

# VAREP Cares

**A way for VAREP local chapters to give back to local military and veteran families**

## What is VAREP Cares?

VAREP Cares was created to give local VAREP chapters a way to give back to local military and veteran families. Each chapter must participate to remain in good standing. VAREP Cares is typically implemented around the holiday season, although it can be done at any time of the year provided the chapter has the resources to do so.

**VAREP Cares Committee.** Assign a local chapter board member to take the lead; i.e., the “First Sergeant” of the event. Four additional people, who can come from the board or be VAREP general members who want to contribute, will make up the VAREP Cares Committee.

**VAREP Cares Template.** Obtain the VAREP Cares template/application from VAREP National and have the Summit Committee review it thoroughly. Then schedule a call with VAREP National to confirm understanding and ask any questions about the event.

Don't promise anything to anyone or spend any money prior to VAREP National's approval. VAREP Cares is about more than spending money to help others.

We all have TIME, TALENT, and TREASURES. For newly developed chapters or chapters that have not done proper fundraising, a VAREP Cares event could be volunteering at the local VA Hospital or participating in other organized veteran outreach events.

## Selecting a Family to Help

**Stick to our Swim Lane.** To be clear, VAREP Cares is not intended to help every military or veteran family with all of their needs. We need to stick to our swim lane and help people who have housing-related needs such as emergency utility payments or rent payments to stop eviction, or who need a handicap ramp or simple household repairs.

**Tip:** Don't limit your assistance to the topics above, but always get approval from VAREP National prior to committing to anything.

**Vetting – Don't be Fooled** - Proper vetting is crucial to selecting the right family to help. The VAREP Cares Committee will have to sift through who we can help, who we can't help, and, in some cases, who is trying to con us.

**Tip:** Chapters will be approached with many sad stories, but making sure we help the right family is key.

## **Selecting a Cause to Support**

Chapters can choose to help families and still select a veteran cause to support. Find a worthy cause and, as a team, go support it. Causes can include teaming up with organizations such as Rebuilding Together or staging events such as beach cleanups; feeding homeless veterans; or coat, blanket, food, and/or toy drives.

**Tip:** Make sure the chapter is outfitted with VAREP volunteer shirts while you are performing VAREP Cares activities.

## **Documenting VAREP Cares Stories**

It is vital that chapters take the time for documentation through testimonial letters, photos, and videos. Chapters need to send all of this documentation to VAREP National so that a video can be produced to send to donors and sponsors who participated in your fundraisers. This will let them know that they have made a difference.

**Tip:** By sharing your VAREP Cares stories, you will get more donors and sponsors who want to help.

## **Summary**

Participating in VAREP Cares allows you to see the fruits of all your fundraising efforts. You will feel proud of VAREP, and yourself, for making a difference.