

FAVA has a number of **Educational Outreach Programs** including:



FAVA's Battle Buddy Program – FAVA has Spokes dogs and uses them in educating about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and mobility as well as service dog access. Educators work with the Spokes dogs to be service dogs for a veteran after two years of training and testing.

Military families – speaking to military families about signs and symptoms, PTSD, TBI, anxiety, depression, suicide prevention, disability benefits, answering questions and connecting with resources, including County Veteran Affairs Directors.

Communities – educating communities about the difficulties that veterans can have in reintegrating into civilian life, how they can help. Educating on the injuries that our veterans are returning home with and talking about service dog access and our Battle Buddy program. Sharing incentives for hiring veterans and why veterans are great employees!

Judicial – working on CIT Crisis Intervention Training Veteran specific to law enforcement & First Responder training Veteran specific to law enforcement, Ambulance and Fire Departments. Working on education with attorneys and judges re: returning veterans from war including issues resulting from injuries. FAVA is databasing attorneys

Colleges/Technical Schools – Connecting with veteran representatives, disability coordinators and risk management, as well as other staff, educating about returning veterans and the barriers to their educational success. Also, working with colleges on internships available with FAVA.

Businesses/Corporations - Sharing incentives for hiring veterans and why veterans are the best employees! Educating on services that FAVA provides to veterans and family members.

FAVA's cutting-edge website and the help that FAVA provides were recognized in Congressional Record by Iowa Congressman Tom Latham Nov. 2011.

Veteran Statistics

- ***50.4%** of veterans are married but have the greatest number of divorces with a 42% increase in divorce. Single veterans as well as divorced veterans are returning to family units.
- ***Over 2 million** have served in the latest war with a high percentage serving multiple tours. Iraq & Afghanistan veterans are returning with an avg. of 11-14 disabilities, Vietnam veterans had an average of 4 and under and WWII & Korea veterans averaged 2 disabilities. The increase of injuries OIF/OEF/OND are due to multiple deployments, better medical care and military equipment. These veterans are not being killed – they are living with some long term and sometimes a lifetime of care for injuries sustained from war.
- ***Guesstimates are 65%** of veterans will return with some kind of injury. The signature wounds are Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Chronic pain.
- ***80%** of TBI from war will also have PTSD.
- ***22 veterans** per day on average commit suicide. Suicide rates for Iraq veterans are 35% higher than for the general population.
- ***In 2010**, Active duty – 468 committed suicide, 466 died in combat.
- ***More than 5000** Iraq veterans have died by their own hands.

FAVA is funded by grants, business sponsorships, events and individual's generous donations.

Donations can be sent to:

FAVA
100 North Clark Street
Forest City, Iowa 50436

For a sponsorship appointment, to book our education center/facility or tour our facility,
Call 641-243-4103 or 641-585-5995

FAVA is an affiliate of WestCare
www.fava.westcare.com www.westcare.com
www.facebook.com/FAVAOrg



**FAMILY ALLIANCE FOR
VETERANS OF AMERICA
(FAVA)**

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FAVA's mission is to provide information, education, advocacy and support to families of veterans and veterans.

With FAVA, "You are not alone!"

(FAVA is free to ALL veterans and families of veterans)

FAVA's headquarters are located in the heart of downtown Forest City, Iowa, across from the courthouse square, home to the memorial wall, Army tank and Civil War fountain. FAVA is open to all who have served in the military in the past and current as well as family members. FAVA uses the term "veteran" for anyone who has served a day in service to country in the military.



FAVA's office is warm and welcoming. In it, one can relax, watch TV in the recreation area, work on a puzzle, play a game, check out the educational resource library for materials or use a computer in the computer center. FAVA always has educational webinars to view and homemade refreshments are on hand for you to enjoy!

FAVA's staff is ready to assist veterans and their family members with their needs. FAVA is proud that our staff is veterans and family members who understand the military mindset, the problems with reintegration as well as other issues that our veterans and family members are dealing with daily. Case advocates will help to assess the needs and connect veterans to services.

Our professional staff helps families and veterans with money management, housing, daycare, resume writing and job skills. FAVA connects veterans to their County Veteran Affairs Director for services and has collaboration with a number of other services, organizations and entities for veterans including Iowa Workforce DVOP who have provided FAVA with two point-of-access computers in their computer center. The computer center includes a number of computers for veterans and family members to use to access resources, to do educational studies/online classes and other veteran related information. FAVA also works with colleges providing internships for a number of majors including psychology, education, communication, business, criminal justice and others. **FAVA** maintains an educational resource library at the headquarters along



with the data base of resources. Handouts, information booklets, pamphlets and business cards are available in the resource library for veterans and families to take. FAVA is a repository of information and clearinghouse of resources with a data base of over 100,000 resources across the United States. Veterans and families have

access to these resources through a case advocate resource facilitator by phone, email or at the FAVA headquarters.



FAVA's education center has state of the art video conferencing allowing FAVA to broadcast workshops and seminars as webinars. FAVA holds seminars collaborating with other organizations and programs relating to veterans. FAVA welcomes others to use our facility and education center for workshops and events. Community partnerships are important to FAVA.

FAVA networks veterans to veterans and family to family creating the peer to peer support that is crucial in times of need. FAVA also has veteran and family member volunteer mentors.

FAVA supports, connects and aids veterans to meet their needs. FAVA is working with John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center to help veterans start their own businesses. FAVA's Career Advocate works with colleges and businesses for certifications, apprenticeships and on-the-job training.