

Extra C&Y Info...

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation



In the years after The American Legion's founding, members realized that neglect of family and child welfare problems affected disabled veterans' rehabilitation. Following a year of study, the organization adopted the American Legion Child Welfare program in 1924.

Established a year later, in 1925, the American Legion National Child Welfare Division established the "Whole Child plan, stating that the child of every Veteran "should have a home, health, education, character, and opportunity." The three principals found in Resolution No. 199 (Fall 1951) titled, "Re-Emphasize Three Major Principals of Child Welfare Programs of The American Legion," are:

***Strengthen the family unit against the forces of a more complex society.** The American Legion recognizes that the optimal environment for children is at home with his or her own parents. Our efforts have always been directed toward keeping family together.

***Extend support to sound organizations and facilities that provide services for children and youth.** The American Legion always acts in a supplementary capacity rather than duplication the efforts of existing agencies.

Maintain a well-rounded program that meets the needs of today's young people. This third principle provides elasticity to address all matters of child health and child welfare and affirms The American Legion's commitment to all children.

While these principles are the heart of the "Whole Child" plan, four methods are the muscle: **Education, Legislation, Material Aid, and Prevention.** The manual is available on The American Legion website: www.legion.org

National Family Week

For more than 45 years, the week of Thanksgiving has been proclaimed National Family Week. A guiding principle of The American Legion's Children & Youth programs is maintaining the integrity of the family. Nov. 24-30 will mark this year's National Family Week where the American Legion Family is encouraged to promote and celebrate healthy families and communities.

Children's Action Teams: Now known as the Child Well-Being Foundation...

One of the best ways to promote CWF is by becoming a Children's Action Team member or **CAT**. The vast majority of donations come from the memberships of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and the Eight and Forty. Encourage contributions on a regular and annual basis.

If all of our local-level organizations committed to issuing a \$25 check annually, those contributions would ensure a steady growth in principal and greatly enhance grant-giving capabilities.

Get the word out via newsletters on all levels. Consider making it a challenge between Units, Counties, Districts, or even Departments. Enlist support from the Commanders and Adjutants for announcements. Set up a display at Posts and events, or organize a fundraiser, such as a raffle or silent auction.

Be on the lookout for children and youth organizations that might need assistance. Fill them in on what CAT is all about. Encourage them to get an application and be sure to mention your name in the correspondence to track applications resulting from your efforts.

Since 1955, the CWF has awarded millions of dollars in grants to support our nation's children and youth. Will you help?

American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation Banner Program

Donate \$1 per member, through May 31st, and receive a banner. The form is available under the C&Y Resources

Coloring Books: America the Beautiful and Halloween coloring books can be purchased from the Legion Flag & Emblem catalog but can also be printed if you prefer.