

THE AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND
(dba The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation)
Vincent M. Gaughan, Illinois, President

In 1925, World War I veterans, widows and children continued to struggle to return to a regular life. The members of The American Legion, aware of the vital responsibilities entrusted to them by those who had served, knew the time had come to take action. More than 900,000 Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary members and other American citizens joined the campaign, raising nearly \$5 million and establishing the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation.

Since those early days, over \$30 million has been distributed to disabled veterans and the children of those who served our great nation. Gifts and donations are added to the endowment trust, which is administered by the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. The foundation, whose members are selected by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, takes great care to ensure that these gifts are wisely invested. Income from fund investments is then passed on to the American Legion national organization to administer programs of Children & Youth (C&Y) and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R), which include funding for the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program, department service officer school and Board of Veterans Appeals training.

During calendar year 2021, the American Legion Endowment Fund transferred trust earnings of \$215,637 to The American Legion to support the Children & Youth and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation programs. Donations to the American Legion Endowment during this time totaled \$4,136,800*. It is important to note that due to the structure of the fund as an endowment, only the earnings on the fund are spent, ensuring that donations will continue to support veterans and their children for generations.

(*subject to final audit)

During this program year the American Legion Endowment Fund approved a media toolkit for use by Legion Family members within their departments. The toolkits provide vital information on the foundation's mission and statistics, as well as success stories from those veterans and their families who have been helped. Contributions to the 1919 Society, an elevated group of donors who have majorly contributed to the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation, have started to gain momentum. The 100 Miles for Hope fundraiser campaign continued to be a huge success for the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation in its second year, exceeding goals, and expectations. The third annual 100 Miles for Hope is set to kick off in April 2022.

The increased visibility of the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation has prompted an increase in media coverage promoting awareness of the TFA grant program offered through the Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation programs, which includes department service officer training. The American Legion provides these services to the veteran and their family free of charge. Service officers work on an estimated 750,000 claims worldwide from U.S. military veterans at any one time. The TFA grant program is able to provide financial grants to qualified veterans with minor child(ren) in the home to cover the child(ren) basic needs.

At the board of directors meeting on May 3, 2022, the following officers were elected: Hon. Vincent M. Gaughan, president; James Koutz, vice president; and Anthony Jordan, treasurer. Administrative personnel appointed by the board were Shawn Long, assistant treasurer; and Stacy Cope, secretary.

Under the 1969 Tax Reform Act, the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation retains its tax-exempt status. Gifts, therefore, are deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent permitted by law, and bequests are deductible for federal inheritance tax purposes to the extent permitted by the Federal Tax Act.