

American Legion Auxiliary News Release

777 N. Meridian St., 3rd Floor, Indianapolis, IN 46204-1420

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CONTACT: Lee Harris, (317) 908-6718

Florida's American Legion Auxiliary Making a Difference at All Children's Hospital and for Military Kids

ST. PETERSBURG – Eighty-one years ago, the vision of the American Legion family and civic leaders to provide healthcare for children became the foundation for All Children's Hospital. With construction well underway on a new facility, Florida's American Legion Auxiliary members are still making a difference for All Children's patients and families.

Under the leadership of Linda Teasley of La Belle, the American Legion Auxiliary state president, more than \$10,000 has been raised to sponsor a new lactation room. Teasley is bringing the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary to tour the hospital May 23. Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan will not only tour the facility, but witness the presentation of the first \$10,000 check to hospital officials.

Teasley selected this fund raising project after visiting the hospital and seeing how important the need was. "I wanted to see the long history of the Auxiliary's involvement with All Children's Hospital continue," the leader of Florida's nearly 40,000 Auxiliary members said.

Teasley has also endeavored to raise awareness of the need to help military children deal with the deployment of a father or mother to a front-line role in the global war on terror. "It was just last fall that I became aware of the Operation Military Kids program," she said. "Our state officers decided to contact the Florida 4-H Coordinator and offer the Auxiliary's assistance."

Since that first offer, the Florida Auxiliary has provided volunteers for a Christmas Party for National Guard children in Jacksonville, and supported a National Guard party in February at the Tampa state fair.

"By the Auxiliary helping, it has made our members more aware that we need to assist our military and their families here at home," Teasley said. "This has been a big project for the year, but it is a project that truly makes a difference."

Pulvermacher-Ryan shares Teasley's special commitment to children. For the National President, the goal is to endow a scholarship program for Educating Children of Warriors. The insightful leader of 900,000 women sees the need to help children of military families afford a college education. While visiting time with members in several Tampa and St. Petersburg locations, she will share her vision for a \$1.2 million campaign goal to double the value of scholarships for 15 students each year.

Affiliated with The American Legion, the Auxiliary is a veterans' support organization with members in nearly 10,000 communities. The organization sponsors volunteer programs on the national and local levels, focusing on three major areas: veterans, young people and the community.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Bio and hi-res photo at:

<http://www.legion-aux.org/NationalLeaders/NationalPresident/index.aspx>