

## Children & Youth Year End Floor Report

The Department of California has had an amazing year working for our military and community children.

Units across the state donated backpacks full of school supplies to both military bases and local schools. Several units also donated these items to homeless children. District 17 and District 23 also donated clothes to homeless children as well.

Units hosted trunk or treat events across the state and brightened the lives over a thousand California kids. Units donated Thanksgiving baskets to families in need and to local military base food drives. Christmas parties were held through the state for our Legion family children. District 2 adopted military families to donate food baskets as well as gifts for all the children. District 17 works with families in homeless shelters all year long. District 6 donated \$500 for a holiday party for homeless children. District 18 donated items to local foster care families.

District 21 collected can tabs for Ronald McDonald House for over \$750, and District 25 held their annual Children's Miracle Network Walk-a-thon for Ronald McDonald House raising over \$2,000.

West Covina Unit 790 donated travel bags full of supplies for 3 children who were moving as their father was deploying. They also donated 3 backpacks full of supplies to a family at Camp LeJeune. Ronald Reagan Pacific Palisades Unit 283 collected and donated 100 teddy bears for children with deployed parents. It was such a success; they plan to do it in future years as well.

Canyon City Unit 180 collected over \$7,000 worth of equipment for Ft. Irwin Army Base school- Wilson Elementary. The equipment – snow cone machine, popcorn machine, and sensory education toys are meant to help the school have events and help all their kids. While there, they handed out 300 Kids of deployed are heroes 2 buttons. The children were touched, and some were saying it meant a lot as they would be moving to another location soon. They also submitted 9 Good Deed awards for students assigned to help new students find their way in a new environment.

El Monte Unit 261 handed out American Legion Auxiliary coloring books through their city and the city gave them a proclamation for Military Children's Day.

Chappie James Unit 578 help a Purple Up event handing out free backpacks to neighborhood kids and raffled off two bikes at their event. Food, games, and fun was had by all.

The Department of California had 47 units participate in the Children's Military table setting. We also presented the military table at the Department Junior Conference. This allowed junior members to participate and then asked them questions revolving around military children's sacrifices. 30 units participated in Purple Up Day and blasted pictures on social media. We awarded 1 Youth Hero Award that our Department President Glenda, and National President Lisa were able to present; during Lisa's official visit. We also awarded 54 Good Deed Awards across the department.

This year, as chairman, units and districts across the department were asked to host a baby shower for either community children or military bases. We were beyond blessed with the turnout. 53 units participated and we held a large baby shower at our Department Executive Committee meeting. We had diapers, wipes, towels, car

seats, playpens, strollers, and a tremendous amount of clothes donated. We serviced 29 Psalms Marine Base, Travis Airforce Base, Ft. Irwin Army Base, March Airforce Base to name a few. In total, this department donated over \$42,000 to both military and community children. This was a huge success, so I thank you all!

33 units reported donations to the Child Welfare Foundation. The total donations reported were \$3,806. 13 units reported hitting the \$1 per member goal.

In total over 23,000 hours were reported for children. We were able to serve 210,000 children in total, traveling over 15,000 miles.

This has been a tremendous honor to serve the Department of California –

Yours in Service- not self  
Maureen O'Brien-Sacco

Madam President may I continue with my first place awards?

1st Place District - D18  
2nd Place Unit - D18 U180