

**DIRECT SUPPORT TO VETERANS/  
SERVICE MEMBERS/FAMILIES**

In 2019 the ICBYR directly supported veterans, service members and their families through:

**Financial Assistance**

Payments for rent, dental work, electric bills, flooring, air conditioner and furnace replacement

Installing ramps and chairlift for stairs, and delivering hospital bed

Personal expenses related to medical issues, cards for gas, groceries

Providing a Merry Christmas for families in need

Assistance with household chores including snow removal, lawn care, and home repairs. We helped approximately 150 veterans and their families, who otherwise would not have received assistance, through direct support or referral to appropriate services.

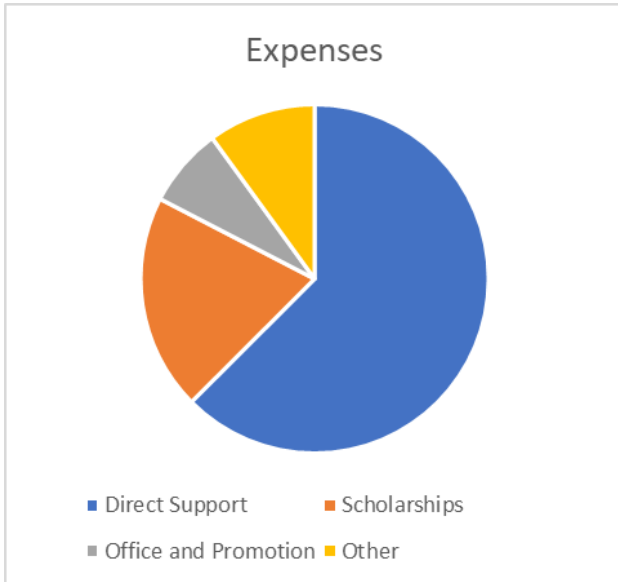
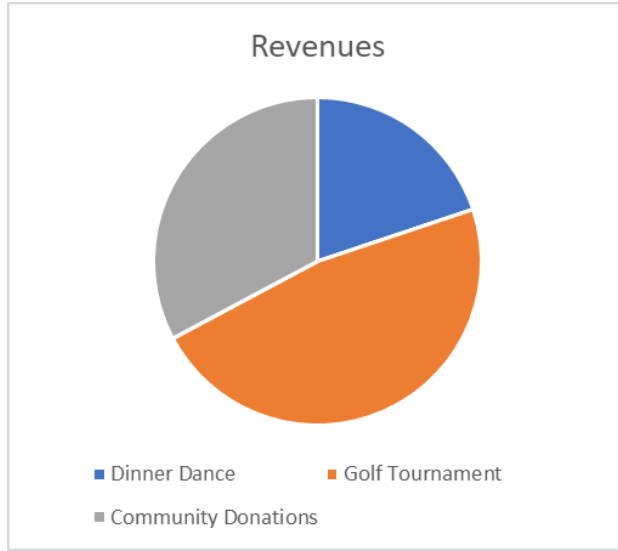
**SUMMARY**

All of the above has been accomplished and will continue with the assistance and support of the volunteer members of the Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Task Force (approximately 50 members) and other community-based organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Polaris Battalion Sea Cadets.

In 2019, over \$31,000 was spent in support of our mission in direct benefit to service members, veterans, and their families. There were over 1900 volunteer hours logged for Executive Board and Task Force members. Office and promotional expenses are kept to a minimum (\$3,689 in 2019).

Isanti County Beyond The Yellow Ribbon was officially proclaimed as a Beyond The Yellow Ribbon county on January 5, 2010.

Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon became a 501c3 non-profit organization on January 9, 2013.



**Help for Veterans  
& their Families**  
**763-689-3591**  
**IsantiVeteran.org**

**ISANTI COUNTY BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON**

**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, Inc.**

**Executive Board**

- Jim Rostberg – Chair
- David Oslund – Vice-Chair
- Kathy Rostberg – Treasurer
- Gail Genin – Fundraising Chair
- Carol Ann Smith – Secretary



**MISSION STATEMENT:**

To support Isanti County's military service members, veterans, and their families, by coordinating services and resources available to them.

**Greetings from the Chair:**

2019 was a record year in providing assistance to service members, veterans and their families. Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon (ICBYR) provided more than \$31,000 in direct assistance to more than 150 veterans and their families who were in financial need. This was an increase from \$27,000 in 2018.

Fifty volunteers donated 1983 hours last year in order to provide assistance and raise the funds which allows ICBYR to continue helping those in need. Task Force and Executive Board members do not receive any form of financial compensation. Compensation comes in the form of realizing the positive impact their participation as an ICBYR volunteer has on our military service members, veterans and their families.

Each year our expenditures in direct support of Isanti County military service members, veterans and their families increase. With continued community support ICBYR will continue to provide direct support to our service members, veterans and their families. I want to thank the Sponsors of the annual golf tournament and the dinner dance, businesses, organizations and individual donors who, with their financial support, help make this direct support possible. I also want to thank the Task Force members whose guidance, support and wisdom provide the direction in meeting the ICBYR Mission.

Anyone can become a Task Force

member. There are no dues. There are only eleven meetings during the year (we do not meet during July due to ICBYR's presence at the Isanti County Fair). Volunteer when and where you can. No matter your level of participation know that you will be making a significant difference in the lives of our military service members, veterans and their families.

Thank you,  
Jim Rostberg, Chair

**Supporting our Mission:**

**COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

The work of the ICBYR is accomplished through the Executive Board, the Task Force and several committees and coordinators created to accomplish our goals. They include:

- Billboard Committee
- BYR Friends Coordinator
- Community Services Resource Coordinator
- Fundraising Committee
- Investment Coordinator
- Resource/Brochure Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Website/Social Media Committee

In addition, ICBYR has liaisons to:

- Law Enforcement
- Local Schools
- Congregational Community
- Packages for the Deployed Community

## FUNDRAISING

The Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is funded 100% by donations. There are no dues to join and the Executive Board and Task Force members donate their time (1,983 hours in 2019). Our funding comes from donations from very supportive local community members, donations collected at various events and fundraising projects. Local businesses, such as Route 65 Pub & Grub and Cambridge Bar & Grill host annual events with proceeds going to ICBYR.

### 2019 Fundraising events to support our Mission:

**ICBYR** sponsors two major fundraising events. They are a **Dinner/Dance** in March at the Armed Forces Reserve Community Center and an **Annual ICBYR Golf Tournament** in September at The Purple Hawk Country Club. These two events provide in excess of two-thirds of our revenue. The remainder of our funds come from anonymous donors in our community and donations received at other various events.

In 2019 our community business partners sponsored various events. They include:

Hwy 65 Pub & Grub Motorcycle Ride  
Cambridge Bar & Grill Fundraiser and Motorcycle Ride and corn hole tournament  
Star 95 Car Wash "Wash for a Cause"  
Fleet Farm "Treats for Troops" collection

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The ICBYR could not accomplish its mission without strong community support. We connect with our community through:

**A strong partnership** with the County Veterans Service Office

**A website** with over 40,000 hits since its creation (11,441 in 2019)

**"Friends of ICBYR"** – local businesses offer discounted services or products to local veterans/military personnel. "Friends" are featured on our website and Facebook pages.

**Excellent relationships** with local Veteran and Fraternal organizations such as the American Legion, VFW, VVA, Veterans Memorial Park and Lions Club, as well as Isanti County, and the cities of Braham, Cambridge and Isanti

**Membership** in the North 65 Chamber of Commerce and Braham Area Chamber of Commerce

**Relationship** with the local Ministerial Association

**Partnership** with local radio station KBEK for Public Service Announcements and fundraising.

## COMMUNITY BENEFIT & ICBYR ACTIVITIES in 2019:

Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is organized to support Isanti County's military service members, veterans, and their families. We offer these services in the form of:

### **Packages for The Deployed Community**

We send packages to service members as names and addresses become available. Members of the Task Force met three times in 2019, packing over 50 boxes to send to our service members who are currently deployed.



**Financial Assistance** – We have provided and will continue to provide financial assistance to service members, veterans and their families as requested and appropriate. We have provided furnace replacement, furnace repair, truck and auto repairs, mortgage payments, well drilling, snow plowing, wheelchair ramps, medical bills, utility bills, cell phone, auto insurance, propane, plumbing, dryer repair, meals for family, dental bills, assistance with property taxes, medical transportation, furniture for veteran, gas cards for the CVSO, AFRCC FAC, 850th soldiers, tire replacement, Christmas gift cards, hygiene kits for AFRCC FAC, Veterans Day Dinner support, medical assistance for veteran and veteran's spouse, rent assistance,

temporary housing for homeless veterans and family, and Holiday gifts for over 25 service members, veterans and their families. Veterans benefit information and Veteran's healthcare information is provided as requested and is coordinated with the County Veterans Service Officer.

**Home Safety Checks** – In cooperation with the Isanti County Sheriff's office and Isanti County Safety & Rescue, home safety checks are provided, free of charge, to service members, veterans and their families on an as needed basis.

**Goods and Services** – We have provided direct assistance to families helping with lawn care, auto repair, home repair including painting, appliance repair and moving assistance.

**Camo and Veterans Quilts** – We are no longer assembling quilts but, as long as our supply lasts, we will furnish bedrolls to any service member who is deployed outside of the continental United States.

**Scholarship** – In 2019 we presented four ICBYR Scholarships. Funding was provided from the 2018 Golf Tournament. Four \$2,500 scholarships were awarded to eligible students.

**Local Army Reserve Units** – We have "adopted" the reserve/guard units that train in Cambridge MN. We sponsored food and items for their annual summer picnic and Christmas party. We continue to work with the 850<sup>th</sup> HEC and Family Readiness Group (FRG) to provide assistance to families on an as needed basis.



**Signs** - We have local billboards within our county and several 4' x 8' signs at local businesses and township halls for the purpose of increasing the awareness of the services we offer. We continue to look for new locations within the community.

**Law Enforcement Liaison & De-escalation Training** – ICBYR has a law enforcement liaison that attends our monthly meetings. ICBYR decals are placed on all law enforcement, EMS, Fire and public safety vehicles in the County.

**Website & Social Media** – ICBYR has an active & newly updated website with 11,441 hits in 2019. Task Force meetings and special events are also broadcast on Facebook and Twitter.

**Faith Based**– the Congregational Committee is the ICBYR liaison to local clergy.

**Community Events** - We are part of the community and thus participate in several annual community events including the Isanti County Fair, Freedom Fest, Isanti Rodeo Parade, Braham Appreciation Days Parade, Braham Business Expo, Braham Pie Day, Red Bull Military Appreciation Day, Cambridge Day Out, Discover Downtown Cambridge Thursday, Polaris Battalion Car Show, North 65 Chamber of Commerce Senior Fair, Walker Methodist Levande Senior Resource Fair, Veteran's Day lunch and dinner at the local American Legion and VFW, ICBYR Community Clergy Training, MN State Fair Parade on Military Appreciation Day and the Cambridge Lighted Snowflake Parade.