



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Ohio

2011-2012
AUXILIARY EMERGENCY
FUND
PLAN OF ACTION

Department of Ohio Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman

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SEND REPORT TO : Jennifer Welsh
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Shining Stars
Vi Grzybowski
2011-2012 Department President

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

2011 - 2012

Our Department President's theme this year is "Shining Stars." The Pin is red, white, blue, and gold stars surrounding the Auxiliary emblem. We want to be enthusiastic about our Auxiliary Emergency Fund this year. Last year's effort was stupendous and we want to keep up the good work and great contributions to this fund.

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is a valuable tool that enables members to help members. Communicating to our Unit members about the benefits of the AEF, we are able to give hope to those in need. The Auxiliary Emergency Fund was originally established in 1969 when Helen Colby Small left a bequest to the American Legion Auxiliary from her estate. The National Committee determined that the proceeds would be used to benefit those members who have suffered a financial setback and is meant to be a bridge offering a helping hand until financial stability is re-established. Since that time, the fund has been maintained by donations from individual members, Units, and Departments.

The mission of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Committee "is to raise funds for and awareness of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, to promote knowledge about the program, to disseminate information to members about the application process and to assist members in need."

It is the obligation of every Unit President to pass along this information to every Unit member. By working together, to promote this program we will reach all Auxiliary members who are in need of assistance. It is important to remember that our own Ohio members may benefit from the AEF. Encourage your Unit to give a monetary donation to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

As a Unit - You can plan fundraisers such as walk-a-thons, car washes, carnivals, dinners, grab bags, used book sales, white elephant sales, money jars passed at your Unit or District meetings and any kind of raffles and sales. Include your Juniors in the fundraising projects. Solicit help from other groups such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and schools. Advertise your fundraisers with your local newspapers and then recognize all your volunteers.

As a District - Those of you that planned district events last year may want to continue to plan fund-raising on a larger scale. If it succeeded last year, and you had fun with it, try it again this year.

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund provides eligible members with temporary assistance for:

1. Financial crisis; to pay for food, shelter and utilities. Funds are not available to settle existing or accumulated debts, or to help with catastrophic illnesses.
2. Food and shelter; due to weather-related emergencies and natural disasters.
3. Education training; due to life changes such as death of a spouse, divorce, or separation, necessitating the Auxiliary member to assume the role of primary source of support for her family.

Applications are available from the Department Headquarters web site: www.alaohio.org or the National web site: www.legion-aux.org. The applicant must have maintained membership for at least the immediate past two years and who have paid their dues for the current year (three consecutive years of membership). Send the completed Auxiliary Emergency Fund application to: American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Ohio, Attention: Katie Wainwright, PO Box 2760, Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760. Be sure to follow all directions and include all information requested. Requests will be denied without complete applications. The Unit must include a narrative and sign the application. The application must be signed by someone other than the applicant. Members in need may receive a maximum of \$2,400.00 and it may be disbursed as determined by the Grant Committee. Payments may also be made directly to the member, or at the discretion of the Grant Committee, to the mortgage company or utility company.

OBJECTIVES

1. **OBJECTIVE** – Increase member awareness of benefits and services of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

Action Steps:

- a. Make available the AEF brochure to pass out at various Legion and Auxiliary functions that involve Legionnaires and Auxiliary members.
 - b. Be more aware of any of your Units members who may have need of this assistance, and bring it to the attention of your officers.
 - c. Share recipient stories and successful fundraising ideas with others.
2. **OBJECTIVE** – Increase member and Unit donations to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.
- Action Steps:**
- a. Designate a dinner, or other fundraising idea, to benefit the AEF through individual contributions. Work with other Units in your District to help raise funds.
 - b. The National President's theme is based on "Honoring Their Service", encourage your members to increase your individual giving by at least one dollar this year.
 - c. Increase Unit donation by 20% over the previous year to combat the rising need for help.
 - d. "Members Helping Members" coin fundraiser. Encourage your Unit members to save their loose change, bring it to each meeting and deposit it in the jar marked "AEF Fund."

AWARDS

NATIONAL CITATION RECOGNITION – Given to one Unit and one Department contributing the largest donations to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

LAPEL PIN RECOGNITION – Presented to an individual contributor donating \$25.00 or more.

CITATION AND LAPEL PIN RECOGNITION – Presented to any Unit or individual contributing \$100.00 or more to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

CERTIFICATE AND RECOGNITION AT NATIONAL CONVENTION- Individual member from each Division contributing largest amount will receive a certificate and special recognition at National Convention. Needs to be certified by Department Secretary.

“ARDITH COOPER” PLAQUE – This plaque will be awarded to the District President with the highest donations per capita - to be given at Department Convention.

AEF RESOURCES

www.211.org - Basic needs, physical and mental health resource, employment support and more.

www.fema.gov - Support in preparing, preventing and responding to disasters.

www.redcross.org - Disaster relief focusing on meeting the immediate disaster-related needs such as food, shelter, health and mental health services.

www.fns.usda.gov/fsp - This program enables low-income families to purchase nutritious foods.

www.fns.usda.gov/wic - Nutritional support and counseling, referrals to health and other social services for pregnant or postpartum women, women, infants and children up to five years old.

www.liheap.ncat.org - Links to each state’s Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. {LIHEAP}.

www.operationhomefront.net- non-profit organization that gives assistance and morale support to US troops and their families and wounded soldiers that return home

www.legion-aux.org and www.legion.org - for answers to basic questions and the form requesting assistance

Year-End Reporting:

Please send your year-end report postmarked before May 1, 2012, to be mailed to Department AEF Chairman Jennifer Welsh, 534 New Burg Street, Granville, Ohio 43023-1049.