

1/3/2023

Disability Advocates had 3 new Veteran referrals for December. Our Occupational Therapist completed a home accessibility assessment to determine the needs of the Veteran to continue to live safely and independently in their home in December. This will bring the number of Veterans served to 20 this year.

So far this year the funds have been used to construct one permanent wooden wheelchair ramp, one stair lift, and 1 bathroom modification that removed the bathtub and allowed for a walk-in shower. 3 Veterans have had grab bars and railings installed. The other Veterans received assistive devices including Reacher's, a cushion, cane, a bathtub bench, a tub seat, a bed rail, and a walker. We were able to give one Veteran a tall chair from our loan closet that he uses at his counter and makes getting up and down much easier for him. In December we had a referral for a Veteran who reported his ramp had been stolen. He was not able to enter/exit his home until this ramp was installed. We worked with Carelinc, they were able to get out there quickly and install a 10' ramp which was easier for him to navigate than his previous ramp which was shorter and steeper. See attached list of modifications and equipment.

We received a request from Lake Michigan Credit Union as they wanted to provide Christmas lights for a Veteran. We referred 2 of our Veterans and the lights are up! They are also paying their electricity bill for the month.





In August we depleted the funds for adaptive equipment and home modifications. We continue to complete home evaluations and use other funding sources for the equipment and modifications as we are able. For the December ramp request, we used funds that were for staff time, this was approved by Martha for use.

We have also tracked 182 information and referral calls from Veterans in Kent County during the time between January and December of 2022. Disability Advocates participated in a project called Deck for a Vet, sponsored by a radio station and a local builder. They will be providing deck upgrades for 3 Veterans in November.

We continue to partner with other community agencies in our efforts. Senior Neighbors, Home Repair Services, Building Bridges, and several contractors have assisted in making these homes safe and accessible for our Veterans. Disability Advocates also uses vendors such as Careline and Advantage Ramps.

Please contact me if you need further data. We will be sending links to success stories as we get them. Thank you so much for providing Disability Advocates with the opportunity to serve our Veterans.

Judy Morris, OTR/L CAPS