

Children and Youth Committee, February 2024

Hello everyone! As Vickie's co-chair for Children and Youth, it is my turn to give you an update.

It's been an exciting year already as we race to earn donations for the Child Welfare Foundation.

Have you donated your dollar yet? We're still waiting to see which unit will have 100% of their members contribute first. Once your Unit has collected the donations you can find the donation form on the Department website. Send the completed form with a check made out to the Dept of Washington ALA to the Department Secretary Sabrina. All funds go to the Child Welfare Foundation. We would love to see 100% participation from the Department of Washington.

We really want to see pictures and hear from the units about what they are doing. It only takes a minute to send a quick email or text. Here's what we learned about some of our units this month.

Unit 111 in Deep River is hosting a fundraiser for a child in their community that has been having complications with Type 1 diabetes. This disease can take a toll on not just the person who has it but their whole family. The funds they raise will be such a blessing!

Unit 122 in Washougal held a free community Thanksgiving Feast in memory of their past Commander, Jack Jones. Sponsored 8 Festival of the Trees which were decorated to the max and loaded with gifts during the Christmas season. They also have an annual rummage sale to fundraise and a Christmas Bazaar.

Unit 137 in Carson has a Junior member, Brooke Callahan, who plans an annual Christmas party/movie night complete with a theme, hot cocoa bar, cookie decorating, crafts and more. She is also collecting donations to take to Santa's Castle throughout the year because she wants everyone to feel the magic and love that Christmas brings. The unit also comes together every other month to provide food boxes to the community and participates in local school functions.

Unit 175 in Castle Rock participated in multiple parades, held a booth at the Fair, contributed to Operation Home Front School Supplies, held a Halloween event, provided Thanksgiving Baskets to those in need, as well as Christmas gifts for kids in the community.

Unit 14 made at least 100 gift bags for local 1<sup>st</sup> graders, and they hold a rummage sale twice a year to fundraise.

Unit 44 in Ridgefield volunteers at a local church's Food and Clothing Pantry.

Unit 155 in Longview did food baskets for both Thanksgiving and Christmas, serving over 100 with donations totaling approximately \$3500. They also hosted a breakfast with Santa where each child got breakfast, a picture with Santa, and a gift. 45 children participated in that event, and I bet they'll have even more if they do it again next year!

Unit 25 in Kelso does food boxes for the community every month.

Thank you to everyone for supporting Children and Youth! They are our future, and they already support us in many ways. Don't forget to share what you're doing with us!

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