

# BVL Fund—Bowlers Helping Hospitalized Veterans

For more than three decades, the bowlers of America through the BVL Fund have been providing a variety of useful services to the men and women who served so bravely for our country. BVL, often called "bowling's charity," is the only national sports charity of its kind. Through the support of men and women bowlers who give their time and talents in local communities nationwide, BVL is able to provide the extras so necessary to speed up the rehabilitation process.

## Recreation Grants

Annual grants are made to nearly all VA hospitals. These grants underwrite not only bowling programs but also a wide variety of recreational and therapeutic equipment and activities. Among these are special wheelchairs, movie projectors, stereo phonographs, TV sets, radios, bowling balls, pins and shoes, handicraft materials and items for the hospital chapel.

## Reading Materials

Thousands of copies of sports publications and various sports record books are sent each year to hospital libraries and day rooms. These weekly, monthly and annual newspapers, magazines (including *BOWL Magazine*) and booklets are popular with the patients and help relieve the boredom of hospitalization... generating an interest in the outside...stimulating the vital psychological aspect of getting well.

## Miscellany

Each year BVL gives \$25,000 to the Blinded Veterans Association to assist blinded veterans in qualifying for help from the Veterans Administration.

There are bowling exhibitions on hospital lanes by professional stars... tours of the wards by bowling personalities... and an annual mail-o-graphic tournament for wheelchair and ambulatory patients from more than 90 hospitals.

## Volunteers Make Program Work

Volunteers are the backbone of the BVL Fund, and it is members of the Nation's Capital Area Bowling Assn. and the Washington, D.C. Area Women's Bowling Assn., along with other bowlers and proprietors whose time and effort both in fundraising and in working at the Washington, D.C. VA Hospital helps to spread the BVL Fund message and expand its effectiveness. Just last year, in fact, nearly \$14,000 was collected via a simple pass-the-hat routine in the bowling centers. This year the goal is \$20,000.

Efforts such as this have raised from several hundred to many thousands of dollars in communities coast-to-coast. The funds earmarked for the BVL Fund from tournaments, suppers, antique shows, bake sales, dances, direct solicitation, league contributions, etc., go a long way in making life more pleasant for wounded and disabled veterans.