



Minnesota Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Fund

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Minnesota Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Fund (V4V) approved/disbursed \$15,000.00 in two grants to assist Minnesota Veterans.

At the April 18,, 2022, monthly Minnesota Veterans 4 Veterans Trust fund meeting, the following grants were approved by the eight-member board of directors:

- **Helping Paws of Minnesota** was awarded **\$5,000**
Helping Paws will train and match 10-13 new service dog teams in our 2021-2022 fiscal year as well as provide ongoing support for currently matched graduate teams. This restricted grant would use for the placement of service dogs to Minnesota Veterans with clinically diagnosed PTSD and the continued support of those Minnesota Veterans already placed with a Helping Paws service dog..
- **Minnesota Flyers Gymnastics** was awarded **\$10,000**
The objectives of this grant is to provide full scholarships to the children of active duty military members and veterans that would cover the cost of gymnastics, ninja, or fitness classes at our facility. The funds would benefit military families by relieving the burden of financial stress over extra cost of activities for their children. Additionally, our program takes a holistic approach that targets not only the removal of financial concern, but also focuses on the mental health aspect by allowing parents to have short breaks from the daily rigors of life and to give them a sense of relief to be able to have their children involved in activities outside of the home. Socially the program's goal would also be to give military service members who are parents the opportunity to connect with other parents in their area, both military and non-military. On an even larger scope the purposes of this grant program are to further benefit military families as a whole by providing a

safe environment for children to come to that offers a healthy level of physical fitness, the chance to socialize with other children, and the sense of accomplishment while learning new things..

- **Other V4V News**

V4V Board member Marland Ronning who was appointed to the board by the Department of MN American Legion has resigned from the board after having served on the board for 15 years. Many of those years he served as the board treasurer. The Board thanks Marland for his dedicated service to the V4V Trust Fund. The Department of MN American Legion Commander has appointed Darrel Redepenning to the Board of Trustees replacing Marland.

The Minnesota Veterans 4 Veterans (V4V) Trust Fund is a 501c (19) non-profit organization established as the result of the 2006 sale of Lake Minnetonka Big Island Disabled Veterans Camp. The non-profit organization has eight board members, two veterans each who are appointed by the DAV, VFW, MOPH, and American Legion. The board oversees the funds from the sale of the island to the City of Orono and has a grant application process on their website. Grants are made to organizations serving MN veterans in a way that conforms to the criteria the V4V has documented online at their website, mnv4v.org

To learn more about the history of the Big Island Veterans Camp see:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Island_Park

And

<https://minnehahacreek.org/sites/minnehahacreek.org/files/Big%20Island%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

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