

## Children and Youth

### Mid-Year Report

The core principles of the Children and Youth Program emphasize protecting, caring for and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans and military families. However, our outreach needs to assist any child whose health or welfare is in question.

Children and Youth received mid-year reports from 5% of the total auxiliary units in North Carolina. The committee was impressed with the many creative ways our reporting units support the core principles, which we will share with you.

Community involvement in programs and activities include: Parks and Recreation ribbon cutting at a pool park, ground breaking for a new elementary school, Special Olympics, Polar Plunge, Walk for MS, safety programs with local police, teddy bears for highway patrolmen to hand out to children in bad/scary situations, flags handed out to children at community fairs, can goods and nonperishables given to Family Assistance, meals to a homeless shelter and Toys For Tots. One unit participated in Kids Matter Literacy at the Boys and Girls Club. Three units put on or individuals from units volunteered time for Trunk or Treat activities: handing out safety information, gifts, candy, prepared and served food to children and their families. Two units reported having a Christmas party and one unit had a Christmas Parade with youth involvement to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Auxiliary.

Our Units have also been busy within their local schools. In September one unit begins the year with a Buddy Breakfast encouraging children to be a buddy to a child who needs one. Two units have given to the Backpacks Program which provides food for needy children over week-ends. One unit provides lunches for children and another unit provides coats based on need. One unit provided gift bags to military children while another unit distributed "I Am A Hero 2" stickers to 3 schools. During Christmas another provided Angel Tree gifts to military children. Safety programs are also given for summer activities, bike safety, and Halloween. An author visit was set-up for a 4<sup>th</sup> grade class to do a cold reading, 4 scenes of a play about bullying. One Unit had children make cards for veterans in a PTSD unit while another unit donated books on PTSD to the school library.

With only 5% of our state units reporting our total hours reported are 106.5, the number of children served 1,872 and the cost \$1,445.

Nationally, 70 Good Deed Awards and only 17 Youth Hero Awards have been given out. In North Carolina we gave out 1 Good Deed Award and 0 Youth Hero Awards. For this 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, National would like to have 100 of each award given out.

Children and Youth did not receive any applications for the first 2 reimbursement grants due by January 15<sup>th</sup>. With Children and Youth Month coming up in April you may want to start planning now because the deadline for the next two \$500 reimbursement grants is April 20<sup>th</sup> 2020.

End of the year reports are due April 15<sup>th</sup>. We can do far better than a 5% response.

-Joan Masters