

Life

VETERANS AFFAIRS: Sew Much Comfort event in Royal Oak makes clothing for military hospitals

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By SHARON LONGMAN

A Sew Much Comfort sewing event will be from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, 9-28-2012, at Haberman Fabrics, 905 S. Main St., Royal Oak.

Sew Much Comfort is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that makes adaptive clothing customized to accommodate medical devices and situations to fit service personnel with injuries.

The clothing is sent to every military hospital in the United States, Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany and Combat Surgical Hospitals overseas. The adaptive clothing provides comfort and allows the service member to maintain their dignity, thereby helping the healing process.

Sew Much Comfort Regional Auditor Pat Quintero and her husband Bob recently visited Women's Clubs and VA Hospitals in the Upper Peninsula to make them aware of what Sew Much Comfort does.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs will help the organization with fund raising to make more clothing for wounded veterans possible.

With the holiday season approaching, Quintero would like individuals and organizations to know that they are a worthy veterans' organization to donate to, and she says contributors should know that follow-up donation requests are not sent.

Federal employees can support the organization by choosing it for their annual donation drive, and it has been investigated and approved by the Federal Government.

Sew Much Comfort is the only source for this type of altered clothing for wounded veterans.

For those who would like to contribute, Quintero says checks are most effective because the organization can buy in bulk based on immediate needs. Donations are tax deductible. All receive tax receipts. Checks should be made out to Sew Much Comfort and sent to Quintero at 22608 Poplar Court, Hazel Park, 48030.

Sewing volunteers are asked to contact Quintero as soon as possible to register for the event and for more information 248-546-0038 or email patquin@comcast.net and visit sewmuchcomfort.org.

AT&T donates \$10,000 to Orion Veterans Memorial

Daniel Smith of AT&T recently presented a \$10,000 check to Chairman of the Orion Veterans Memorial Committee Dr. Joe Mastromatteo during a ceremony at the Orion Veterans Memorial.

Those in attendance included members of the Orion Veterans Memorial Committee, State Senator James Marleau, State Rep. Brad Jacobsen and Chairman of the Oakland County Commissioners Michael Gingell. Several members of North Oakland VFW post 334 attended and serve as volunteers to maintain the memorial led by the Memorial Park Manager Bob Watros

The memorial was completed on Memorial Day this year, when the central monument was unveiled and dedicated. Internationally renowned sculptor Frank Varga created the central monument, which consists of four life-size figures cast in bronze and portrays a family unit with arms around each other including a mother, father and younger sister embracing their son/brother who is in the service.

The young serviceman wears fatigues so he could be a member of any of the five armed services. Donations are still needed to pay for the monthly utility bills, electricity and water and for replacing the flags, which averages about \$700 per month.

Engraved bricks are available to honor a veteran, family or company and the income from the sale of bricks helps pay the monthly maintenance costs. Donations are also needed to establish a fund that will earn income to pay the maintenance costs.

Checks should be made payable to the Orion Veterans Memorial, a nonprofit organization, and mailed to 312 S. Broadway, Lake Orion 48362.

For more information, visit orionveteransmemorial.com or call 248-693-6636.

Annual charity pig roast

Berkley VFW Post 9222 hosts its Annual Pig Roast from 6-8 p.m. Saturday Oct. 6 at 3025 Coolidge Hwy., one and one-half blocks south of 12 Mile Road.

The menu will include pork, chicken, potatoes, salad, corn, applesauce, rolls and dessert.

Music will be provided for attendees' dancing and listening pleasure from 9-11 p.m.

Cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children less than 12 years old.

All proceeds go to support veterans and community programs.

"We invite the public to join us," Post Cmdr. John Fulks said. "This event has been a sell out every year, so please get your tickets early."

For more information and tickets, call 248-541-9222.

Rummage and bake sale

American Legion Chief Pontiac Post 377 hosts a Rummage and Bake Sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at 4819 Mary Sue, in Independence Township.

Everyone is welcome. Proceeds fund veterans' projects. For more information, call 248-673-9301.

Stiggy's Dogs of Howell

Recently, The Home Depot Foundation honored veterans nonprofit Stiggy's Dogs first-place finish in the July Aprons in Action Facebook Voting Contest with a \$25,000 gift card presentation, a donation of over 50 Ryobi power tools and a full day Celebration of Service event.

Stiggy's Dogs of Howell transforms shelter dogs into individually trained psychiatric service animals for U.S. military veterans living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and traumatic brain injury at no cost to the veteran.

Following the award ceremony, an army of over 100 local store associates began extensive renovations to Stiggy's Dogs facilities, including wheelchair accessibility and energy efficiency modifications to the interior and exterior of the home. The Home Depot CEO Frank Blake is on site to participate in the renovation projects during the day and to recognize Stiggy's Dogs' contribution to the community and the local veterans they serve.

As a monthly Aprons in Action winner, Stiggy's Dogs will have the opportunity to compete for \$250,000 in the final round of the contest early next year.

The Celebration of Service event is part of The Home Depot Foundation's two-month initiative, running now through Veterans Day, to help improve the homes and lives of U.S. military veterans through volunteer projects. Home Depot associates will complete hundreds of service projects across the country to give back to those who have served the nation.

In 2011, The Home Depot Foundation committed \$30 million over three years to nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving the homes of economically disadvantaged veterans. The foundation surpassed the pledge more than a year ahead of schedule. As part of its second annual Celebration of Service campaign, the foundation is now committing an additional \$50 million to housing nonprofits over the next three years in an effort to ensure every veteran has a safe place to call home.

Through Team Depot, the company's associate-led volunteer program, thousands of Home Depot associates volunteer their time and talents to positively transform neighborhoods and perform basic repairs and modifications to homes and to the facilities serving veterans with critical housing needs.

Since its formation in 2002, The Home Depot Foundation has granted more than \$300 million to nonprofit organizations improving homes and lives in local communities.

For more information, visit homedepotfoundation.org.

Spaghetti dinner and benefit auction

American Legion Post 377 hosts a Spaghetti Dinner and Benefit Auction Sunday, Sept. 30 at 4819 Mary Sue in Independence Township.

Proceeds from this event will help Starr Schmidt in her battle against Breast Cancer.

Auction items include, but are not limited to one round of golf at Pine Knob, four rooms of carpet cleaned by Steam Master Carpet and Upholstery, NASCAR collectibles and restaurant gift certificates.

Spaghetti will be served at 2 p.m. and auction drawings will be at 7 p.m. Cost is \$8. The public is welcome. Beverages will be available to purchase.

For more information, call Janet Molina 248-379-7611.

The Oakland Press is interested in all veterans events in Oakland County. Please send info in the body of an email with subject line "Veterans Affairs" to Sharon Longman at sslstart@aol.com. Allow two weeks' notice for scheduled events and include a phone number for readers to call for more information.

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