No Boxes Allowed

Our story of Hope, Action and Keeping our eye on the Mission

WARNING!!!!
MANAGING YOUR EXPECTATIONS

1. Greek
   Slight DNA disadvantage, no use of hands

2. Army
   Besides learning to curse, understand what mission driven means.

3. Woman
   Tackle the world’s perceptions

Elephant in the room - Convicted - Strong
The Perfect Storm
Today’s Goal (for me): Remember the reason \textbf{FOR} and need \textbf{OF} the Fourth Pillar. How Wisconsin created & is growing opportunity
The Fourth Pillar is **NOT**

- AMERICANISM
- BOY'S STATE
- ORATORICAL
- JR. SHOOTING SPORTS
- SEEING KIDS ON VETERAN'S DAY

**OR**

- NATIONAL SECURITY
- V & A
- NATIONAL SECURITY
The Fourth Pillar is the emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual well-being of the youth and the stability of the family. It is its own pillar.
How Perceived Barriers create Opportunity
Also know as the “all the more” response and how we handled it in the Department/State of Wisconsin

Survey says:

1. School Districts won't let us in
2. Our members are old & at their capacity
3. We do Oratorical, Boys State, Trunk or Treat
4. Our Veterans believe money should go for the veterans, not kids
#1 - SCHOOL DISTRICTS -

ALL THE MORE REASON TO BE VISIBLE/ACTIVE/RELEVANT - TO
BOOST YOU BEING SEEN AS A PARTNER OF THE COMMUNITY AND
FAMILIES YOU WISH TO ATTRACT:

WI - NATIONAL GUARD, UW - MADISON - COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH

OUR VERY OWN PILLARS HAVE FAMILIES - SO DO YOU!

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE EVERYWHERE
#2 - AGE/CAPACITY

Justified reason.
All the more reason for our C&Y leadership to create opportunities that will empower our Legion Family to become more - visible/active/relevant

Small Ways = Big Benefits

KISS
Dog & Pony Show
Take a component of a brochure & build on that

Partner with others

Be Willing to Work together

Create Squadrons and build up JR Auxiliary to have the manpower
C&Y is Not a Program
IT IS IT’S OWN PILLAR

C&Y Committee in the Dept of Wisconsin
Had made a commitment to educating our Legion Family.
Too many miss out on opportunities to be seen as - active/ visible/relevant.
What put us on the map? TO GET TO:

28,000 #bandsonhands4hope in one Commander year,

3,000 and growing Roc-kit Kindness Project Rocks & Kards in one Commander year.

Hundreds of young people and families out in our communities, at festivals, fairs, school and special events?

THE YOUTH, OUR PARTNERSHIPS IN THE COMMUNITY, AND THE WILLINGNESS OF SOME AMAZING LEADERS AND MEMBERS TO COME TOGETHER TO GROW THE MISSION.
OUR POSITIVE IMPACT PARTNERS
LET’S LOOK AT WHO WE ARE TALKING ABOUT
#4 OUR YOUNG COLLEGE VETERANS, CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN OF VIETNAM TO PRESENT

- Gulf War 1990
  34 yr olds born

- IRAQ 2003
  College students

- 2019 2023
  COLLEGE VETERAN STUDENT -

WHO IS COUNTING THE THEM?

- AFGHANISTAN
  2001
  College students

- 2013
  10 YR OLDS

#4
FORGET OUTSIDE THE BOX!!!!!

No Boxes Allowed
Do you know what’s happening in your state?

In Wisconsin, 2021 DHS reported that since COVID 19, Anxiety Disorder has increased over 70% in young people Aged THREE years old and up!

49% of our youth struggle with mental health issues that are not being addressed.*

There is no ONE fix

Let's teach them how to help one another!

Put “BandsonHands4Hope”

learn more at our FB page

BetheOne4ouryouth

*2023 WI DHS report
# Kindness is Kool - Roc-kit Kindness Project

Using a rock to help bring down the Goliath related to the adversities Related to Bullying - Self Harm - Suicide

Whether it is painting a rock, making out a card, sharing a band or banding with a dog, each of our programs provide opportunities of positive intent, non-verbal expression, mindfulness and simple acts of kindness to help keep those around us connected.

Research overwhelmingly proves that a simple act of kindness has a tremendous positive impact on our mental, emotional, AND physical well being.

Schools, youth groups, community & Legion Auxiliary/family painted 1,200 Kindness Rocks in our 1st Commander year.

Without donations, the cost of the program was over $1,500.

Still unsupported the program has distributed over 850 Kindness Rocks since July. With over 400 Kindness Kards since August.
NEW 2023 DATA REPORT

BREAKING NEWS

SUICIDE IS THE NOW THE #2 CAUSE OF DEATH OF 11 YR-34 YR OLDS ACROSS OUR NATION. AN OVER 4% RISE.

FOUR TIMES AS MANY ACTIVE DUTY AND POST 9/11 VETERANS HAVE DIED OF SUICIDE THAN IN COMBAT.
Why do I care? Why isn’t everyone?

22 veterans complete suicide per day * not debating the 17 vs 22

132 suicides completed per day of young people 10-34 yr

Of those 20 per day are 10-24 yr old young people  *THINK how old is the average newly discharged veteran that goes to college?

Does NOT account for accidental deaths resulting from single car accidents or arising from cutting/self-harm
A DIFFICULT TRUTH!

We cannot talk about the 22 Veterans we lose daily to suicide;

And ignore the fact that their children are at a 75% greater risk for the same fate without intervention!

or the impact of the struggles on the families of our Military & Veterans battling service-related issues EVERY SINGLE DAY!

IF WE WANT TO BE THE ONE, THEN LET'S BE THE ONE FOR EVERYONE IN OUR VETERAN FAMILY!!

LET'S DO SOMETHING TOGETHER
The 2023 $500 Challenge Winners - Random Lake Middle School Student Council
Meet our amazing "Action" programs

JOIN OUR MISSION

- Actively pay attention to others around you,
- Tell a safe adult anything that causes you concern for your own or another's welfare,
- Use the new talk lifeline, #988 if no safe adult is around.

- That assigning a mission gives purpose,
- Having a safe option to help resolves moral conflicts,
- That taking action for another person, provides Hope to both,
- A Random act of Kindness isn't just Kool, it's healing.
Where HOPE is an ACTION Word!
Our foundation is based upon the principles of PURPOSE, HOPE, & KINDNESS.

These principles are not simply "ideals" they are actual approaches to healing and sustaining a meaningful life.

We believe that ACTION, not awareness is going to make a difference for our young people and veterans that are trying so desperately to overcome the adversities they face due to the impact of bullying, self-harm and suicide in our nation.
Fishing in new ponds to reach our goal is 50,000 wristbands in 2024.
We **share** our 2024 - (aka 3 Commanders) strategy

1. Build partnerships to expand your reach. Be seen as the proactive organization that cares.

2. Reach out to the under-represented. (Read-not look like you.) Their families also served.

3. Let C&Y be seen as the go-getters in your Legion Family. Work together. Support one another
For more information, copies of coloring page or book, customized mission cards, or questions specific to your population. PLEASE reach out.

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OR TEXT me directly at: 414-659-7226
QUESTIONS?