



THE AMERICAN LEGION

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS



AMERICANISM COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS



Today's American Legion is as focused on the welfare of our country's children and the issues facing young people as it has ever been. The structure of this organization is forever supported by the balance that our founding architects envisioned. Therefore, the Children & Youth pillar and its programs remain committed to serving the nation's youth.

Members of The American Legion Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth have been entrusted with the responsibility of upholding this pillar – the one that braces our nation's veterans by caring for their children, and our nation's children.

The purpose of the committee is to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs and activities designed to:

- Assure care and protection for the children of veterans.
- Improve conditions for all children and youth, with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home.
- Prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible.
- Maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs.

FAMILY EMPHASIS



The family is the cornerstone of American society; however, modern society places demands on the family that didn't exist in years past. These challenges can chip away at family strength and unity. The family-emphasis programs of The American Legion's Committee on Children & Youth aim to promote the importance of family strength and integrity.

FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

The American Legion recognizes that families of active-duty and deployed military personnel face unique difficulties and hardships. With the help of the Family Support Network, these families do not have to shoulder this burden alone. They can connect with American Legion Family members by requesting assistance through the nationwide toll-free number or electronic application. Legionnaires at the post level then provide assistance such as performing minor household chores and repairs, completing a Temporary Financial Assistance application and connecting the family with local programs.

Family Support Network

1-800-504-4098

Information and resources

legion.org/familysupport

Publications

Family Support Network
Brochure (24-010)





Temporary Financial Assistance



Publications

Temporary Financial Assistance
Brochure (24-008)

TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Since 1919, The American Legion has been committed to the health and welfare of our nation's veterans and their families. Born out of this desire to serve, The American Legion established a form of direct aid to veterans' children in 1925: Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA). This landmark program continues to be unique in the field of social work today.

Through TFA, an American Legion post can call upon the national organization for cash assistance to help maintain the basic needs of children of active-duty servicemembers or American Legion members. Non-repayable grants are awarded to eligible families with a child in need when all other resources have been exhausted.

CHILD SAFETY

The American Legion's Committee on Children & Youth believes that child safety is everyone's concern. Prevention through education remains the best way to keep children safe. To promote child safety, The American Legion publishes several useful brochures to educate children and parents, and supports numerous national initiatives to keep children safe.

GATEWAY DRUGS

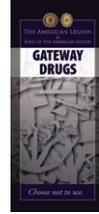
Alcohol, tobacco, inhalants and marijuana are often readily available and considered to be an entry point to a life of drug dependency and delinquency. They are called “gateway” drugs because they often lead to drug abuse, addiction, and use of other drugs such as heroin, cocaine and LSD. The commission asks that all members of the American Legion Family educate parents and children in their communities about the dangers of gateway drugs.

WARNING SIGNS

The Committee on Children & Youth recognizes the serious yet often overlooked problem that continues to plague our nation's youth: suicide. Suicide is a tragic and senseless act of desperation. While it can be difficult and unpleasant to talk about suicide, it is important to communicate effectively about the subject, know the facts, dispel misconceptions and learn the warning signs of youth suicide.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

As long as Halloween activities are sponsored and promoted in our communities by duly appointed and elected officials, the Committee on Children & Youth believes children and parents should know how to make this observance as safe as possible. This publication continues to be one of our most popular.



Gateway Drugs Publications

Gateway Drugs Brochure
(24-006)



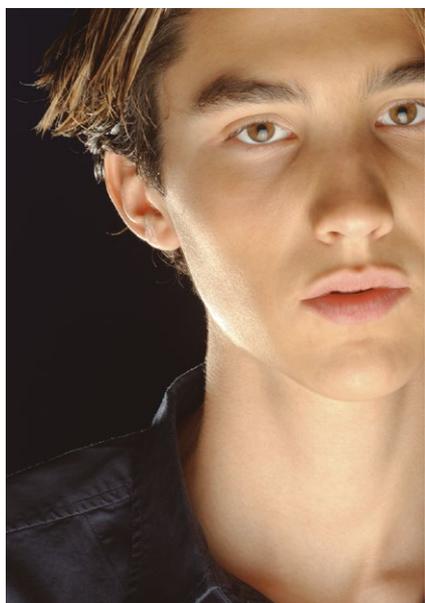
Warning Signs Assistance Publications

Warning Signs of Youth Suicide
Brochure (24-005)



Halloween Safety Publications

Halloween a Fun and Safe Night
Brochure (24-012)



MISSING CHILDREN

The American Legion encourages posts to provide or assist in making available child-identification activities to give parents a means of providing this information to authorities should need arise. In addition, all levels of the organization are encouraged to increase public awareness of child victimization and its detrimental effects on children and youth, and to cooperate with credible organizations and agencies that seek to locate missing children in their states and communities.

THE AMERICAN LEGION CHILDREN'S CHARITIES



AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, is “dedicated to the betterment of all children.”

Its mission and foremost philanthropic priority is to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth by aiding progress in the field of child welfare through dissemination of knowledge about research, studies, surveys, projects or by supporting programs and activities benefiting the welfare of children and youth.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation accomplishes these goals each year by awarding grants to nonprofit youth-serving organizations for disseminating information that conforms to the foundation’s purpose. Since 1954, more than \$17 million has been granted to help deserving organizations produce and distribute current and valuable information.

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

(317) 630-1203

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 1055

Indianapolis, IN 46206

Website

cwf-inc.org



Publications

Child Welfare Foundation Brochure (25-005)

To donate

legion.org/donate



American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation

(317) 630-1203

American Legion Veterans &
Children Foundation
c/o The American Legion
National Headquarters
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

To donate

legion.org/donate



Publications

Veterans & Children Foundation
Brochure (11-001)

AMERICAN LEGION VETERANS AND CHILDREN FOUNDATION

After World War I, veterans, widows and children continued to struggle to return to a normal life. The American Legion, aware of the grave responsibilities entrusted to them by those who had served, took action. In 1924, newly elected American Legion National Commander James A. Drain undertook a massive fundraising challenge. His goal was \$5 million – equivalent to \$71 million in today's dollars. The purpose was twofold: to fund service officer training and provide free assistance for disabled veterans and to extend a financial safety net for needy military and veteran families with children. The American Legion Endowment Fund was born of this twofold purpose. Today, it has a new name illustrative of the timeless assistance it has provided through the generations – The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation.

Since its inception, the fund has provided over \$30 million in assistance to veterans, members of the U.S. armed forces and their families.



CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH

Celebrated as “Children & Youth Month” since 1938, April is the perfect time of year for Legionnaires to demonstrate that the American Legion Family is committed to its community, and especially its children.

Posts can host a child- or youth-themed community event, invite a subject-matter expert to present at a meeting, collaborate on a project with a local school, or any number of other activities.

Children represent the future of our nation. It is up to us to equip them with knowledge, leadership skills and a commitment to service that they will use as productive adult citizens of the United States.



Children & Youth Month

Publications

April is Children & Youth Month



THE AMERICAN LEGION

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To become a member of The American Legion, visit **legion.org/join**.
To contribute to one of The American Legion's programs that helps veterans,
youths and others, visit **legion.org/donate**.