

DIRECT SUPPORT TO VETERANS/ SERVICE MEMBERS/FAMILIES

In 2023 the ICBYR directly supported veterans, service members and their families. There were many community individuals and businesses that provided funds to enable us to fulfill our mission. They include: Zimmerman American Legion Riders, Kwik Trip, Rum River Rods' Car Club, ReMax Team Lundeen, Cambridge City Center Market "Round it Up", Shalom Thrift Shop, Benevity Fund, Thrivent, Give MN, Network for the Greater Good, sponsors of our golf tournament & dinner dance, and anonymous personal donors.

We helped approximately 370 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 2023, over \$39,000 was spent in support of our mission in direct benefit to service members, veterans, and their families. There were over 1,614 volunteer hours logged for Executive Board and Task Force members.

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

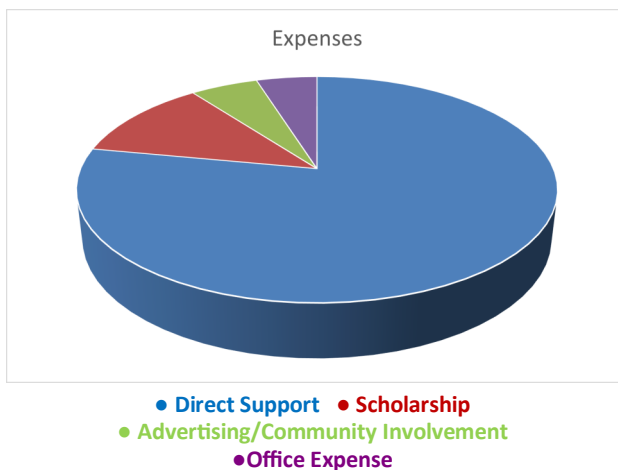
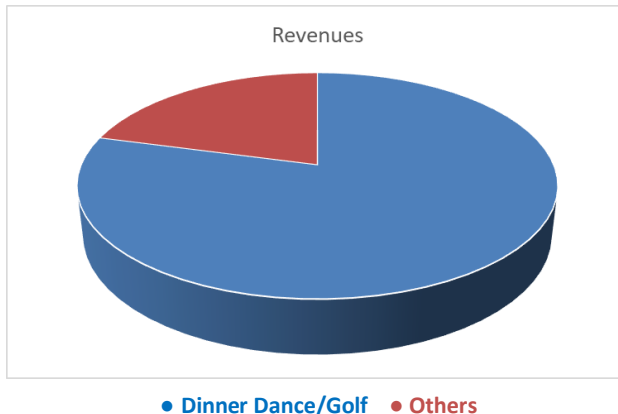
Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon became a 501c3 non-profit organization on January 9, 2013.



www.beyondtheyellowribbonisanti.org

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

PO Box 485, Cambridge MN 55008 —



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, Inc.

Board of Directors

Jim Rostberg – Chair
David Oslund – Vice-Chair
Kathy Rostberg – Treasurer
Carol Ann Smith – Secretary
Gail Genin – Fundraising Chair
Brad Brown, Board Member
Jesse Peck, Board Member

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:

I am so very proud of our Beyond the Yellow Ribbon volunteers who continue to support the military service members, veterans and their families from Isanti County. During fiscal year 2023 our Task Force members volunteered over 1,614 hours which translates to \$46,063.56 in donated service to the community. Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is very involved in the community and that would not be possible without the support of our wonderful volunteers.

In addition to Task Force members serving the community during 2023 Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon assisted 370 veterans with more than \$39,000 in direct assistance. The direct assistance consisted of housing, utilities, transportation and vehicle repairs, home assistance such as ramps and durable medical equipment.

This direct assistance would not be possible without the generous support of the Isanti County community, both business and private citizens. In addition Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon sponsors two major fundraisers each year, a golf tournament in the fall and a dinner dance in the spring.

Task Force and Executive Board members do not receive any form of financial compensa-

tion and anyone can become a Task Force member. I'm confident that the great feeling you will get from helping those in need is very rewarding.

Thank you,
Jim Rostberg, Chair

Supporting our Mission: COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The work of the ICBYR is accomplished through the Board of Directors, 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 Board of Directors and Task Force members donate their time (1,614 hours in 2023, a dollar value of \$46,063,56). Our funding comes from donations from very supportive local community members, donations collected at various events and fundraising projects. Local businesses such as Cambridge McDonalds "McHero" night, Cambridge/Isanti Hockey Association Coaches Game, Cambridge Pizza Ranch and Isanti Municipal Liquors hosted events with proceeds going to ICBYR.

2023 Fundraising events to support our Mission:

ICBYR sponsors two major fundraising events. They are a **Dinner/Dance** in the Spring at the Armed Forces Reserve Community Center and an **Annual ICBYR Golf Tournament** in September at The Purple Hawk Country Club. In 2023 these two events provided about 64 percent of our revenue. The remainder of our revenue comes from generous donors in our community and donations received at other various events.

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 and the Soldier and Family Readiness Specialist at the Cambridge Armed Forces Reserve Center.

A website with over 112,000 hits since its creation.

"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 Cambridge American Legion Post 290, Zimmerman American Legion Riders, Isanti VFW Post 2735, Shalom Shop, Veterans Memorial Park, the Isanti Lions Club and the Grandy Lions, as well as Isanti County, and the cit-

ies of Braham, Cambridge and Isanti. Relationship with the local Ministerial Association.

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



COMMUNITY BENEFIT & ICBYR ACTIVITIES in 2023:

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. In 2023 we provided rent/mortgage payments, electricity/energy bill assistance, propane tank fills, car insurance, child care financial assistance, door installation, car rental, bariatric home care equipment, air conditioner, home delivered meals, installed handicap ramps and provided assistance in securing other services available. We also provided 200 grocery and gas gift cards in \$50 increments in support of the Isanti County Veterans Service Office and the Cambridge

Armed Forces Reserve Community Center. These gift cards are designed to help with immediate basic needs. Additionally gift cards in \$100 increments were provided for 46 service members, veterans and their families for the holidays.

In support of the Cambridge Armed Forces Community Center, we participated in the collection of school supplies and toys through "Operation Homefront" sponsored by Dollar Tree Stores.

Several of our volunteers assisted at the 84th troop command and 850th HEC family picnics and the HHD Christmas Party.

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.

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 2023 we presented four \$2500 ICBYR Scholarships to eligible students. Funding was provided from the 2022 Golf Tournament.

Local Army Reserve Units – We have "adopted" the reserve/guard units that drill 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. We supported "Meals from the Heart" providing boxes of non-perishable groceries distributed by Cambridge AFRCC Soldier and Family Readiness Specialist. These boxes of groceries were distributed on Valentines Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Signs - We have local billboards within our county and several 4' x 8' signs at local 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 law enforcement, EMS, Fire and public safety vehicles in the County.

Website & Social Media – ICBYR has an active & newly updated website. 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 Braham Appreciation Day Parade, Isanti Rodeo Jubilee Days Parade, Minnesota State Fair Military Appreciation Day Parade, Cambridge Snowflake Lighted Parade, North 65 Chamber of Commerce Senior Resource Fair, Cambridge Isanti High School Military Signing Day, support of local Veterans day dinners, PICK'M Up Suicide Prevention Coalition, Braham Pie Day, Cambridge Primary School "Silent Dismissal", Isanti County Fair and Freedom Fest.