

I am writing to share the wonderful news about the success of our Backpacks for Homeless

Veterans initiative. We have received such an overwhelming response that I must admit, I am

concerned about our capacity to manage the influx if all backpacks are brought to Springfield in

February.

To ensure we are well-equipped to handle this wonderful generosity, I kindly request the following:

1. Local Donations: If your Auxiliary has donated and filled backpacks, please consider dropping them off at an accredited facility. For our northern members, you may use Hines VA Hospital, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, or any local shelter in need. Please donate to local shelters for

those in other parts of the state.

2. Documentation: To keep accurate records of your donations, please send a picture of the backpacks and a rough inventory of the contents to vfwauxilpresident@gmail.com.

Suggestions for Donations:

- Invest in a nice, sturdy, multi-pocket backpack. Think of this as their home, with compartments serving as rooms.
- Avoid overstuffing the backpack, as our veterans may have personal items they need to store safely.
- Include a weather-resistant blanket, such as a space blanket (Mylar, emergency, thermal, or safety blanket). These are especially useful due to their low weight and bulk, and their heat-reflective properties.

Your continued support is invaluable, and together, we can make a significant difference in the

lives of our homeless veterans.

Thank you for your cooperation and generosity.

Best regards,

Cindy Watters

Reminder: General Orders must be read at your next business meeting.