by an independent Board of Directors with an established bylaw process, the Foundation coordinates fundraising, chapter donations, individual contribution, corporate and association partnerships and estate bequeaths.

DAV of MN Foundation welcomes opportunities to partner with DAV Chapters, nonprofits, and government entities to create and support meaningful programs, services and projects across Minnesota.

The Foundation board has created grant-making guidelines and eligibility standards to ensure that support goes to grant seekers who make the most effective impact in veterans lives here in our Minnesota communities.

**"I would encourage anyone that has a project or program that directly supports veterans and their families to reach out to the DAV of Minnesota Foundation."**

**RON HAUGEN**  
Board Member  
DAV of Minnesota Foundation

▶ **Visit the criteria and apply today:**  
<http://davmnfoundation.org/community-grants/>

▶ **View the video on DAV of Minnesota Foundation:**  
<http://davmnfoundation.org/about/>



## DAV of Minnesota Foundation

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