

Children & Youth
Book of Reports
2024 – 2025
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona

Daphne Coleman, Chairman
11355 E Jupiter Drive
Apache Junction, AZ 85120

The unit and legion family members from Arizona are diligent, reliable, dedicated, and creative, however, they have under reported or have not reported to this Chairman. The numbers and activities that were reported include fundraising for all aspects of the Children and Youth Program. Units donated money, needed items, time, they cooked, hugged, and brought smiles and joy to military and community kids. There were many ways to volunteer some helped high school juniors with Girls State, some collected, counted, packed, and delivered Back to School Supplies. There were holiday fundraisers and holiday parties for the children, Breakfast events for Gold and Blue Star families, Care Closet – for kids that need a little extra help, some adopted needy families for the holidays, some legion families toured group homes, foster care facilities, and then there were those that attended a Readiness event at a local National Guard Base. These are but a few of the activities and events that were planned and executed in our state.

Collectively units contributed \$1,050 to the American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation. The ALCWF was promoted by educating and having open discussions with members at monthly unit meetings and district meetings. We also acknowledged the name change from Welfare to Well-Being.

How members celebrated April - Children & Youth Month:

Most members wore purple shirts on April 15th which is Military Kids Day. Units announced in their monthly meetings, posted on social media, created flyers and posters. Some set up tables to bring awareness of April 15th Active Military Kids Day with Purple-Up T-Shirts - Kids are Heroes too.

Honored Veterans and Families:

One unit planned a Baby Shower for an expectant mother at Luke Air Force Base. They raised funds, bought gifts, and showered the new mom with love and supplies. Parties were held for

children; Halloween with candy, games, and spooky houses, Christmas with gifts and photos, Easter Baskets and stuffed eggs, and one unit has the popular Polar Express “train” where photos were taken with Santa. A few units adopted families at the holiday to improve their situations with food, gifts, and love. Many units helped their Post and Legionnaires with the Veteran’s Day Events. Some units had educational functions at schools where the student council asked a panel of Veterans questions. A demonstration of the 13 Folds was given for students. Some units hold flag retirements and etiquette. One local Brownie Troop assisted with a 9-11 memorial and observed POW/MIA table. On a tragic note, suicide entered the ranks of our military at Luke Air Force Base. Unit 62 reached out to “Be The One” to support the 8-month pregnant widow and her 10-year-old daughter. The family was showered with diapers, various sizes of clothing, and needed items including love gifts for the daughter.

Giving and donating:

Many Back-to-School Supplies and Backpacks were donated to all ages of students.

Care Closet for instant easy to eat food, Pop-up Prom Store for donated evening wear and accessories for men and women, Care Closet for hygiene items for special needs students to be used for their Life Training Skills. Some toured and donated to a Group Home for “aged out” youth and some went to an independent foster home facility Sunshine Acres, where they do not “age out” youth.

Showing appreciation for our Youth:

One unit has developed a Veteran Rock Painting Project, where younger students paint rocks that they may keep or donate to a veteran. Many units show appreciation for JROTC with scholarships, medals, and certificates.

Fund Raising:

Units held events for fund raising such as Octoberfest, Luau, New Year's Eve Dance, Grease Tea Party, 4th of July BBQ, and Past President's Parley Dinner for Nurses Scholarships was a Movie Themed night costume dinner.

Finally, the impact and results from the Units combined with their Legion Families raised a combined \$46,815 to go towards the Children and Youth Program, 4,136 kids were educated, challenged, fed, assisted, honored, entertained, clothed, awarded, or touched in some way by volunteers who kindly donated 7,901 precious hours, by many more than the modest 155 reported volunteers. Those who have volunteered anonymously are held in high esteem and are very much appreciated by the officers they have worked with over the course of this year. Service, Not Self is exemplified by many units and legion family members throughout the Department of Arizona.