

**AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.**

**Robert Morrill, New York, President**

**Stacy Cope, Executive Secretary**

In 1954, The American Legion endorsed the separate incorporation of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Since then, the foundation has granted over \$20 million dollars to other nonprofit youth-serving organizations. The foundation exists to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth and to add to progress in the child welfare field through research, studies, surveys, projects or in other ways, including but not limited to all youth activities now or hereafter sponsored by The American Legion.

At its annual meetings in October 2022 and May 2023, the board of directors approved \$797,251 in 17 grants awarded to 16 nonprofit organizations for projects to be completed during the 2023 calendar year. These grants have been awarded to support youth-serving projects that seek to enhance the lives of children by addressing their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs. The following is a brief summary of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants awarded for 2023:

**Alabama Rens Basketball Club** of Huntsville, Ala., was awarded \$9,130 for their project “Alabama Rens Basketball Youth Club.” The grant will use basketball to encourage personal and athletic development and growth. Through mentoring and basketball, youth will learn and develop critical life skills.

**American Kidney Fund** of Rockville, Md., was awarded \$25,000 for their project “American Kidney Fund Virtual Camp: National Camp for Pediatric Kidney Patients.” This grant will conduct virtual camps for those kids with kidney disease. Virtual camps offer a supportive environment where youth can engage with others like themselves, increasing awareness and self-esteem. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

**American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters** of Indianapolis was awarded \$4,514 for their project “Star Spangled Kids Educational Initiative.” This grant seeks to further civics education for our nation’s youth by providing them with a U.S. flag and books on the Pledge of Allegiance, our country’s flag and the Constitution of the United States. The American Legion Auxiliary supports this grant.

**American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters** of Indianapolis was awarded \$65,000 for their project “American Legion Auxiliary National Youth Programs Scholarships.” This grant will provide academic scholarships in the following areas: the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation program, the Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship, the Spirit of Youth Scholarship, the Honorary National Junior Division Vice President Scholarship and the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship. The American Legion Auxiliary supports this grant.

**American Legion Department of California, District 22** of San Diego, was awarded \$15,000 for their project “San Diego American Legion Baseball.” This grant will cover registration fees and program expenses related to the American Legion Baseball program.

**Art on Wheels** of Richmond, Va., was awarded \$5,100 for their project “Therapeutic Arts Programming for Youth.” This grant seeks to use art for youth to find their voice, build confidence and grow.

**Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E)** of Burtonsville, Md., was awarded \$30,870 for the project “Improving the Mental Welfare of 25,000 Children in Foster Care.” This grant seeks to produce and disseminate the W.I.S.E Up! Powerbook for Children in Foster Care. The book helps foster parents answer difficult questions foster kids have.

**Culture Creations, Inc.** of Wichita, Kan., was awarded \$13,000 for their project “Transformational Peer to Peer Mentorship Program Proposal.” This grant seeks to create a mentoring program for those youth aging out of the foster care system. Youth will be paired with peer mentors who will help teach life skills and provide guidance transitioning into adulthood.

**D.U.E.T (dba DUET Kids)** of Savannah, Ga., was awarded \$51,450 for their project “Student Teaching Student Initiative.” This grant seeks to develop a music mentoring program where high school and college students mentor younger students in music.

**Florida Atlantic University** of Boca Raton, Fla., was awarded \$6,561 for their project “Pet Dogs, Resilience and Well-Being in Military Adolescents.” The grant seeks to study mental health in military adolescents who do and do not own a dog. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

**Health World Education Ltd.** of Scottsdale, Ariz., was awarded \$4,000 for their project “The Horsense Program.” This grant will help cover expenses related to a five-week-long camp where they will teach youth life skills, team building, making better choices and healthy habits. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

**Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome Network** of Oyster Bay, N.Y., was awarded \$17,350 for their project “HPS Kids Camp.” This grant will provide a three-day camp for children suffering from Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome (HPS), while parents attend educational sessions so they may better understand HPS. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

**Knowledge Point Network** of Livingston, Texas, was awarded \$28,330 for their project “Operation Lifeskills 365.” This grant seeks to develop a web-based platform that will directly service youth by providing them with physical and outdoor activities to teach them essential life skills and coping mechanisms.

**National Organization of Motivation & Incentives thru Education for Youth, Inc. (dba NOMIE for Youth)** of Shreveport, La., was awarded \$7,500 for their grant “NOMIE for Youth Fundamental Life Skills Workshop.” This grant seeks to conduct in-person and virtual workshops to teach essential life skills and instill positive values in today’s youth.

**Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation** of Pittsburgh was awarded \$9,450 for their project “HeadsUP Pittsburgh: Baseline Concussion Testing Partnership.” This grant will provide baseline concussion testing and education for athletic youth 14 and under. The Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

**The American Legion National Headquarters** of Indianapolis was awarded \$500,000 for their project “The American Legion Children and Youth National Program-2023.” This grant will cover academic scholarships and youth program-related expenses in the following areas: American Legion National Oratorical Contest, Boys Nation, Junior Shooting Sports Program, Baseball and Eagle Scout of the Year. The grant will also provide grants to the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) grant program that will provide financial assistance to the minor child(ren) in the home of an eligible veteran or military servicemember to maintain shelter, food, utilities and clothing. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

**Youth for Christ Military** of Englewood, Colo., was awarded \$10,000 for their project “YFC Military: Investing in Military Connected Youth through Camp.” This grant will provide scholarships for military children to attend a camp.

At the American Legion Child Welfare board of directors meeting on May 7, 2023, following members were elected to board positions until spring 2024: Robert Morrill of New York, president; Peggy Moon of Minnesota, vice president; George C. Lussier Jr. of Virginia, secretary; and Michael Helm of Nebraska, treasurer. Administrative personnel appointed by the board were Shawn Long, assistant treasurer; and Stacy Cope, executive secretary.

Under the 1969 Tax Reform Act, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation 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.