

**NEWS RELEASE
OCTOBER 16, 2007**

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, in its 53rd year, has awarded \$530,700 to 18 non-profit organizations. These grants, determined during the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, held at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis, Indiana on Sunday, October 14, 2007, have been awarded to support worthwhile projects through the dissemination of information to the general public and specific target groups. The following is a brief summary of the grants awarded for 2008:

American Legion Children's Home of Ponca City, Oklahoma was awarded \$64,000 for their project titled "American Legion Children's Home National Awareness Initiative." This grant will produce DVDs, brochures and a website in support of a national campaign to raise awareness and funds for the children's home. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion sponsor this grant.

American Humane Association of Englewood, Colorado was awarded \$24,879 for their project titled "Exploring Differential Response." This grant will produce and distribute 7,500 copies of the *Protecting Children* journal. The Sons of The American Legion sponsors this grant.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of McHenry County, Inc. of McHenry, Illinois was awarded \$24,351 for their project titled "Mentoring Answer Book." This grant will produce and distribute the *Mentoring Answer Book and the Mentoring Handbook for Parents* to 2,034 mentoring agencies throughout the nation. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion sponsor this grant.

Childhood Leukemia Foundation of Brick, New Jersey was awarded \$42,000 for their project titled "Hope Binders." This grant will produce and distribute binders, with templates and support materials, to 140 pediatric oncology hospitals throughout the United States to help families begin to feel some degree of control over devastating circumstances

Children's Hunger Alliance of Columbus, Ohio was awarded \$20,000 for their project titled "CARES Project." This grant produces and distributes two hundred CARE kits to family child care providers nationwide. These kits provide the tools child care workers need to provide children with quality early learning experiences.

Family & Children's Service of Minneapolis, Minnesota was awarded \$40,000 for their project titled "Family Strengths Toolkit." This grant will produce and distribute a fun, interactive printed publication that will provide children and families with opportunities to spend time together while learning what makes them strong as a family.

Give Kids The World of Kissimmee, Florida was awarded \$14,700 for their project titled "Dream & Go Guides: Handbooks for Happiness." This grant will produce and distribute Dream & Go Guides to ensure that the one-week stay of children with life-threatening illnesses and their families is the vacation of a lifetime that provides joy and memories that endure long term.

Kids In Danger of Chicago, Illinois was awarded \$16,400 for their project titled "Safe from the Start." This grant will produce and distribute child safety materials (brochures, checklists and newsletters) to health care professionals, childcare providers and parents nationwide.

Mercy Medical Airlift of Virginia Beach, Virginia was awarded \$43,000 for their project titled "Child Health Program." This grant will develop and modernize five websites providing information to the public and the pediatric medical world regarding available charitable child patient long distance medical air transportation. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion sponsor this grant.

National Ability Center of Park City, Utah was awarded \$9,600 for their project titled the “Summer Camp Brochures.” This grant will produce and distribute 12,000 brochures to educate parents of the quality summer camps and year-round programs designed to meet the special needs of children with disabilities. The Sons of The American Legion sponsors this grant.

National Autism Center of Randolph, Massachusetts was awarded \$39,150 for their project “Implementing Evidence-based Educational Interventions for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in School Settings.” This grant will produce and distribute a publication targeted to provide school systems with a tool that will enable them to more effectively serve students with ASD within their school systems.

National Exercise Trainers Association of Minneapolis, Minnesota was awarded \$25,870 for their project titled “Fitness for Today’s Youth.” This grant will produce and distribute manuals and journals through schools, Boys and Girls Clubs and YMCAs to educate, motivate and reinforce the concept of healthy, active lifestyles.

National Exchange Club Foundation of Toledo, Ohio was awarded \$39,866 for their project titled: “Believe in the Blue Campaign.” This grant will produce and distribute materials (parenting cards, posters, fact sheets, public service announcements, ads and press releases) designed to provide families across the nation with tips on positive parenting.

National Indian Child Welfare Association of Portland, Oregon was awarded \$24,625 for their project titled: “Ensuring the Seventh Generation: Youth Suicide Prevention Toolkit.” This grant will produce and distribute toolkits to guide tribal child welfare workers and programs throughout the United States in implementing early suicide prevention and intervention methods. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors this grant.

National Marfan Foundation of Port Washington, New York was awarded \$25,000 for their project titled: “Marfan Teen Space.” This grant will produce an online teen community space on the organization’s website that will provide a safe place for teens with Marfan Syndrome to network “virtually” through a medium that is popular for their age group and provide teen-specific information on Marfan syndrome.

Our Military Kids, Inc. of McLean, Virginia was awarded \$33,800 for their project titled “Our Military Kids Informational Materials Phase II.” This grant will produce a quarterly newsletter and develop a dynamic, user-friendly website to assist in making essential extracurricular activities, including tutoring, available to the school-aged children of deployed and severely injured Reserve and National Guard personnel. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion sponsor this grant.

TechMission of Dorchester, Massachusetts was awarded \$5,000 for their project titled “Safe Families.” This grant will produce and distribute 50,000 copies of parental control software and provide online safety manuals and resources to 1 million visitors through their website. The Sons of The American Legion sponsors this grant.

ZERO TO THREE of Washington, DC was awarded \$38,459 for their project titled “Coming Together Around Military Families.” This grant will produce books, flyers and kits to encourage collaboration throughout civilian and military communities and provide professionals with strategies and resources to support the unique needs of military families with young children. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion sponsor this grant.

For more information, contact Bill Pease (317) 630-1202 / admin@cwf-inc.org