

Plan of Action: Children & Youth

Purpose: The purpose of the Children & Youth Committee is to work collaboratively with The American Legion to direct and sponsor programs and services that provide care and protection for our nation's children, especially those of our military and veterans.

District and Unit Chairs: Please share this plan with your members and encourage reporting of any steps taken (send to this Department Chairman) with photos and other details.

1. **Objective:** To recognize and reward the positive actions of today's children and youth by bringing community and peer recognition/affirmation through the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award.

Action Steps

- a. Department will encourage units to monitor local media for deserving youth to receive this award.
- b. Units will submit the award nominations (form on Dept. & National Website, copy included in September Unit Mailing and Information Forum handouts) to Department Secretary. Department Secretary will forward to National.
- c. Units will be encouraged to plan an event to publicly acknowledge the recipient including inviting media and government or public officials to help present the award.
- d. Department will include the number of Youth Hero/Good Deed winners on the annual report form

2. **Objective:** To work with the Department Child Welfare Foundation Chairman to provide direct aid, service and information about sources for children of veterans. To assist Department Headquarters in tracking individual donations to the Child Welfare Foundation in order to have a cumulative Auxiliary impact number for CWF donations.

Action Steps

- a. To encourage units to work with Post Children & Youth Chairmen to maximize efforts to assist families
- b. To work with the Department CWF Chairman to educate members and the public about the needs of CWF

- c. To encourage units to use the Department donations check off sheet when making contributions to CWF. To encourage individuals to designate their affiliation and unit number and send through Department Auxiliary Headquarters (they will send it on to National) when making memorial donations to CWF.

3. **Objective:** To increase the number of Units that report contributions and involvement in Children and Youth programs to 50% or greater per district.

Action Steps

- a. Department Chair will communicate with Districts and Units via emails, phone calls, letters, unit mailings, articles in the *Wisconsin*, and handouts at Fall Forum (Unit report forms will be included as well as including Children and Youth Programs on the Department Donation Check-off sheet. Special Olympics donations will be tallied for award purposes.)
- b. Department Chair will attend the National Children and Youth Conference and attempt to coordinate efforts as an American Legion Family in the Department of Wisconsin.
- C.** Department Chair will encourage participation in C & Y programs and stress the importance of reporting all donations and volunteer hours. (Department Chair will offer incentives to districts for greatest % of units reporting participation in Children & Youth activities.)

Programs and Activities

1. Department President's Special Project:: Special Olympics

President Gayle Janson has chosen the Special Olympics as her project for the year. The monies donated and volunteer activities reported will be highlighted in this program for the 2009-2010 year. Units are encouraged to continue projects that have been successful for them but are also asked to try to find a way to participate in this special project. Awareness promotion is the first step. There will be a speaker at the Informational Forum to explain how easy it is to become involved as a unit or as individuals.

2. April is Children & Youth Month

During this time, The American Legion Family emphasizes their commitment to our nation's children. Watch for brochures and reminders of ways to participate.

3. Youth Hero Award/Good Deed Award

An award for youth, under the age of 18, who perform a heroic act of physical valor is available. Youth who are great examples of community service can be nominated for the Good Deed Award. Nominations are to be completed at the unit level and mailed to the Department Secretary, who certifies and mails the application to National Headquarters. (No application should be mailed directly to National.) The National President will sign the Award Certificate and it will be returned to the unit to be presented on behalf of the unit and the national organization. Dept. C&Y Chairman will be notified of the award.

4. Child Welfare Foundation

This program will be under the direction of the Department Child Welfare Foundation Chairman. The C&Y chairman will work together with CWF chairman to promote donations, reporting, and awareness of this partnership with the American Legion, Sons of the Legion, and Eight and Forty.

Though created by The American Legion, the CWF is a separate 501© 3 corporation. The foremost philanthropic priority is to provide other nonprofit organizations with means to educate the public about the special needs of children across this nation. Any nonprofit organization with focusing on needs of children is eligible to apply for these grants.

Links to Children & Youth A to Z

- a. [Children's Miracle Network](#)
- b. [Josh Co, LLC](#)
- c. [The American Legion Children & Youth Programs](#)
- d. [National Foster Care Month](#)
- e. [Songs of Love Foundation](#)
- f. [Operation Military Kids](#)
- g. [National Family Week](#)
- h. [Alliance for Children and Families](#)
- i. [Zero to Three: National Center for Infants](#)
- j. [Special Olympics](#)
- k. [Kids Voting](#)
- l. [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#)
- m. [Children's Safety Network](#)
- n. [Children's Safety Network – Injury Prevention: The Basics](#)
- o. [radKids: Children's Safety Education](#)
- p. [Protect your Children](#)
- q. [Stranger Safety](#)

Joan Chwala, Children & Youth Chairman
Department of Wisconsin 2009-2010

- r. [Children Safety](#)
- s. [Bike Safety](#)
- t. [Teach Kids Fire Safety](#)
- u. [Fire Safety Plans](#)
- v. [How to Make a Fire Safety Plan](#)
- w. [Playground Safety](#)
- x. [Firearms Safety Eddie Eagle Safety Program](#)
- y. [Babysitter Guide](#)
- z. [Children's Toys Selection Guide](#)

Children & Youth Chairmen

1. Joan Chwala, Department of Wisconsin Chairman
W13567 CTH M, Gilman, WI 54433
Email ctr68552@centurytel.net or phone 715-668-5661

2. Your District Americanism Chairman (see District President for Contact
Info)

3. Paulette Anderson/Central Division Chairman
HC 60 Box 17
New Martinsville, WV 26155-9731
Email anderp48@verizon.net or phone 304-455-4260

4. Peggy Thomas/National Chairman
(contact only if other resources fail to answer your questions)
Email pthomas8n40@comcast.net