



THE AMERICAN LEGION
VETERANS AND CHILDREN
FOUNDATION



Our commitment to the future

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation renews a commitment to future generations of disabled veterans, active military and children in need.



James A. Drain, American Legion National Commander from 1924-1925, raised the equivalent of \$71 million in today's dollars in eight months.



AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE OFFICERS

At any one time, American Legion service officers are providing free-of-charge expert assistance to more than 700,000 veterans, widows and families as they navigate the complexities of VA benefits and services they have earned and deserve.



TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance program annually delivers between \$230,000 and \$1 million in cash grants. These grants reach into communities large and small, in virtually every American Legion department, helping local posts make life-changing differences.

The American Legion delivers more than hope for disabled veterans and needy families with children at home.

The American Legion delivers results.

For decades, The American Legion has provided essential support for disabled veterans and families facing difficulties. The organization's founders made a commitment to ensure support for those who needed The American Legion most.

In 1924, newly elected American Legion National Commander James A. Drain undertook a massive fundraising challenge. His goal was \$5 million – equivalent to \$71 million in today's dollars. The purpose was twofold: to fund service officer training and provide free assistance for disabled veterans and to extend a financial safety net for needy military and veteran families with children. Born of this twofold purpose was The American Legion Endowment Fund.

Since then, The American Legion Endowment Fund has given over \$30 million in vital assistance to tens of thousands of veterans, members of the U.S. armed forces and their families.

“Lives are being touched.”

U.S. Army veteran Ken Lee of Oroville, Wash., is one example. Multiple back surgeries had left him and his family

buried in medical bills, living in a 17-foot trailer and moving from park to park. He learned from an American Legion service officer that Temporary Financial Assistance was available and his children were eligible. Soon, Lee was paying it forward, a service officer himself, helping others in need.

Ivan and Shavonne Redhorn of Great Falls, Mont., watched in dismay one January afternoon as flames engulfed their home. They lost everything. “I felt like life just crumbled,” said Ivan, a U.S. Army combat veteran of the war on terrorism. The parents of six children, they received short-term housing assistance, thanks to the Temporary Financial Assistance program.

Service officers connect the dots between veterans and military families and the help that's available to them, such as Temporary Financial Assistance grants.

“We will fight tooth and nail for you,” says North Dakota American Legion service officer Jim Deremo. “It can be a long battle. It can be a tough battle ... exasperating. But when you pick up the phone and you're able to say, ‘We won,’ that makes it all worth it.”

“It’s hard to imagine how many lives are being touched. Not just military life – but the family unit as a whole.”

- Ken Lee, American Legion service officer, former TFA grant recipient



A new goal to continue the mission

Service officer support and TFA grants often go unnoticed in local communities.

That is why it is essential that The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation – a new name for timeless, life-changing assistance – is recharged, and promoted not simply as a fundraiser but also as an awareness builder to show what The American Legion means to veterans, troops and children.

The American Legion’s founders invested in a future of service a century ago.

Today, as The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation prepares to provide critical help for new generations, a target of \$25 million – equivalent to about one-third of the financial contributions received in 1924 and 1925, at a time when total membership was just over 600,000 – has been set as a new goal to strengthen The American Legion’s service and support for those in need, well into the organization’s second century.

Invest in America’s future at www.legion.org/donate



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