

News Release

Office of Public Affairs Media Relations Washington, DC 20420 (202) 461-7600 www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 10, 2020

Thousands of face shields donated by all-volunteer group to help VA in fight against COVID-19 pandemic

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today more than 36,000 face shields were donated by <u>Jersey City Rapid Maker Response Group</u> (JCRMRG) — aiding in the COVID-19 pandemic response.

The donation, worth nearly \$200,000, was coordinated through <u>VA's Office of Voluntary Service</u> and shipped to 48 VA medical centers during the week of Veterans Day.

"It's remarkable how what started out as a discussion in Reddit for 3D printer hobbyists and enthusiasts, turned into an all-volunteer group to produce face shields for those experiencing significant personal protective equipment shortages," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "These are the types of efforts that continue to inspire our health care workers and Veterans, while supporting the "Fourth Mission" efforts to also provide care for members of the public."

Individuals or organizations interested in donating to support the care and service of Veterans may reach out to VA Voluntary Service.