

## DIRECT SUPPORT TO VETERANS/ SERVICE MEMBERS/FAMILIES

In 2021 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 225 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.

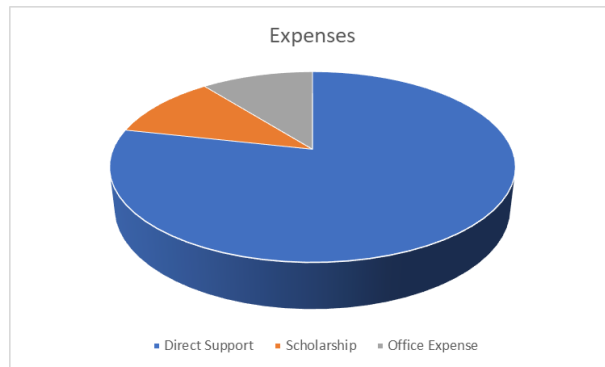
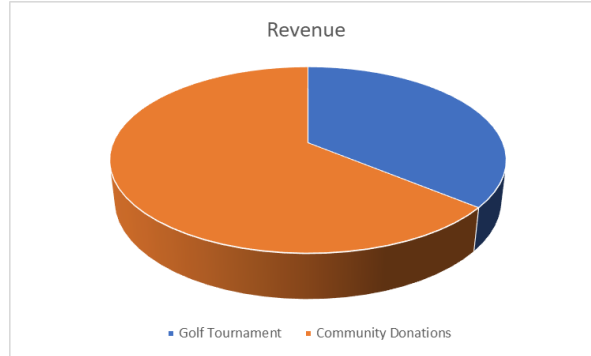
In 2021, over \$36,000 was spent in support of our mission in direct benefit to service members, veterans, and their families. There were over 1,618 volunteer hours logged for Executive Board and Task Force members. Office and promotional expenses were higher than normal as we made major improvements to our float and purchase several additional billboard signs for installation throughout the county.

[www.beyondtheyellowribbonisanti.org](http://www.beyondtheyellowribbonisanti.org)

Follow us on Facebook: Beyond the Yellow Ribbon—Isanti County

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



**Help for Veterans  
& their Families**  
**763-689-3591**  
**IsantiVeteran.org**  
**ISANTI COUNTY BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON**



# 2021 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:

The support from this community for our military and veterans is amazing! 2021 brought a second year of the pandemic which meant the annual Dinner Dance was unable to be held for a second year. The two annual fundraisers of Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, the Dinner Dance in the spring and the Golf Tournament in the fall, are very important fundraisers and necessary for the continuation of the Mission to support Isanti County service members, veterans and their families. Even though revenue was down from annual fundraisers, the community continued to provide necessary funds and Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon was able to meet every eligible request for assistance.

ICBYR provided more than \$36,000 in direct assistance to more than 225 veterans and their families who were in financial need. This was an increase from \$31,000 in 2020.

Volunteers donated 1,618 hours last year in order to provide assistance and raise the funds which allow 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.

2022 promises to be more back to normal and as such the Dinner Dance will return. 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 finan-

cial 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 (1,618 hours in 2021). 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.

### 2021 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 in 2021. The remainder of our revenue comes from anonymous donors in our community and donations received at other various events.

In 2021 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 65,000 hits since its creation (15,547 in 2021)

**"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, American Legion Riders, VFW, Shalom Shop, Veterans Memorial Park, Veteran's H.O.P.E. On The River 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 2021:

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, home "fix-it" help, well drilling, temporary housing assistance for homeless veteran, assistance with funeral related expenses, propane, automobile repairs and tire replacement, snow shoveling, 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 2021 we presented two \$2500 ICBYR Scholarships to eligible students. Funding was provided from the 2020 Golf Tournament.

**Local Army Reserve Units** – We have "adopted" the reserve/guard units that train in Cambridge MN. 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. We supported "Meals from the Heart" providing 60 boxes of groceries distributed by Cambridge AFRCC Soldier and Family Readiness Specialist.

**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 15,547 hits in 2021. 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, "Operation Homefront" sponsored by Dollar Tree Stores, Braham Appreciation Days Parade, Braham Pie Day, Polaris Battalion Car Show, North 65 Chamber of Commerce Senior Fair, Silent Dismissal at Cambridge Primary School, 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.