

2017 Comments and Stories

It was a very wonderful and moving day.....see you next Christmas....

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[Mental Health Wards] I thought it went very very well. You set up wonderful people for the group, including Don who was perfect. The singers in the group did a fabulous job of making great contact with patients, intermingling, hugs, singing side by side with them. I thought the patients responded really well to us too. However, you pulled it together, it was really good. Thanks so much for a great experience.
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I felt we were especially a hit, in the last location we sang at ... a commons area room. Obviously, Veterans must have heard us in the hallways, because a number of them must have gotten dressed in their medical gowns, and wheeled themselves over ... following the sounds of our music through the hallways. They did seem genuinely happy to see us, and were thrilled that we would make this effort to be with them on Christmas Day to entertain them and celebrate the Christmas spirit with them. We were just as delighted, as they were! It warmed our hearts to be appreciated like that! We asked them to request songs they wanted us to sing ... and we delivered. It was a happy time for all! We were greatly received, and it really felt like a Merry Christmas for all.

 Lori Shapiro (one of Santa's musical elves)

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Such a special way to start Christmas!

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Thank you so much for your work to coordinate this in the midst of busy holidays.

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This was my first time with your group - very rewarding - it was wonderful to share the Christmas spirit with my brothers in arms in the mental ward - they really lit up. I look forward to next year. God bless America ;-D

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This was going to be a hard Christmas for my daughter and I since we were going to be alone. My mom just died in August and we usually went to OK to spend Christmas with her. My son, who's in the Marines, worked Christmas and could not come home. So when I saw the notice about caroling at the VA, I talked with my daughter and we agreed we'd like to go. My dad was in the VA in OK before he died so it was also a way to honor him as well as the fact we both love to sing. It was good to focus on others, sing and not be alone. Some patients sang along with us, others smiled. I'm glad we could bring a little joy. Our Santa was awesome, so caring and attentive to each patient. We may have started a new tradition." -- Sandra

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It was a great X'mas morning with the Vets. Being an RN & my daughter as a Psychologist , we truly understand what they are going thru . In the first unit in the Mental Dept we went, some we're happy & a Vet wrapped himself with the blanket and danced in the middle of everyone, he was smiling and singing along with joy. That was a great moment! Most of them were singing with us. Some came out of the room and calling for more patients to come out . One Vet sat in the couch and just wanna be there but be left alone. A Vet talked to me at length and we sang together, his family won't be there that day. In the other unit, a Vet readily turned off the TV and was really excited we were there. I called a Vet to sit and sing with me and his response was" I didn't take a shower today" I just said " it's perfectly fine" , he sat with me , another Vet in a wheelchair came joined us . Shared the songbook and we sang our hearts out and shared stories. We gave them hugs and wish them Merry Christmas when we left 🎄 it was a rewarding day for our family. Thanks Gail for organizing this event 🙏 wishing you the best in 2018. Warm regards , Tessie, Jon, Steve & Erica

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Glad to have to opportunity to play and sing for the Veterans. Thanks for all your organizing efforts. Happy New Year. Susan