

**Judy Hawley**

**From:** Susan Dudley Gold <sgold@vet2vetmaine.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 4:26 PM  
**To:** Peter Joseph  
**Cc:** Judy Hawley  
**Subject:** 2023 sponsorship for Cumberland County grant  
**Attachments:** PastedGraphic-2.tiff

**Importance:** High

**\*\* CAUTION EXTERNAL EMAIL \*\***

Dear Mr. Joseph,

We at Vet to Vet Maine are so grateful for your willingness to sponsor us for the 2022 Cumberland County Community Development grant. We are asking that Freeport continue this sponsorship, at no cost to your community, for the 2023 grant period. This will enable Vet to Vet Maine to continue our work with veterans in your community. Deadline for the preapplication is **Dec. 14**; an e-mail indicating your community’s willingness to sign on again as a sponsor will be greatly appreciated—by Vet to Vet Maine and by the veterans we serve. Final application is due Jan. 19, at which time a formal approval from your municipal board will be required.

Your willingness to serve as community sponsor in 2022 has allowed us to assist 20 veterans in the five sponsoring communities during the first quarter of the grant (July-October). During that period, our volunteers and staff spent a total of 218 hours connecting with these veterans, all of whom benefited from having a peer companion who visited at least twice a month and who provided help getting other benefits when needed.

Vet to Vet Maine continues to reach out to the veterans in your community in an effort to ease social isolation among those who need a friend and link them to services that can improve the quality of their lives. To reach more veterans, we will be initiating a new program (in addition to our one-on-one matches with peer companions) at independent living communities in the area. In each of the three initial communities, we will provide two peer companions (veteran volunteers), who will meet once a month with a group of veterans who live there. The volunteers will facilitate the meeting, designed to enable veterans to connect and talk with one another and provide information and/or assistance in obtaining benefits and services that will benefit them. Vet to Vet ME can also provide individuals in the group the opportunity to match up with a peer companion if they wish to have visits on a one-on-one basis.

We hope that you will continue to support us in our mission to support veterans, provide them with a friend, and link them to services they have earned and deserve. Thank you for considering our request to continue our relationship with Freeport.

Please contact me by email or phone with any questions about the grant and our activities.

Respectfully,  
Susan Dudley Gold  
Executive Director

