

DIRECT SUPPORT TO VETERANS/ SERVICE MEMBERS/FAMILIES

In 2020 the ICBYR directly supported veterans, service members and their families through:

Financial Assistance

Payments for rent, utilities, furnace repair, automobile repair, mortgage and automobile payments

Installing ramps and moving assistance

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.

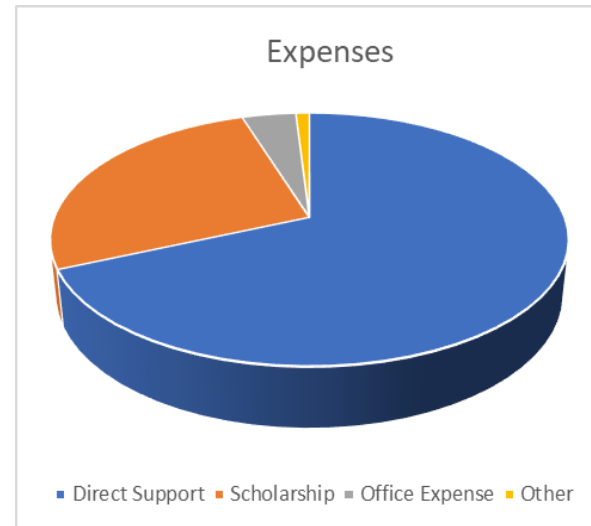
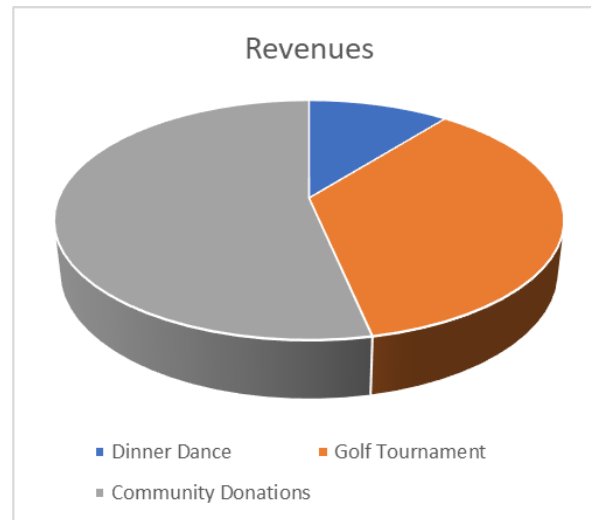
SUMMARY

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 2020, over \$35,000 was spent in support of our mission in direct benefit to service members, veterans, and their families. There were over 950 volunteer hours logged for Executive Board and Task Force members. Office and promotional expenses are kept to a minimum (\$1,532.39 in 2020).

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



2020 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:

2020 was a very unusual and challenging year with COVID-19 protocols. As a result we were not able to sponsor the annual spring Dinner Dance, one of two fundraisers we sponsor each year. Even though donations were down from previous years Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon was able to provide assistance to each and every request that met the Mission Statement.

Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon (ICBYR) provided more than \$25,840 in direct assistance to more than 150 veterans and their families who were in financial need.

Thirty-five volunteers donated 968 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.

Although we do not know what 2021 will bring the Task Force and Executive Board will continue to provide direct support of Isanti County military service members, veterans and their families. The ability to continue providing this direct support is due to the generous financial support from our community. Thank you to 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 (968 hours in 2020). Our funding comes from donations from very supportive local community members, donations collected at various events and fundraising projects. Local businesses such as, City Center Market and Isanti Liquor host annual events with proceeds going to ICBYR.

2020 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. Unfortunately, the Dinner/Dance had to be cancelled. However monies from the CARES Act replaced our lost revenue. The remainder of our funds come from anonymous donors in our community and donations received at other various events.

In 2020 our community business partners were unable to host events. We are hopeful their activities will resume in 2021.

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 58,000 hits since its creation (14,132 in 2020)

"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

COMMUNITY BENEFIT & ICBYR ACTIVITIES in 2020:

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. Items were collected and several boxes were sent 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 mortgage payments, rent payments, over 100 gas, grocery and gift cards to help with basic needs, automobile loan payments, utility bills, well drilling, temporary housing assistance for homeless veteran, assistance with funeral related expenses, propane, automobile repairs and tire replacement, furnace repairs, 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 2020 we presented four ICBYR Scholarships. Funding was provided from the 2019 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 continue to work with the 850th 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 14,132

hits in 2020. 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 Pie Day, 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, MN State Fair Parade on Military Appreciation Day and the Cambridge Lighted Snowflake Parade. Many of these events were cancelled in 2020 but are scheduled to resume in 2021

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Celebrating 10 years! 2010-2020