

G.I. Josh

Question: What is better than putting a smile on the face of a young child who is sad or scared? Answer: Nothing!

That is the essence of the G.I. Josh Dog program, putting smiles on the faces of little kids when they are going through times of sadness or stress due to the deployment of their military parents. Cute little toy puppies dressed in camouflage bandanna and cap named GI Josh. G.I. Josh can also come with a book titled "I'll be OK"

Josh dogs were originally developed by a nonprofit 501(c)(3) group "Josh and friends" To provide comfort to children in stressful situations, mainly young children who had to undergo a hospital stay.. The G.I. Josh program was an outgrowth of the original program made possible by a \$49,500 grant from the child welfare foundation in 2012.

Josh dogs are a great way for your squadrons' or detachments' Children and Youth initiatives for the children of Legionnaires or other military personnel who are deployed. It's a great way to make a help a kid cope with stress at a young age and also a great way to say thank you to those who are deploying in defense of our country

Josh dogs and the children's storybook " I'll be OK" are available for order through the website www.joshandfriends.com

Legion family members are able to purchase a G.I Josh Dog and book at a discounted rate by emailing "info@joshandfriends.com" To receive their discount code.



By William Clancy III (NY)

Children and Youth Committee

Things Happen

We all know a story where even those that are best prepared have a life event that changes their situation. An accident, natural disaster, the loss of a job, sickness or other unanticipated event can change a person's life in an instant and suddenly put them in a situation of financial hardship. Hardship is tough on anyone but it's even tougher when you have young children in your care.

The American Legion has recognized this from its very inception and in 1925 established the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance Program (TFA)

The American Legion TFA program provides one-time grants of up to \$1500 to minor children of current active duty or American Legion Members. These single one-time grants are nonrepayable and are intended to cover essential expenses while the family gets back on their feet.

Applications for TFA grants can be initiated at the local level through your post and are awarded after an investigation is concluded at either the Post or Department level to make sure that the family situation or need is legitimate and warranted.

So if a member of your Squadron knows of a family with minor child in need and you think a TFA grant may apply, perhaps bring it up **discreetly** with the commander of your American Legion Post. This is a program that can have immense impact on the life of a young child and be of enormous help to the Veteran who is the parent or guardian. For more information and details visit www.legion.org/financialassistance/about

By William Clancy III

Children and Youth Committee