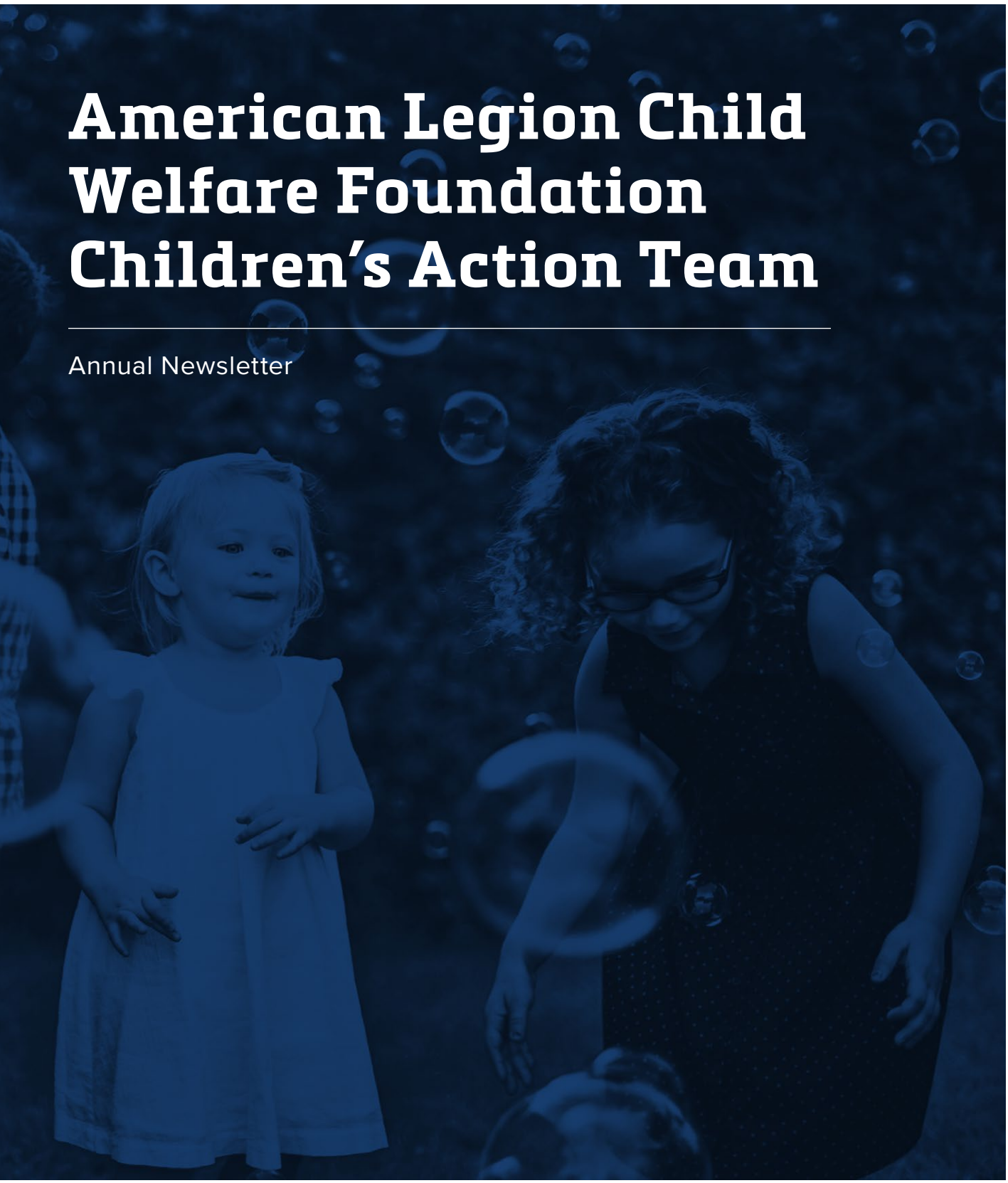
AMERICAN LEGION

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Children's Action Team

Annual Newsletter



legion.org/childwelfare

President's Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), thank you for your interest in learning more about the Foundation. Within this newsletter you will find information that is both informative and useful.

A commitment to help raise awareness and funds on behalf of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is vital to its success. Donations raised each year directly impacts the amount of money and grants the Foundation may award. Those grants help youth-serving nonprofit organizations in their mission of providing information, assistance and opportunities that support the health and well-being of children, including life-saving services. Your CWF awareness and donations can give them knowledge and hope!

One way you can help CWF's mission is by becoming part of our Children's Action Team (CAT) family. The importance and impact you can have as a CAT member for the Foundation cannot be overstated. The mission of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation continues to depend upon the proactive efforts of our Children's Action Team members across the country.

Intrigued to learn more? This newsletter will provide you with detailed information about the CAT program and requirements for becoming a certified CAT member. Also provided is information about the mission and accomplishments of the Child Welfare Foundation.

Remember … this is not just another worthy cause … this is **YOUR CAUSE**. I thank you for all that you have done, and will continue to do, on behalf of our nation's children.

Dennis R. Boland (FL)
President, American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

"A volunteer is a person who believes that people can make a difference … and is willing to prove it." *– author unknown*

What is the Children's Action Team (CAT)?

CAT is an acronym for the Children's Action Team of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. As CATs, you and your associates are representatives of, and advocates for, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation within your department or detachment.

What can you do as a CAT? Many things! One way is by helping promote awareness about the CWF and its mission within your respective organization. If your organization has a newsletter that goes out to your members, put an article in it about the CWF and what you are doing to support it. Do the same thing with your department, detachment and district publications. Or enlist the support of your leadership to make announcements or short presentations at conferences, conventions and workshops. Another idea is to set up a small display at post, district and department meetings.

While attending various functions around your state, also be on the lookout for educating youth-serving nonprofit organizations about the CWF and its mission. Tell them about us, point them toward our website (cwf-inc.org) and encourage them to look into applying for a grant.

Another way to help as a CAT member is to generate donations. The vast majority of CWF donations come from members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and the Eight & Forty. As a CAT member we ask you to encourage individuals, posts, units, squadrons, salons, districts, detachments and departments to make contributions on an annual basis. Think of the impact the Foundation can have on youth-serving nonprofits if all our local level organizations would commit to issuing a $25 check annually to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. This would generate well over $700,000 in contributions each year, ensuring steady growth in our principal and greatly enhancing our grant-giving capabilities.

Other ways to help generate donations is by organizing a fundraising dinner, golf outing or sports tournament with the proceeds going to benefit CWF; create a fun, competitive donation challenge among posts, districts or departments; or find local merchants willing to donate merchandise and hold a raffle or silent auction. In raising funds, the only limitation you have is your imagination!

If you do receive corporate or merchant contributions, please send a note to American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Or email us at CWFadministrator@legion.org with the name of the company or business, the name of the individual that made the contribution, the amount, and their mailing address. You will receive credit for the donation, and we will be happy to make sure the company also receives an appropriate thank you and/or certificate from the CWF Board.

Ready to become a CAT member? If you are a member in good standing with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion or Eight & Forty First, you may request a CAT membership application by contacting the CWF office at The American Legion National Headquarters by phone at (317) 630-1203, by email at CWFadministrator@legion.org, or by writing to us at American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Those returning an application to the CWF office at the national organization will then receive a written exam covering basic CWF information to complete and return to the CWF office. The exam reinforces your understanding of how and why the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was created, as well as its purpose.

To demonstrate commitment in becoming a certified CAT member, the CWF Board asks if each applicant would remit a $25 donation to the Child Welfare Foundation along with their completed exam. By successfully passing the exam and giving a voluntary donation gives one pride in being a duly certified CAT member. Newly certified CAT members will receive a welcome aboard letter, a CAT certificate and card, and a lapel pin.

To keep your CAT membership current, simply request a renewal form each year from the CWF administrator and return it with a $25 donation. Members renewing receive a letter, CAT certificate and card, and another lapel pin.

With the dedicated support of our CAT members, the CWF has been able to award over $19 million in grants since 1954. It is our sincere wish that through your dedication and efforts that the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation will become a familiar name within your department or detachment and will be supported by their members on an annual basis.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation – Celebrating 68 Years of Service

In 1952, then American Legion Department of Arkansas Commander Dr. Garland D. Murphy Jr., came forward with an offer to provide a valuable contribution to The American Legion, if there was some way his gift could be used solely for children. After much study and discussion, the idea of a foundation was adopted.

On Oct. 15, 1953, the National Executive Committee of The American Legion approved the establishment of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. And on July 9, 1954, the CWF was duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana.

The CWF was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country. When founded, the CWF was the only national organization of its kind devoted exclusively to programs involving young people. It's philosophy:

"Dedicated to the Betterment of All Children"

Fast Facts about The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

- The CWF was duly incorporated on July 9, 1954.
- Although a separate corporation from The American Legion, the CWF Board of Directors are all Legionnaires comprised of members from the National Executive Committee, the Finance Commission, and the Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth.
- The CWF was formed to provide assistance to youth-serving nonprofit organizations who educate about the need for the care and welfare of our nation's children.
- In 1955, the CWF awarded its first three grants totaling $12,500 to the Delinquency Control Institute, the National Association for Retarded Children, and the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.
- To date the CWF has awarded over $19 million dollars to assist the children of this country.
- Tax-deductible contributions may be made directly to the CWF, with both the individual contributor and the department or detachment also receiving credit.
- The American Legion generously takes care of CWF's overhead costs, so all donations are directed into the principal of Trust Fund.

Memorials & Tributes

A gift to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is a wonderful way to honor the memory of a departed loved one or recognize someone who has made a difference in your life. It may also be a way to celebrate someone on special occasions, such as birthdays, retirements, anniversaries or holidays. What a gratifying way for individuals, organizations, businesses and groups to honor someone while supporting the mission of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

When a memorial or tribute is received, the CWF then sends a memorial or tribute card to the next of kin or the honoree as designated by the donor. Every gift is tax deductible and the also donor receives a letter of acknowledgment and appreciation for their gift.

When $100 in contributions have accumulated in the name of a deceased individual, their next of kin will receive a beautiful gold-bordered certificate indicating that contributions had been made to the Foundation in the name of their loved one. When $300 or more has been received in the name of the deceased, the family will be presented with a memorial plaque.

CWF Fundraising Tools

- Contribution envelopes
- Grant guidelines
- Canisters
- Brochures
- Award information

All of the above items are available to you at no cost. Just let us know what you need and when, and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

The CWF Board of Directors and the staff deeply appreciate your efforts. Please contact us anytime by email at CWFadministrator@legion.org, by phone at (317) 630-1203, or by mail at American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. We will do our utmost to provide timely assistance and advice, as required.

Foundation Awards

U.S. “Udie” Grant Legacy Award

Must be the top department nationally, based on combined total contributions of The American Legion, Auxiliary, Eight & Forty and SAL during a contribution year (June 1 – May 31).

Garland D. Murphy, Jr. Award

Must be the most active department in the nation (based on actual contributions received during a contribution year). One department from The American Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and 8 & 40 is recognized annually.

Excellence Award

Must be one of 10 departments with the highest per capita contribution average for the contribution year within your organization.

Meritorious Achievement Award

Must be the top department nationally in each organization (American Legion, Auxiliary, Eight & Forty and SAL) experiencing the highest increase in per capita giving in a contribution year.

"Heritage Circle" Gift Club

Awarded to departments (American Legion, Auxiliary, Eight & Forty and SAL) for their cumulative donations made during the contribution year.

"Children First" Gift Club

Awarded to organization (post, unit, salon and squadron) for their cumulative donations made during the contribution year.

> **"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove ... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."**
>
> **Forest E. Witcraft (1894-1967)**
> **Teacher, Scholar**

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Grant Recipients for 2022

In its 67th year, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation awarded 17 grants totaling $639,328 to 14 nonprofits. The recipients were selected during the annual meeting of the CWF board of directors that met in Indianapolis on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021. These grants have been awarded to support youth-serving projects that seek to enhance the lives of children by addressing their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs.

The following is a brief summary of the grants awarded for 2022.

Adoption Exchange Association of Linthicum, Md., was awarded $22,780 for its project, "Every Child Deserves a Family." This grant will provide a website to share useful information with other agencies to facilitate adoptions.

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters of Indianapolis was awarded $45,500 for its project, "American Legion Auxiliary National Youth Programs Scholarships." This grant will provide academic scholarships in the following areas: American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation, the Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship, the Spirit of Youth Scholarship, the Honorary National Junior Division Vice President Scholarship, and the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Eight and Forty support this grant.

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters of Indianapolis was awarded $3,390 for its project, "American Legion Children and Youth Project." The grant seeks to instill American Legion Family values in youth while teaching them about the poppy and safety. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Eight and Forty support this grant.

Childhood Leukemia Foundation of Brick, N.J., was awarded $29,700 for its project, "Hope Binders." This project will offer 12 sections of templates and resources to help families begin to feel a degree of control over their circumstances. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation of Pittsburgh was awarded $30,000 for its project, "Teach Higher for the Starz(l): Next Gen Online Resources for Child Liver Transplant Patients and their Families." This grant seeks to create more patient and family tool kits, transplant care guides and educational videos for pediatric transplant patients that will help guide and support the patient and their family through their transplant journey. The Eight and Forty support this grant.

Cornelia de Lange Syndrome of Avon, Conn., was awarded $26,500 for its project, "Reaching out: Resources for Parents with Children with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome." This project seeks to print and distribute valuable resources and information that is relevant to parents and caregivers who have children with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Chicago was awarded $25,000 for its project, "Mood Crew-Clinician Outreach." This project seeks to create and distribute materials that will help parents, caregivers and health-care professionals recognize the signs when their loved one is experiencing mental health issues.

First Candle of New Canaan, Conn., was awarded $34,965 for its project, "Education Campaign to Increase Safe Infant Sleep Practices." This project seeks to create an educational campaign with downloadable resources that teach parents and caregivers the dangers of infants sleeping in adult beds.

Kids in Danger of Chicago was awarded $5,000 for its project, "Safe from the Start." This project seeks to create printed materials with information and resources for parents and caregivers about items that are potential dangers in a home.

National Braille Press of Boston was awarded $19,000 for its project, "ReadBooks! Because Braille Matters." This grant will fund the creation of a U.S. tactile map so that visually impaired children can learn about geography and the United States. And it will fund a braille book for a visually impaired child. The Eight and Forty support this grant.

Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky of Lexington, Ky., was awarded $3,193 for its project, "Project Outreach: Supporting Military Families." This project will fund the printing and distribution of materials regarding child sexual abuse prevention.

Songs of Love Foundation of Forest Hills, N.Y., was awarded $25,000 for its project, "Songs of Love Outreach." This grant will fund the printing and distribution of profile forms and song request forms that will help create personalized songs for seriously ill children up to the age of 21 with no charge to them. This grant will also update and maintain the website which provides detailed information on how to request a song.

The American Legion National Headquarters of Indianapolis was awarded $54,500 for its project, "2022 American Legion National Youth Programs Scholarships." This grant will provide academic scholarships to the following youth programs of The American Legion: Boys Nation, Junior Shooting Sports, Baseball and Eagle Scout of the Year. The Sons of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Eight and Forty support this grant.

The American Legion National Headquarters of Indianapolis was awarded $203,500 for its program, "The American Legion National Oratorical Contest for 2022." This grant will provide scholarships for youth competing in the 2022 American Legion National Oratorical Contest. The American Legion Auxiliary supports this grant.

The American Legion National Headquarters of Indianapolis was awarded $75,000 for its program, "The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance Program-2022." This grant will provide temporary financial assistance to the minor child(ren) in the home of an eligible veteran or military servicemember maintain shelter, food, utilities and clothing. The American Legion Auxiliary support this grant.

The National Children's Cancer Society of Saint Louis was awarded $25,000 for its project, "Transportation Assistance Fund." This project will update and disseminate promotional materials promoting the Transportation Assistance Fund, ensuring children with cancer have access to life-saving treatment. The Sons of The American Legion supports this grant.

Tourette Association of America of Bayside, N.Y., was awarded $11,300 for its project, "Newly Diagnosed Backpack Program." This grant will provide newly diagnosed children with Tourette Syndrome a backpack containing vital information and resources guide for children and parents so they can better understand their diagnosis.