



# VFI NEWS

Veterans and Friends, Inc. 8066 Bainbridge Rd., Chagrin Falls, OH 44023



## January/February 2015

Editor: Kit Nix

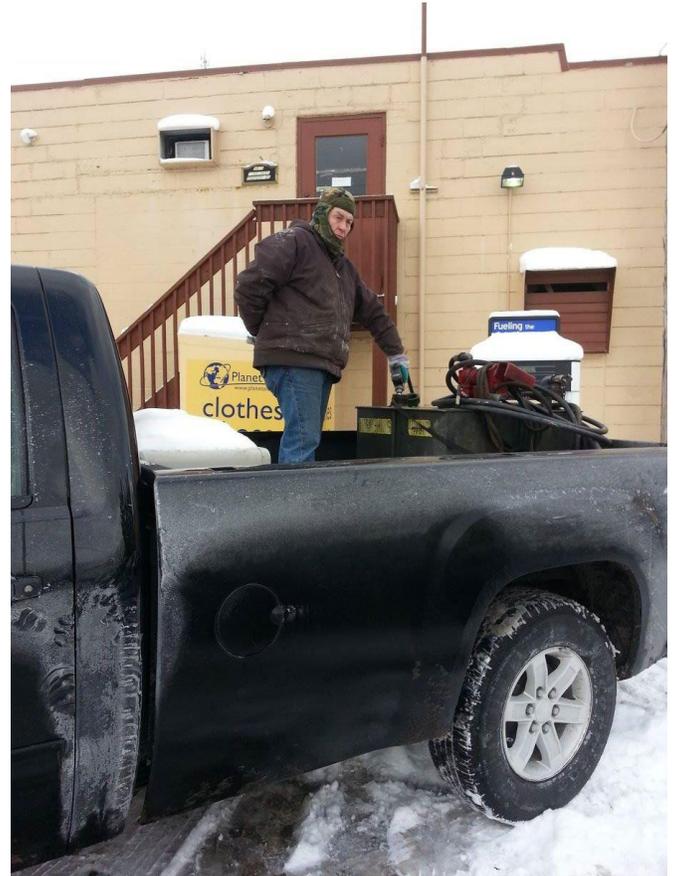
Has this winter been the coldest you can remember or what? The morning of 2/16 it was -21F and on 2/20 it was -27F here in Auburn Township where I live. I am really glad it is too cold to go outside because frankly I am tired of shoveling and plowing snow. Our disabled neighbor lets us use his 4 x 4 utility vehicle with plow and my husband, Wayne, plows the neighbors drive in exchange. Good deal for both! However, there really isn't any place to put the snow anymore even if we did shovel and plow! It could be worse and I am grateful to have a driveway and warm home. I think of some of the homeless I have seen when I worked in downtown Cleveland, sleeping on the grates in the sidewalk to be warmed by the steam that came up. Below you will read about a man that we helped out with heating fuel to keep his home warm. So as I sit here contemplating how miserably cold it is, and will be for the next week at least, I also am grateful for the things I have that some do not. As we count down the days left until spring let's always remember those less fortunate and do what we can to help make their lives better. ----Kit

## Is It Cold Outside?

On January 8, 2015 the high temperature for the day was 5 Degrees F and here's what we do folks: In less than 24 hours we managed to get 100 gallons of heating fuel into this man's fuel tank. We can't take all the credit though. The donations we received from all of you amazing people are what made this possible. To answer the original question, Is It Cold Outside?, the answer is YES! Yikes! But this man's home is NOT cold. Thank you to everyone who played a part in this.



Thank you Bruce Haas, Trenching Unlimited, for the loan of the tank and pump!



Kit took care of the financial business at Ullman Oil while Bill filled the tank.



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Dragging the hose to where the fuel tank is at.

Donations that we received in less than 24 hours paid for most of this cost. We still need to cover about 1/3 of that bill yet.



## Distributions:

This past summer a local donut shop started giving us their end of the day donuts. We take them to several sober living houses in Cleveland. Since then Bill has made it a family affair! At times it's been his wife, Sue, picking them up. Other times you might see one of his sons, Dean or Will. Bill usually leaves for work early to be able to deliver these donuts in the mornings. My husband, Wayne and I (Kit) have joined in the fun picking the donuts up at times and making the trip to Cleveland with them. The men and women at these facilities are extremely happy to receive the goodies!



Bill also kindly picked up medication for a disabled Veteran after getting out of work for the day and delivered it to him. All these things mean a lot of driving around for sure, but hey, it keeps us out of trouble!



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A long time friend of Bill's donated a car to VFI and what a blessing it turned out to be. It did need a little work to get it in running order and we had this done. We gave it to a gentleman who had recently moved to the area and just been hired at a new job. His old vehicle had broken down beyond repair and he didn't know how he was going to get to work. The car was just what he needed and he went from despair to extreme gratitude for the gift of the car!

In December the ladies of the Geauga Eagles Auxiliary #2261 in Chardon, OH gave us a cash donation towards holiday gift cards to give to needy families. They also gave of their time to hold a blanket and bedding drive to benefit the Julie Adams House, a women's structured sober living house in Cleveland. The women of the house truly appreciated the lovely quilts, sheets, blankets and more that we delivered to them. A friend of ours who is a hairdresser volunteered to come to the Julie Adams House and give the women haircuts for the Holiday Season. Her friend came along and did fingernail painting. They brought makeup and polishes to leave with the women also. The women were absolutely thrilled with their new looks and I am sure it gave their self esteem a needed boost!



We also received monetary donations from several organizations, companies and individuals. Bill's brother Gary gave us a dozen turkeys and Deacon Chrysler gave us six turkeys for distribution. These generousities allowed us to help several Veterans and needy families. With the monetary donations we were able to purchase gift cards to give to several families for purchasing presents and other needed items. Without these generous donations we would not be able to do what we do. Together, we all play a part in helping those less fortunate. With YOUR help, Veterans and Friends put smiles on the faces of

several families and children this Christmas who otherwise would have gone without.

VFI received several donations of appliances over the past few months. A really nice three door refrigerator that Bill found on craigslist for \$75 was perfect for the Julie Adams house. When Bill went to pick it up, he told the seller about what we do and he stuffed the money back into Bill's pocket!

Bill was training a new driver at his work and, while on break of course, told him about VFI, the things we do, and the requests of needed supplies and appliances. The trainee then offered a barely used washing machine which Bill picked up after work and delivered right to the Julie Adams house that same day! How cool and that is how it happens sometimes! This makes two washers and dryers and an awesome refrigerator we have helped them with. Julie Adams houses approximately 25 women and the need for help is always there and the appreciation is great. Thank you to all who have helped with donations and the deliveries!

## Wish List

**Generator:** We need a larger generator for our Veterans reunion in September. Our Honda 1000 generator isn't enough to power our camp anymore. It has handled one coffee pot and the tunes but we have grown so that we need two pots going plus the lights, etc. We need at least a 2000 or 3000. It must be a Honda due to the noise limitations at the camp.



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**Camper:** We are still looking for a camper donation for the Veterans reunion. We would like to alleviate the tents to make the weekend more comfortable for the Veterans staying at our campsites. Old or small it doesn't matter, as long as everything works and there are no leaks.

**New laptop:** We refurbished our 9 year old laptop but it still is not up to par. We have upgraded it as time has gone on but it is really time for a new one.

**Batteries:** "Mom's Deuce", our Army Truck we use in parades to help promote VFI, will be needing a set of new batteries. They are almost 5 years old and the frigid temperatures have taken its toll on them. Speaking of which, the Cleveland's St. Patrick's Day Parade is less than a month away and we need to have the deuce in good reliable condition.

**Office Supplies:** We can always use office supplies like #10 envelopes, reams of paper, file folders, etc. The less we spend on these items the more we can help those in need.

Folks, all your donations are greatly appreciated. We truly mean it. We do the best we can with what we have to work with. When the account is empty we have been known to work out of our own pockets when the need arises.

Our PayPal donation link is on our website and you can use credit/debit cards even if you don't have a PayPal account! Checks can be mailed to the address below. All donations are tax deductible whether monetary or material.



[http://billsbunker.com/VFI/index.php/Donations\\_Needed](http://billsbunker.com/VFI/index.php/Donations_Needed)

Just in case you didn't know, VFI offers a flag retirement service. If your flag is in an unserviceable, tattered and torn condition we would be happy to retire it for you. Give us a call to make arrangements. Your flag will be retired in a respectful manner per flag etiquette. We would like to add that if you happen to have a flag in good condition that is not being used, we would appreciate the donation. These flags are passed on to those who cannot afford to purchase them. We can also supply you with new flags. We require the cost of the flag be covered and ask for a donation above our cost. We can have them shipped direct from our supplier. They are the best flags made and are of course MADE IN THE USA.

**Veterans and Friends Inc.**

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