



Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Moorhead

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is a comprehensive program that creates awareness for the purpose of connecting Servicemembers and their families with community support, training, services and resources.

Report to Moorhead City Council – April 2015

In 2011, Mayor Voxland asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to qualify Moorhead as a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon community. The State of Minnesota created criteria to be met. This informal group became the BTYR Moorhead organization. In 2011, we incorporated as a Minnesota Non-Profit organization. In early 2012, we were awarded 501(c)3 status by the IRS. In 2012, we were certified meeting the requirements by the State and were designated a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon community at a presentation in Detroit Lakes, MN.

BTYR Moorhead formed a partnership with the Dilworth/Moorhead VFW Post 1223 receiving operating funds from VFW gaming. We formed a partnership with the Clay County Veterans Service Office, an office where requests are sent and verified. We cooperate with other local veterans' service organizations, in particular the American Legion, DAV, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

Activities we have supported since our certification include: food cards and bus passes for needy veterans, veterans career fairs, auto repair for activated service member, Christmas parties for local National Guard children and servicemembers, Clay County VSO conference, fund raiser for the Fargo VA Hospital and Fergus Falls Veterans Home, furniture for needy veteran, Veterans' oral history project, Minnesota Warriors Hockey, MSUM Vets Club, NDSU ROTC, packages for deployed servicemembers, school supplies for needy veterans and Guard members, a volunteer appreciation banquet, several Veterans' picnics and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary. In January, 2015, we paid for an upgrade to the sound system at the Moorhead National Guard Armory. We recently held a fundraiser for the Korean Veterans Honor Flight project, raising over \$4,300.

At our April meeting, we elected the following officers: President Les Bakke, Vice President Vince Dicks, Secretary Gail Brekke and Treasurer Tim Haugen. Officers will serve for one year.

Our BTYR Moorhead committee has representation from all Moorhead/Dilworth service clubs, Moorhead colleges and university, Moorhead businesses, Moorhead City Council, Clay County Commission, Moorhead School District, social service and faith based groups. Our website is www.btyrmoorhead.org.