



NORTHERN
DAKOTA
COUNTY
BEYOND THE
YELLOW
RIBBON

Yellow Ribbon News

IN THIS ISSUE:

A Community Comes Together

Continued- A Community Comes Together

Community Partners

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**April Monthly Mtg. April 14
@ Lilydale City Hall 2:00pm**

**May Monthly Mtg. May 12
@ Lilydale City Hall 2:00pm**

**June Monthly Mtg. June 9
@ Lilydale City Hall 2:00pm**

CONNECT WITH US:

Helpline:

651-259-2614

Website:

ndcyellowribbon.com

Video:

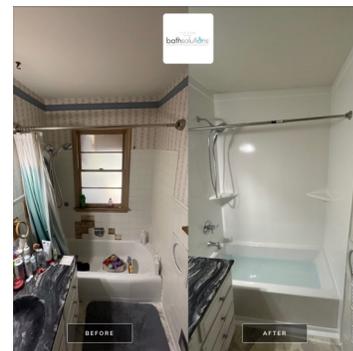
<https://vimeo.com/1111060730?share=copy>

A Community Comes Together: Supporting a Veteran Family in Inver Grove Heights

At Northern Dakota County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, we often say that our mission is rooted in connection. Recently, we saw just how powerful those connections can be when a veteran, a service officer, and a local business came together in a truly meaningful way.

Earlier this year, our network received a request from an Inver Grove Heights veteran, Chris. Chris had purchased his home knowing it would take time, effort, and patience to make improvements. Like many homeowners, he tackled projects as he could, stretching his time and budget to make steady progress.

But one area of the home had become a growing concern: the bathroom. Tiles were falling off the shower, and a poorly installed window inside the shower area had caused warping and potential moisture issues. It wasn't just inconvenient, it was unsafe.



At the same time, Chris and his family were preparing for a major life moment. They had just welcomed a premature baby who had experienced some early complications and was preparing to come home from the hospital. With a newborn and a toddler, having a safe and clean bathroom quickly became a top priority.

Around that same time, our Yellow Ribbon network was participating in the Dakota County Fair, working alongside the Dakota County Veterans Service Officers. During the event, a Veterans Service Officer named Neil connected with a representative from Five Star Bath, a company that shared a desire to give back by helping veterans with bath remodels.

That connection changed everything.

Continued on Page 2

Continued - A Community Comes Together

Through that introduction, members of our board met with Five Star Bath to share Chris's story. Without hesitation, their team stepped forward to help. They visited the home, assessed the situation, and ultimately completed a full bathroom remodel. The result was transformational.

Five Star Bath replaced the bathroom at a value of more than \$11,900, at no cost to Chris or to our Yellow Ribbon network. The new space is safe, functional, and ready for a growing family. It brought peace of mind at a time when Chris and his family needed it most.

But the impact of this story goes beyond the remodel itself.

When Chris first connected with our network, he had not yet been in contact with a Veterans Service Officer, though he had long intended to explore support for a condition he believed was related to his service. One of the first recommendations we made was to reach out to Dakota County Veterans Services.

Chris followed through and connected with Neil. With that support, he filed a claim that was successfully approved. Today, he is receiving the compensation he is entitled to, along with guidance on managing his condition. Chris has shared that this connection has been one of the most meaningful outcomes of his experience.



This story is a powerful reminder of what can happen when a community works together. A veteran reached out. A service officer made a connection. A local business stepped up in a generous and impactful way. And a family now has both a safer home and stronger support for the future.

We are also excited to share that this is just the beginning. Through this experience, Five Star Bath has expressed a commitment to building an ongoing program to support veterans with bath remodels in our community.

We are grateful to Chris and his family for allowing us to share their story, and we extend our sincere thanks to Five Star Bath for their generosity and partnership.

If you are a veteran or family member in need of support, or if you are a community partner looking to get involved, we encourage you to connect with us. Together, we can continue to make a difference, one connection at a time.

By Darcie Pierson

Thanks to Our Community for Their Ongoing Support:

The mission and work of Northern Dakota County [NDC] Beyond the Yellow Ribbon in supporting our service-connected community is made possible through the generous monetary, in-kind, and volunteer support of organizations and individuals across our region. We wish to thank the following community partners, service providers, and volunteers:

- AMVETS Post #1
- Cub Foods West St. Paul
- Dakota County Veteran’s Administration
- Dan Hocking
- Dave Meisinger
- Dunkin’ Donuts
- Gateway Bank
- Lowe’s
- MGM Liquor
- Minnesota Wild
- MSP Plumbing Heating and Air
- Oxendale’s Market
- South East Towing
- South Robert Street Business Association
- Raising Canes
- Walmart

In addition to this list, there are several other businesses and private citizens that wish to remain anonymous with regards to their donations and contributions. If your business would like to get involved in supporting BTYR, please contact Ed Iago, Business Liaison Officer, at 651-259-2614

Dakota County Resources

Did you know that Dakota County provides financial assistance for Veterans in a varieties of ways?

- State Grant referrals
- Federal program referrals
- Mortgages through the VA
- Partners with many existing Veteran Services



Volunteers Needed!

NDC Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is looking for volunteers to help with the needs of military-connected individuals and families in our surrounding region (Lilydale, Mendota, Mendota Heights, South St. Paul, Inver Grove Heights, and West St. Paul).

Opportunities include (but are not limited to):

- Light housework and seasonal yardwork; including raking, shoveling, and snow blowing
- Rides to and from VA appointments and other errands
- Special event assistance

For more information, please contact our NDC Yellow Ribbon volunteer coordinator Ed at **651-259-2614**.

Donations

Click on our website for directions on making a donation. 100% of the donation is tax deductible.

Website: ndcyellowribbon.com