

The unit and Legion family members from Arizona are diligent, reliable, dedicated, and creative, However, many have under reported or have not sent in their year in reports for their Children And Youth programs. The numbers and activities, reported include fundraising for all aspects of the Children and Youth Programs. Units donated money, needed items, time, they cooked, cleaned, hugged, and brought bright smiles, and joy to military and community kids. There were many ways to volunteer some helped high school juniors with Girls State, some collected, counted, packed, and delivered Back to School Supplies. There held holiday fundraiser's and holiday parties for the children, Events for Gold and Blue Star families, Care Closets – for kids that need a little extra help, many adopted needy families for the holidays, some legion families toured group homes, foster care facilities, Veterans homes. Some units signed and delivered cards to veterans. These are but a few of the activities and events that were planned and executed in our state.

Collectively units contributed \$6,395.53 to the American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation. The ALCWF was promoted by educating and having open discussions with members at monthly unit meetings and district meetings. We also acknowledged the name change from Welfare to Well-Being. Hopefully it will be changed on all of our programs and forms.

How members celebrated April - Children & Youth Month:

Most members wore purple shirts on April 15th which is Military Kids Day. Units announced in their monthly meetings, posted on social media, created flyers and posters. Some set up tables to bring awareness of April 15th Military Kids Day with Purple-Up T-Shirts - Kids are Hero's too.

Honored Veterans and Families:

Parties were held for children; Halloween with candy, games, and spooky houses, Christmas with gifts and photos, train rides, and of course Santa. Held Easter parties, egg hunts. A few units adopted families at the holiday to improve their situations with food, gifts, and love. Many units helped their Post and Legionnaires with the Veteran's Day Events. Some units hold flag retirements and etiquette. Cards were handmade and sent to veterans.

Giving and donating:

Many Back-to-School Supplies and Backpacks were donated to all ages of students. Care Closet for instant easy to eat food, Pop-up Prom Store for donated evening wear and accessories for high school boys and girls, Care Closet for hygiene items for special needs students to be used for their Life Training Skills. Some toured and donated to a Group Home for foster youth. Some units collected socks and underwear for foster youth in their community. Showing appreciation for our Youth: Many units show appreciation for JROTC with Scholarship's, medals, and certificates.

Fund Raising:

Units held events for fund raising such as Sweetheart dinners, Luau, New Year's Eve Dance, bar bingo, 4th of July BBQ, and Past President's Parley Dinner for Nurses Scholarships.

Finally, the impact and results from the Units combined with their Legion Families raised a Combined total \$61,694.99 to go towards the Children and Youth Program, 3,411 kids were educated, challenged, fed, assisted, honored, entertained, clothed, awarded, or touched in some way by auxiliary volunteers who kindly donated 5,046 precious hours that have been reported by American Legion Auxiliary volunteers. Those who have volunteered anonymously are held in high esteem and are very much appreciated by the officers they have worked with during the course of this year.

Service, Not Self is exemplified by many units and legion family members throughout the Department of Arizona.

For God and Country, In Service Not Self,

Barbara Whitney

Department of Arizona

Children and Youth Chairman

Word Count: 624