



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Ohio

2009-2010
CHILDREN & YOUTH
PLAN OF ACTION

Department of Ohio Children & Youth Committee

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Email – rpeters3704@watchtv.net

VICE CHAIRMAN : Carol Knapp
1114 Gulf Road
Elyria, Ohio 44035
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REPORT DUE : May 1, 2010

SEND REPORT TO : Your District Children & Youth Chairman
(address on back of this page)



Communication Is Key
Martha Lee Thatcher
2009-2010 Department President

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

2009 - 2010

Ladies - congratulations on your appointment to serve as the Children and Youth Chairman of your Unit! The Department Children and Youth Committee welcomes you as part of our team and is ready to share with you many of the ideas passed down from National Committee. We look forward to working with you this year and welcome any and all questions you may have concerning the Department of Ohio Children and Youth Program.

MISSION STATEMENT

Together with The American Legion, the Auxiliary Children and Youth Committee directs and sponsors programs and services that provide care and protection to our nation's children, especially those of our military and veterans.

Department Objectives:

1. **Objective:** To recognize and reward Units and Individuals in Ohio's Communities for the positive actions of today's Children and Youth.
Action Steps:
 - a. Encourage Units and Districts to submit the Youth Hero/Good Deed Award nominations to National.
 - b. Plan events to publicly acknowledge the recipient.
2. **Objective:** To provide information and assistance to District and Unit Children and Youth Chairman about sources for children of veterans.
Action Steps:
 - a. Refer families to local community organizations for direct assistance.
 - b. Educate members and public about the needs of CWF.
 - c. Provide information thru Department monthly bulk mailings and local District/Unit newsletters.
3. **Objective:** Increase the number of Units that participate in C&Y Programs while increasing the total contributions.
Action Steps:
 - a. Recognition of Units that have 100% reporting of donations.
 - b. Encourage participation in noteworthy C&Y Programs, while impressing upon Unit the importance of the number reported to Congress and the impact it makes.
4. The following is a list of Programs that the American Legion Family strongly supports and uses as an aid in helping children of Veterans.

FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

The American Legion's Family Support Network is ready to provide immediate assistance to service personnel and families whose lives have been directly affected by Operation Iraqi Freedom and America's war on terror. There is a 24-hour nationwide toll-free telephone number (1-800-504-4098) for service members and their family members to call for assistance. These calls are then referred to Department who, in turn, may refer them to their local Post, Unit or SAL Squadron. Encourage your Unit to reach out first by offering assistance such as baby sitting, birthday parties for kids, running errands, providing transportation, mowing grass, shoveling snow, social interaction, minor home maintenance, financial support and entertainment (just to name a few). Don't be afraid to ask them what they need the most to make their life a little less stressful. There is information under Children and Youth Resources attached to this Plan of Action or you can go on line to www.familysupport@legion.org for more information.

Encourage your Unit to reach out to the children of activated or deployed service personnel. This is a great opportunity for the entire legion Family to get involved. Provide activities or functions as a positive role model. You may want to consider adopting a family whether stationed stateside or abroad.

OPERATION MILITARY KID

Operation Military Kid (OMK) is the U.S. Army's collaborative effort with America's communities to support the children and youth of National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers impacted by the global war on terrorism. There is information under Children & Youth Resources attached to this Plan of Action or you can go on line to www.operationmilitarykids.org for more information.

NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK – NOVEMBER 23-28, 2009

Plan to be an active part of these week long activities and celebrations across America. Some of the activities you, as Children and Youth Chairman, can encourage your Unit members to participate in are:

1. Plan your own National Family Week event.
2. Lend support to local National Family Week activities by helping to plan, volunteer or attend.
3. Host a "Family Night" at your Post Home.
4. Send a "Thank You" to service members and support their families.

The web site for National Family Week is www.nationalfamilyweek.org. You may want to utilize this for ideas for your own activities.

CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK

The American legion Family is a proud sponsor of CNN Network Hospitals that provide excellent medical care, life saving research and preventative education to help millions of kids overcome diseases and injuries of every kind. Find a local CMN Hospital and get involved in their special events and activities within the CMN Network.

Miracle Balloon and Flag fundraising campaigns are available to be utilized in your Unit and Post Home. We see these all the time in your local department stores and gas stations. It is easy to gain support for these, especially when you advertise that all funds raised go to your local CMN Hospital. For more information go to www.cmn.org.

JOSH

Josh is the lovable golden retriever and his special story. "I'll be OK" is available to any ill child. He faces his fear of surgery and recounts this experience in his book. Children will enjoy reading this book with Mon and Dad in preparation for a hospital stay.

A percentage of these funds are donated to the Children's Miracle Network hospital in the purchaser's area (see order form attached). Perhaps your Unit could purchase Josh for a child you know personally or donate Josh to a local hospital to use as they choose. See attached application or go on line to www.joshandfriends.com for more information.

ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE PROGRAMS

It is imperative that we continue to take an active role in providing for America's children. Contact your state foster care system or go to www.fostercaremonth.org for more information.

YOUTH HERO AND GOOD DEED PROGRAM

YOUTH HERO AWARD is designed to encourage your Unit to seek out youth in your community deserving of this award. It is an award designed to recognize and reward today's youth who are under the age of 18 years and who perform a heroic act of physical valor. This award honors the youth for their willingness to put others before self.

GOOD DEED AWARD is an award for the youth under 18 years of age who does not meet the Youth Hero Award criteria, but are great examples of community service. The Application for this award is attached to this Plan of Action or you can print one at www.legion-aux.org. *Please note that this application is to be sent to your Department Secretary (Katie Wainwright) at American Legion Auxiliary, PO Box 2760, Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760.*

NATIONAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH MONTH

April is the month set aside to focus on our Children and Youth Program. We dedicate this month to promoting activities throughout April that highlight the health and welfare of our children. Initiate and sponsor a project that will benefit children. Encourage your Unit members to volunteer and support community programs already in place that teach and protect our children by providing them with accurate information.

The health, safety and welfare of our children are a major concern for all of us. Each community has programs and activities that can assist in providing and maintaining a healthy atmosphere for our children. Provide members with information about child health and safety in areas relating to immunizations, illness, nutrition, physical fitness, education, safety in the home, bike and fire safety, missing or abused children, youth suicide and drug abuse.

Host a community wide "Children's Fair" and invite organizations that promote child welfare to participate by setting up booths to distribute information that relates to the well-being of our children such as immunizations, nutrition, physical exercise, etc.

Join with other community resources such as your local Police and Fire Departments to provide program information to parents and children promoting safety awareness.

THE DEPARTMENT OF OHIO CHILDREN AND YOUTH FUND

This Fund's only source of income is the assessments paid with your membership dues. The Fund not only provides for all programs for children, including Junior Activities, but also provides for scholarships and the A&G Test Trip when those funds are insufficient. Encourage your Unit to donate to this fund to support our Children & Youth Programs.

AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

We as Units have always worked with the "American Legion Child Welfare Foundation" this year they have initiated a new incentive program for the award year 2009-2010.

We ask each Post, Unit, Squadron or Salon to donate at least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year will receive a beautiful banner/streamer. The banner/streamer is suitable for display in your meeting room or it can be attached to your organization colors.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES - BASED ON GOAL, NOT ACTUAL MEMBER PAID

Group 1	10-50	Group 2	51-100	Group 3	101-200
Group 4	201-400	Group 5	401-600	Group 6	601 & up

ATTENTION UNIT CHAIRMEN

I am asking you to please submit a Children & Youth Annual (green) Report. The statistics we get from our Units is what we give our National American Legion Auxiliary so they can use this to present to Congress.

As the world's largest women's patriotic service organization, we need to ensure the future of our Children and Youth, Veterans, and Military Family programs. We know the need for these programs and we must let our legislators know by reporting what we do throughout the year. See what your time, dedication, and donations can do for our youth, and then tell us a story about what your Unit did this year.

Please send your Annual (green) Report to your **DISTRICT CHAIRMAN**. Any narrative submitted for a District or Department Award should have a copy of the Annual (green) Report attached.

ANNUAL REPORT (green) FORM

The Unit Chairman shall send the Annual Report Form to their DISTRICT Children and Youth Chairman postmarked no later than May 1, 2010. Certificates will be awarded at the respective District Summer Conventions. The District Chairman will forward the 1st place winners in each category to the Department Children and Youth Chairman for judging. Certificates will be awarded at the Children & Youth Pre-Convention meeting at Department Convention. This report is **MANDATORY FOR THE CITATION OF MERIT**.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH AWARDS

DEPARTMENT

LETA ZELLER PLAQUE – This plaque will be presented at Department Convention to the District President with the "Highest Percentage" of Units contributing to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

MIRIAM JUNGE PLAQUE – This plaque is a Unit Chairman Award and will be presented at Department Convention to the Unit Chairman promoting the most outstanding report for the "Best Year Round Children & Youth Program". This entry is to be in narrative form - not to exceed 1,000 words. The narrative must include:

- Name of award
- Name of the Department (Ohio)
- Unit name and number
- District number
- Name and address of the Unit chairman
- Copy of the Annual Unit (green) Report Form

Entries are to be sent to Department Children & Youth Vice Chairman – Carol Knapp, 1114 Gulf Road, Elyria, Ohio 44035, and must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2010. The winning entry will be sent on to National for further consideration.

YOUTH HERO AND GOOD DEED AWARD - The YOUTH HERO AWARD is for a youth, under 18 years of age, who performs a heroic act of physical valor. THE GOOD DEED AWARD is for a youth under 18 years of age, who does not meet the Youth Hero Award criteria, but who displays great examples of community service. Application to be completed at Unit level and mailed to Department Secretary Katie Wainwright, American Legion Auxiliary, PO Box 2760, Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2760. The Department Secretary will certify the application and forward it to National Headquarters. The National President will sign the Award Certificate and return it to the Unit to be presented to the youth.

NATIONAL

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).

GARLAND M. MURPHY. JR. AWARD: A plaque presented to one Department from each organization of the 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.

EXCELLENCE AWARD: A plaque presented to one of ten Departments from each organization of the 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.

"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, 2010.

Benefactor - \$5,000

Patron - \$2,500

Sponsor - \$1,000

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.

"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

Caretaker - \$500

"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

CHILDREN AND YOUTH RESOURCES

The American Legion
Children & Youth Programs
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
www.legion.org

American Legion
Child Welfare Foundation
www.cwf-inc.org

National Family Week
(November 23-29, 2009)
www.nationalfamilyweek.org

Alliance for Children and Families
11700 West Lake Park Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53224-3099
(414) 359-1040
800-221-3726
Fax: (414) 359-1074
www.alliancel.org

Operation Military Kids
4700 King Street, 4th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22302
(703) 734-6654
www.operationmilitarykids.org

JOSHCO, LLC
PO Box 23815
Knoxville, TN 37933-1815
(865) 675-6064
www.joshandfriends.com

Songs of Love Foundation
PO Box 750809
Forest Hills, NY 11375
(718) 441-4588
Fax: (718) 441-7372
www.songsoflove.org

Youth Hero and Good Deed Form
www.legion-aux.org

National Foster Care Month
www.fostercaremonth.org

Children's Miracle Network
4525 S 2300 South, Suite 202
Salt Lake City, UT 84117
(801) 278-8900
www.cmn.org

Zero to Three: National Center for
Infants, Toddlers, and Families
2000 M St. NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 638-1144
www.zerotothree.org/military

To access the American Legion Auxiliary National Web site go to www.legion-aux.org. Click on Current Members, then Programs, then Children & Youth.