

Children & Youth

2009-2010 Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Auxiliary
National President's Theme: Reconnect and Energize!

Plan of Action: Children and Youth Committee

Purpose: To work collaboratively with The American Legion to direct and sponsor programs and services that provide care and protection for our nation's children, especially those of our military and veterans.

Committee Contact Information

E-Mail: children&youth@legion-aux.org



National Chairman
Name: Peggy Thomas
Department of Virginia

National Vice Chairman
Name: Betsey Lee Hodges
Department of North Carolina

Committee Member
Name: Carol Johnson
Department of New York

Central Division Chairman
Name: Paulette Anderson
Department of West Virginia

Eastern Division Chairman
Name: Susan Britton
Department of New York

Northwestern Division Chairman
Name: Mary Ann Otte
Department of Nebraska

Southern Division Chairman
Name: Peggy Monroe
Department of Tennessee

Western Division Chairman
Name: DelVonne Caughline
Department of Washington

National Headquarters Contact (Program Coordinator)
Name: Maria Potts
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National-level Objectives

1. **Objective:** To recognize and reward the positive actions of today's children and youth by bringing community and peer recognition/affirmation through the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award.

Action Steps

- a. Monitor local media outlets for deserving youth to receive this award.
 - b. Submit the Youth Hero/Good Deed Award nomination form on the ALA national website.
 - c. Plan an event to publicly acknowledge the recipient.
 - d. Report the number of Youth Hero/Good Deed Award winners using the annual report form.
 - e. Invite government or public official to present the award.
2. **Objective:** To provide direct aid, service and information about sources for children of veterans. To identify a way to track Auxiliary members' individual donations to the Child Welfare Foundation in order to have a cumulative Auxiliary impact number for CWF donations.

Action Steps

- a. Partner with Post Children and Youth Chairman to maximize efforts to assist families.
 - b. Refer families to local community organizations for direct assistance.
 - c. Educate members and public about the needs of CWF.
 - d. Keep close contact with Unit Children and Youth Chairman to monitor contributions to CWF.
 - e. Provide families with government and public grant information.
3. **Objective:** To increase the number of Auxiliary Departments that report their contributions to C&Y from 49 percent to 66 percent (26-35 Departments) in order to maximize impact of The Legion Family Report to Congress.

Action Steps

- a. Direct communication with Units via e-mail, memos, letters, telephone calls and bulletins.
- b. Educate Units as to the importance of reporting CWF contributions.
- c. Department Chairman to check quarterly with Units to monitor accumulation of donations to CWF.
- d. Impress upon Units the importance of the numbers reported to Congress and the impact it makes.
- e. Recognition of Units by Department Chairman for 100% reporting of donation in a timely manner as stated above.

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To be filled out by Department Chairman:

Department Goals relating to above. Should have no more than three department-level goals supporting the National objectives outlined above. Department Chair - please share these with your Committee and forward a copy to your National Chairman. (This process does not need national approval.)

1. **Objective:**

Action Steps

a.

2. **Objective:**

Action Steps

a.

3. **Objective:**

Action Steps

a.

Programs and Activities

April is Children & Youth Month

During this time, The American Legion Family emphasizes their commitment to our nation's children. Visit www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/cybroch_aprilmonth.pdf for more information.

Youth Hero Award – Local/Unit and National Level

An award for youth, under 18 years of age, who perform a heroic act of physical valor. Nominations are to be completed at unit level and mailed to the Department Secretary, who certifies and mails the application to National Headquarters. (No application should be mailed directly to National Headquarters.) National President will sign the Award Certificate and it will be returned to the unit to be presented on behalf of the unit and the national organization. Department C&Y Chairmen should be notified of the award.

Good Deed Award – Local/Unit and National Level

An award for youth, under 18 years of age, who do not meet the Youth Hero Award criteria, but who are great examples of community service. This award is submitted on the same nomination form as the Youth Hero Award.

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Liaison to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF)



National Chairman

Name: Katherine Morris
Department of Texas

The Auxiliary's role in the Child Welfare Foundation is partner with The American Legion, Sons of the Legion and Eight and Forty to educate members and the general public about CWF and its mission, and encourage them to include CWF in their annual budget.

Though created by The American Legion, in 1954, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc. is a separate 501(c) 3 corporation. The foremost philanthropic priority is to provide other nonprofit organizations with the means to educate the public about the special needs of children across this nation. To date, more than \$9 million has been awarded to organizations to assist the children of this country from the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.

Brochures, reports, materials and further information is available at www.legion.org/cwf/

Children & Youth Awards

A. "Best Overall" Program - Department Award

An award will be presented to the department chairman in each division conducting the Best Overall Promotion of the Children & Youth Program. Entry must be in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words and must include a completed copy of the Annual Department report form. Mail this form to your Divisional Chairman by June 1. Award Entry Form #1 is to be used.

B. "Outstanding" Promotion of Supporting Activities – Unit Award

An award presented to the unit Children & Youth Chairman in each division who promotes the Most Outstanding Program promoting any or all of the identified ALA activities. Entry must be in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words and must include a completed copy of the Annual Unit report form. Department C&Y Chairman judges unit entries and selects a winner and forwards the entry to the National C&Y Vice Chairman, Betsey Lee Hodges, 102 Dogwood Drive, Washington NC 27889-5410. Award Entry Form #2 is to be used.

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C. Child Welfare Foundation Awards by The American Legion

1. Legacy Award: A plaque presented at National Convention to the top department based on combined total contributions of the American Legion Family and Eight & Forty contributions to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation during contribution year (June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010).
2. Garland M. Murphy, Jr. Award: A plaque presented to one department from each organization of Legion Family with the greatest contributions to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation during contribution year (June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010). Plaques awarded at their National Convention.
3. Excellence Award: A plaque presented to one of ten departments from each organization of Legion Family with the highest per capita contribution average for the contribution year (June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010). Citations mailed to the runners-up.
4. “Heritage Circle” Gift Club: A plaque presented to Departments of The American Legion Family and Eight & Forty for their cumulative donations during the contribution year June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010. Plaques will be mailed September 1, 2009.

Benefactor - \$5000 Patron - \$2500 Sponsor - \$1000

5. Meritorious Achievement Award: A plaque presented to the top department in each organization with the highest increase in per capita giving to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation during contribution year (June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010). Plaques will be mailed September 1, 2010.
6. “Children First” Gift Club: A plaque presented to organization (Post, Unit, Salon and Squadron) for their cumulative donation made during the contribution year (June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010).

Guardian - \$1,000 Advocate - \$750.00 Caretaker - \$500

7. “Cornerstone” Gift Club: A pin awarded to individuals for their cumulative donations made during the contribution year (June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010).

Foundation Ambassadors-\$1,000 President’s Circle-\$500

Foundation Partners-\$250 Century Club -\$100

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Resources

1. Children's Miracle Network (Legion Family Sponsor)
www.childrensmiracletnetwork.org/amlegion
2. Operation: Military Kids (American Legion National Partner)
www.operationmilitarykids.org
3. The American Legion Children & Youth Programs www.legion.org
4. JoshCo, LLC www.joshandfriends.com
5. The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation <http://www.legion.org/cwf/>

See program page on www.legion-aux.org for additional resources