

Contact: Hank Sadler
V4V Secretary
Phone 507 317 3421
Fax 507 550 4033

28926 West Lake Drive
Madison Lake Mn 56063
Phone 507 317 3421
Fax 507 550 4033

**Minnesota
Veterans 4 Veterans
Trust Fund**

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MN Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Fund (V4V) approved \$25,000.00 in a Grant to assist MN Veterans receive medical care from rural NW MN Counties

At the February 2013 Veterans 4 Veterans Trust fund monthly meeting, the following grant was approved by the eight member board of directors:

A \$25,000.00 grant was approved in collaboration with the MN Disabled American Foundation, the National DAV Transportation Program and local businesses and veterans organizations to assist in purchasing three vans to transport veterans in the 15 counties in Northwest MN to the VA Medical Centers in Fargo North Dakota and the St. Cloud VA Medical Center. The total amount in grants to get the program off and running is \$105,000.00. Paula Conrad, the Veterans Service Center Manager at the Fargo VA Regional Office stated "There is a great need for services, particularly transportation, in rural communities such as most of Northwestern Minnesota where public transportation is scarce or non-existent"

Lauri Brooke, the Becker County Veterans Service Officer stated "by virtue of geography and economy, northwest Minnesota has been lacking in transportation resources". Ms, Brooke went on to say "access to basic medical care due to lack of transportation is a common complaint in rural Minnesota . Using current statistics from CVSO's, over 3,000 veterans have been identified the need for transportation in the year 2012."

The transportation program will be run by the County Veterans service Officer of the counties participating in this program.

Commissioner Larry Shellito of the MN Dept of Veterans Affairs recently stated " I commend the NW MN County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO's) for their efforts and teamwork in addressing the transportation needs of the NW MN veterans community. Clearly, this effort will bring a better quality of life to the veterans served by this program".

The MN 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.....Website: www.mnv4v.org

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