

VA



• Phoenix • Tucson • Prescott
• Phoenix Regional Office

STAKEHOLDERS REPORT

January 2026



Elijah Ditter

Acting Medical Center Director
VA Phoenix Arizona Health Care



Maria Nguyen, MPH

Interim Medical Center Director
VA Southern Arizona Health Care



Steve Sample, MS, CHC, VHA-CM

Medical Center Director
VA Northern Arizona Health Care

Phoenix VA Director Updates

VA



•Phoenix •Tucson •Prescott
•Phoenix Regional Office

Phoenix VA Voluntary Services received and distributed Angel Tree gifts, Dec. 16.



Sun City West Corte Bella Vets dropped off more than 300 Christmas gifts, handwritten cards, homemade ornaments and gift cards totaling \$29,040 donated through the Angel Tree program in Sun City West.

The gifts went to 21 Veterans residing in the Phoenix VA's CLC and 19 Veterans at DOM-SUB.

Corte Bella Vets have provided gifts to our Veterans since 2002.



The Phoenix VA HealthCare System hosted its final Veggies for Vets for 2025 at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center on Dec. 18.



Seven hundred bags were distributed this month to thank Veterans for their service to our nation as well as Phoenix VA's Public Affairs team also handed out blankets and toiletry items inside of their vegetable bag.

Veterans lined the halls of the Phoenix VA or drove their vehicles in front of the ACC to receive a bag filled with apples, oranges, cucumbers, carrots, and more.



Phoenix VA outreach teams connected with Veterans at the American Legion Post 35 Veteran Stand Down in Chandler, Dec. 13.



Teams from Community Care, Virtual Health Resource Center, Suicide Prevention, Eligibility & Enrollment, Veterans Justice Program, Toxic Exposure Screening, and Health Promotion Disease Prevention provided on-site health screenings, vaccinations, and resources—meeting Veterans right where they are.

Thank you to American Legion Post 35 and our community partners for helping us bring care directly to Veterans.



Phoenix VA Social Work Service SQUAD Workgroup volunteered at St. Mary's Food Bank on Dec. 16.



Twelve social workers worked together on an assembly line to pack 1,728 emergency food boxes for distribution across the Phoenix community.

The Phoenix VA Social Work Service (SWS) "SQUAD" Workgroup represents volunteer staff in the service line that meet in person/phone monthly to develop/plan opportunities and activities that support the Social Work Core Values: service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity and competence.

Fisher House Updates





Phoenix Public Library Bookmobile January 6

When: 10 a.m. – Noon, Tuesday

Where: Carl T. Hayden VAMC – ACC Entrance

More Info: Get Library Cards, check out books, get information and tickets to area museum and activities, and more.



Phoenix VA Healthcare System



VSO MIXER

Food and drinks will be provided!

- The event is open to current VSO's and those interested in partnering with Phoenix VA.
- An agenda will be distributed one week prior to each meeting. You are welcome to send questions, comments, suggestions, and discussion topics to prphoenix@va.gov at any time throughout the month. We look forward to your continued partnership and participation.

Phoenix VA 32nd Street Outpatient Clinic and Teams ([Click Here](#))

Second Tuesday of the month
1-2 p.m.

Or call in:
+1 205-235-3524
Conference ID: 746 788 251#



To RSVP, please email:
prphoenix@va.gov

VA  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Phoenix VA Healthcare System

VSO Mixer Jan. 13

When: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Thursday

Where: Phoenix 32nd Street VA Clinic

More Info: Agenda will be distributed prior to each meeting. You are welcome to send questions, comments, suggestions, and discussion topics to prphoenix@va.gov at any time prior to the next meeting.



Phoenix - PVAHCS

Questions?

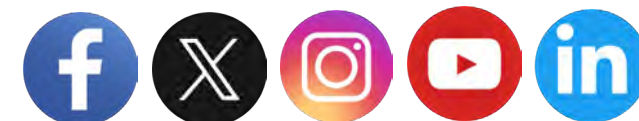
Get Connected!

On the Web

VA www.phoenix.va.gov

On Social Media

 linktr.ee/prphoenix



VA



• Phoenix • Tucson • Prescott
• Phoenix Regional Office

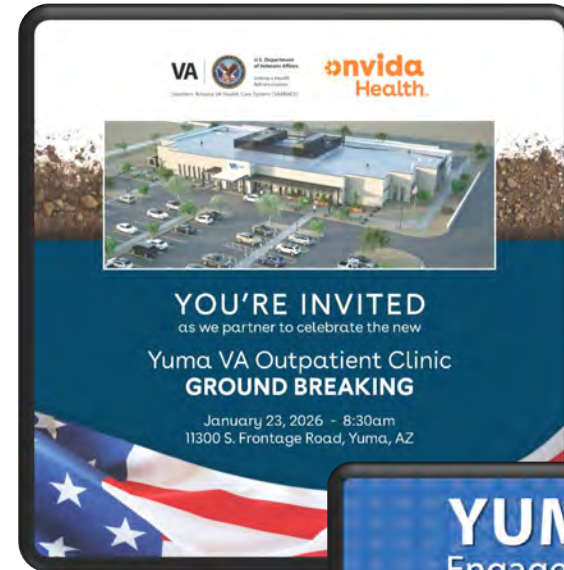
Yuma VA Outpatient Clinic Groundbreaking and Veteran Engagement & Resource Fair

Join us for the groundbreaking of the new **Yuma VA Outpatient Clinic** on **Friday, January 23, at 8:30 a.m.** at **11300 S. Frontage Road, Yuma, AZ**. This marks an important milestone in our commitment to providing enhanced care for Veterans in the region.

Immediately following the ceremony, we invite Yuma Veterans, their families, and caregivers to attend our **Veteran Engagement and Resource Fair** at the **Salvation Army Yuma Corps Community Center, 445 South 4th Ave, Yuma, AZ 85364**, also on **Friday, January 23**.

VA representatives and community partners will be available providing information and resources.

For more details about the groundbreaking and resource fair, contact our Public Affairs Office at pao.savahcs@va.gov.



VA



• Phoenix • Tucson • Prescott
• Phoenix Regional Office

SAVAHCS MLK Remembrance Walk

In honor of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a remembrance walk will be held on **Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.** by the **Building 50 flagpole** and finishes outside Building 1 at the flagpole. For more information contact **Rhonda Murray** at **(520) 792-1450, extension 1-3982**.



SAVAHCS Virtual Veteran Healthcare Updates

Join us on **Thursday, January 29, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** for our **Virtual Veteran Healthcare Update**.

This will be an opportunity to learn more about our community-based outpatient clinics new lab hours, and our Whole Health programs and initiatives. SAVAHCS Executive Leadership Team will provide updates on SAVAHCS operations. Click [here](#) to register. For more information contact our public affairs office at pao.savahcs@va.gov.



Don't forget about our new lab hours at SAVAHCS VA Community Clinics!

As part of our enhanced services, Veterans can now walk in and check in at the kiosk during the posted lab hours to utilize our lab services without an appointment.

❑ Our lab services include:

- Blood draws (with certain limitations)
- UA Collections
- Stool drop offs

VA Community Clinic	Lab times
Casa Grande	7:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
Green Valley	7:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
Northwest	7:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
Safford	7:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
Sierra Vista	7:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
Southeast	7:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
Yuma	7:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.



VA



• Phoenix • Tucson • Prescott
• Phoenix Regional Office

You can get your flu shot during a scheduled appointment in Primary Care, specialty clinics, and the hemodialysis unit.

Walk-ins at the Immunization Clinic, Building 80 South are available Monday through Friday, (except for Federal Holidays) from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

All Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) will be providing Flu vaccines during clinic appointments, can be scheduled by appointment, and will accommodate walk-ins during business hours.

The COVID vaccine is available to all Veterans over the age of 65 at the SAVAHCS on a walk-in basis.

Veterans over 65 can either go to the Immunization Clinic at the Tucson VA Medical Center located in Building 80 South or their local Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) for the COVID-19 vaccine.

For those Veterans age 64 and under interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, please discuss with your provider.



VA



• Phoenix • Tucson • Prescott
• Phoenix Regional Office

Make a Difference as a Volunteer Driver or a Volunteer Visitors

We are seeking volunteer drivers around Sierra Vista and Yuma areas to help transport Veterans to their medical appointments in Tucson. We are also seeking volunteers to serve as Volunteer Visitors for homebound and isolated Veterans. These volunteers offer one-on-one social interaction, engaging in activities such as conversations, art projects, games, walks, and gardening. No hands-on care is required, and visits can also provide a break for caregivers.

For details on how to become a volunteer driver or a volunteer visitor, contact the SAVAHCs Center for Development and Civic Engagement Office at (520) 629-1822 or email TucsonCDCE@va.gov.



Expand and Renovate Clinics Bldg. 80: The General Contractor has built the base on the second floor near the elevator area to support the steel framework for the new addition. Station Level Projects will finish the elevator area by installing the floor and painting the walls. Starting January 5, workers will begin putting up the steel for the second floor, and this will continue until February 20.

The East entrance of Building 80 will be closed until March 2026. Please use the West entrance near the Emergency Department for patient access to the Cholla, Ocotillo, and Saguaro Clinics. We know this is inconvenient, but it's necessary for everyone's safety during the construction.

Emergency Department (ED) Renovations and Expansion: Now that the roof has been poured the contractor will start installing the roof decking steel awning starting January 5.

Mental Health Building 90 renovation project of the Agave Clinic: The Mental Health Renovation project has the walls erected for Phase 1. The General Contractor is currently running electrical and plumbing, to be completed within January. Phase 2 is expected to begin by mid-February and finish by April 2026.





The [Tucson VET Center](#) celebrated the 102nd birthday of WWII Veteran and former POW, Harvey Horn. A true hero, Horn's life exemplifies resilience and dedication. The celebration was a powerful tribute to Harvey Horn and all WWII Veterans. We are eternally grateful for their sacrifices.



We had the distinct honor of celebrating an incredible milestone for [Navy Veteran Jose Lopez](#), who turned 100 years old! SAVAHCS Chief of Staff, Dr. John Kettelle, was proud to present Mr. Lopez with a plaque from the Secretary of the VA, Doug Collins, and a certificate from SAVAHCS Interim Director, Maria Nguyen.



We were thrilled to host an annual heartwarming tradition that's been bringing joy to hospitalized Veterans since 1928. Each year, the [American Legion Auxiliary \(ALA\)](#) carries on this legacy through its cherished Holiday Gift Shops at VA medical centers nationwide.





[Casa De La Luz Hospice](#), one of our valued community partners, generously donated an assortment of snacks for the “bereavement carts” in the hospice unit at our Community Living Center. These snacks are intended to comfort and support family members who have a Veteran receiving end-of-life care at the Tucson VA Medical Center.



Thank you to the [VFW Auxiliary Post 10254](#) in Three Points for holding a donation drive to support our SAVAHCS Homeless Veteran programs. This donation will support our outreach activities aimed at connecting with Veterans experiencing homelessness by enabling our staff to provide clothing, shoes, and blankets on the spot.



A heartfelt thank you to [VFW Post 549](#) for their unwavering support of our Patriot Pantry, which provides essential food supplies to our Veterans experiencing food insecurities. We extend our deepest gratitude to VFW Post 549 for all that they do!

VA





A special Thank You to our incredible [Center for Development and Civic Engagement](#) (CDCE) Volunteers and Youth Volunteers who came together with some of our staff and leadership to assemble holiday stockings for Veteran patients spending the holidays in the hospital.



A huge thank you to Dennis Fasciani, Mike Roach, and the members of [Knights of Columbus Council 13272](#), along with Keith Hamblin, Veteran Support Program Area Coordinator, for their incredible efforts in collaboration with St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church Parish, Immaculate Heart School, and Border Patrol Stations at Casa Grande, Three Points, Tucson, Nogales, Sonoita, and Brian Terry with Naco, Douglas, and Wilcox Border Patrol Stations.



We are deeply grateful to the [American Red Cross](#) for their generous donation of Hygiene Kits to our Homeless Clinic. This meaningful contribution provides essential support to our Veterans experiencing homelessness. We truly appreciate the American Red Cross and their unwavering commitment to our nation's heroes.

VA



Questions

Follow us on social media for the latest updates and to stay informed

- ❑ Website: va.gov/southern-arizona-health-care
- ❑ Facebook: facebook.com/VATucson
- ❑ Instagram instagram.com/vatucson
- ❑ X/Twitter: x.com/TucsonVA
- ❑ YouTube: [Subscribe now](#) and join the SAVAHCS community!

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is deploying **Ambient AI Scribe** pilots as part of their commitment to scaling innovation to enhance Veteran care. **NAVAHCS will go live with the new tool on January 7, 2026.**



What is Ambient AI Scribe?

Ambient AI Scribe is an artificial intelligence-enable technology that **listens, transcribes, and processes** the conversation between health care providers and patients. It **generates secondary products** like clinical encounter notes and coding recommendations.



What are the expected benefits?

- Enhances the patient experience with more face-to-face time with providers
- Reduces provider burnout with less time spent on administrative tasks
- Improves accuracy through comprehensive documentation
- Maintains privacy with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant technology

Donations

Prescott



Our facility has been receiving a great deal of donations from organizations throughout Northern Arizona this holiday season. One example is the **LHC Elks Lodge** (above) visited our Prescott campus to donate gifts for our DOM and CLC inpatients. Included were board games, video games and more!

CLC/DOM Holiday Parties

Prescott



Local VSOs, such as the American Legion Auxiliary (left) and Daughters of the American Revolution (right), visited our facility at various points throughout December to celebrate the holidays with our CLC and DOM inpatients.

Wreaths Across America

Prescott National Cemetery, Dec. 13



- Annual ceremony was well attended at Prescott National Cemetery.
- It was a community effort supported by many volunteers, VSOs, businesses and VHA/NCA staff.
- 2,253 wreaths were sponsored for the event and laid on Veteran's graves.

Golden Shores VFW & Ft. Mohave Culture Center

Topock/Mohave Valley, Dec. 3-4



Combined Totals

- 26 Veterans attended
- 3 Enrollments
- 2 Registrations
- 6 Mobile Medical Appts.

IHS Parker & Salome VFW

Parker/Salome, Dec. 9-10



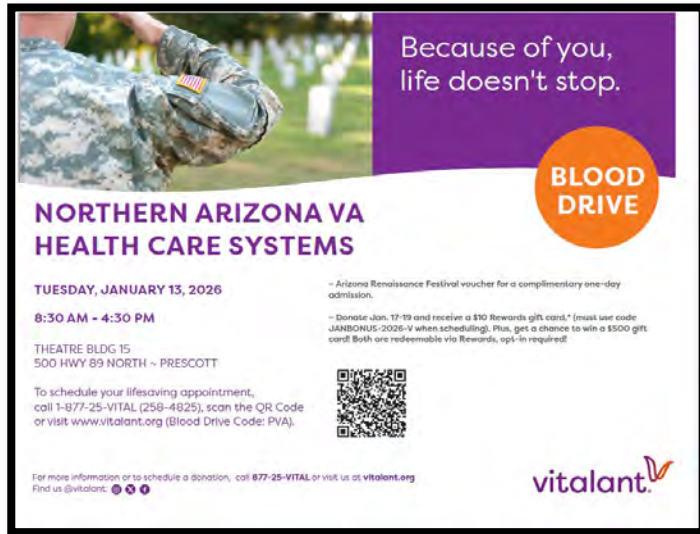
Combined Totals

- 46 Veterans attended
- 3 Enrollments
- 4 Registrations
- 6 Mobile Medical Appts.



Blood Drive

Prescott, Jan. 13



- **When:** 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13
- **Where:** Bob Stump VA Medical Center, [500 Hwy 89 North, Prescott, AZ](#) - Building 15 (Theater)
- **Appointments Encouraged:** To schedule your lifesaving appointment, call (877) 258-4825 or visit www.vitalant.org (Blood Drive Code: PVA)

Veterans Virtual Town Hall

Virtual, Jan. 21



- Join us on **Wednesday, January 21, from 5-6 p.m.** for our quarterly **Veterans Virtual Town Hall**.
- Veterans can ask questions, discuss services available, and receive helpful resources. To participate, simply dial in on any phone at **(833) 490-0775** or click access.live/NAVAHCS to join.

VA



• Phoenix • Tucson • Prescott
• Phoenix Regional Office

Tribal Veterans Conference and Services Event

Parker, Jan. 23-24

This is one of NAVAHCS's largest annual rural health outreach events.

This year, Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System will also be participating since their service territory neighbors ours in that area.

This special gathering will feature **meaningful conversations, hands-on workshops, and community networking** — all focused on supporting and celebrating the strength, sacrifice, and resilience of our Native Veterans.

With a focus on culturally responsive services, the event integrates **VBA claims clinic, VA services, and alternative non-VA care options** to ensure Veterans, particularly those in rural and underserved tribal communities, have access to the resources they need.

Veterans should bring a copy of their DD Form 214 and/or medical evidence for claims.

For more information, please contact Joshua Wear at 928-458-8713.

TRIBAL VETERANS CONFERENCE AND SERVICES EVENT JANUARY 23-24, 2026 9AM-4PM BLUEWATER RESORT • CASINO

- *16 educational breakout sessions with subject matter experts.
- *Resources on mental health, housing, employment.
- *Traditional singing and dancing.
- *Meet with service providers, VSOs, and fellow veterans.

Veterans bring a copy of DD Form 214 and/or medical evidence for claims.

Contact Joshua Wear at (928) 458-8713 for information.



BLUEWATER RESORT
11300 Resort Dr, Parker, AZ.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

9AM-4pm

VA



•Phoenix •Tucson •Prescott
•Phoenix Regional Office



Veteran Services Event

Presented By NAVAHCS and VFW Post 769

Date: January 6th 9 am till 3 pm

Location: 305 N. Central Blvd Quartzsite AZ 85346
(33.6718, -114.2165)

- Learn about Veteran programs and services.
- Speak with Dept. of VA staff at event.
- Enroll for Veteran benefits.

Medical appointments for eligible veterans.

POC: Joshua Wear, RHC 928-458-8713 / Andrew Taylor, RHC 928-237-8310

- **Quartzsite VFW Post 769** – Tues, Jan. 6
 - [Details](#)
- **Parker VFW Post 7061** – Wed, Jan. 7
 - [Details](#)
- **Parker VFW Post 10726** – Thurs, Jan. 8
 - [Details](#)
- **Golden Valley American Legion** – Tue, Jan. 13
 - [Details](#)
- **Golden Valley VFW** – Wed, Jan. 14
 - [Details](#)
- **Bullhead City VFW** – Thurs, Jan. 15
 - [Details](#)
- **Tribal Veterans Conference and Services** – Fri & Sat, Jan. 23-24
 - [Details](#)

Questions?

Visit our website or follow us on social media for the latest updates and to stay informed

- Website: <https://www.va.gov/northern-arizona-health-care/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VAPrescott>
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/va_prescott/?ig

VA



• Phoenix • Tucson • Prescott
• Phoenix Regional Office