

## **American Legion Child Welfare Foundation 2017 Grants at a Glance**

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, in its 62<sup>nd</sup> year, has awarded \$618,606 to 20 nonprofit 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 9, 2016, have been awarded to support youth-serving projects that seek to enhance the lives of children by addressing the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of children. The following is a brief summary of the grants awarded for 2017.

**Angels & Doves** of Indianapolis, Indiana, was awarded \$19,900 for their project, “Reduce School Bullying and Youth Violence.” This grant will provide an anti-bullying program for high-risk school districts. The American Legion Auxiliary supports this grant.

**Angel Flight West** of Santa Monica, California, was awarded \$10,000 for their project, “Promoting Fly-Anthropy – the charitable use of aviation to help children in need.” This grant will provide outreach and marketing efforts to reach families in need of medical transportation and to potential volunteer pilots. The Sons of The American Legion and the Eight & Forty support this grant.

**Bethany Christian Services** of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was awarded \$25,000 for their project, “Post Adoption Support for Military Families Awareness Campaign.” This project will contribute to the mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children adopted by military families. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

**Books Aloud** of San Jose, California, was awarded \$10,000 for their project, “Books Aloud Youth Program.” This project will serve children that can't read conventionally due blindness, visual impairment and/or a physical or learning disability. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

**Building Better Days** of Edgewater, Maryland, was awarded \$11,230 for their project, “Benefits of Building.” This project will assist pediatric patients by providing each child with a building toy to take their mind off of the treatments and procedures that they are going through. The Sons of The American Legion and the Eight & Forty support this grant.

**Child Find of America, Inc.** of New Paltz, New York, was awarded \$40,500 for their project, “In Safe Hands Information Kits.” This project will educate and inform parents and professionals about the negative impact of family conflict on a child's learning and emotional health, as well as to prevent conflict leading to parental child abduction. The Sons of The American Legion supports this grant.

**Childhood Domestic Violence Association** of New York, New York, was awarded \$20,750 for their project, “Childhood Domestic Violence Toolkit Distribution Campaign.” Through greater distribution of this toolkit, CDV hopes to build an overall awareness of children growing up with domestic violence.

**Childhood Leukemia Foundation** of Brick, New Jersey, was awarded \$60,000 for their project, “Hope Binder.” This project will offer 12 sections of templates and resources to help families begin to feel a degree of control over their circumstances. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

**Children's Brain Tumor Foundation** of New York, New York, was awarded \$20,000 for their project, “Finding Your Way- A Guide for Childhood Brain Tumor Families from Diagnosis & Beyond.” This project will help families understand that the emotions they are feeling are not uncommon and assist in alleviating the isolation often felt by families. The Sons of The American Legion supports this grant.

**Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters, Inc.** of Norfolk, Virginia, was awarded \$31,000 for their project, "Educational Materials for Children with Craniosynostosis and Cleft Lip/Palate Deformities." This project will educate parents about cleft lip and palate, craniofacial conditions and ease their concerns about treatment and correction.

**CureSearch for Children's Cancer** of Bethesda, Maryland, was awarded \$22,250 for their project, "Childhood Cancer Educational Video and Companion Ebook." This project will create a video about immunotherapy that features personal stories and educational content. The American Legion Auxiliary supports this grant.

**Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)** of Chicago, Illinois, was awarded \$25,000 for their project, "Online Child Mood Disorder Screeners and Marketing Campaign." This project will assist families with children living with a mood disorder by aiding in early intervention and detection of symptoms, linking families to resources and education and connecting parents to a support network.

**KEYS** of Sherrill, New York, was awarded \$5,362 for their project, "KEYS Music Toolkits: Delivering Music, Hope and Smiles to Kids Battling Cancer." This project will provide research and information on the benefits of music and music therapy in the treatment of pediatric cancer patients. The Sons of The American Legion supports this grant.

**Mercy Medical Angels** of Virginia Beach, Virginia, was awarded \$45,000 for their project, "Angel Flights for Children." This project will increase the number of volunteer pilots available to transport children requiring specialized medical care to health care facilities that provide the treatment necessary for the child. The American Legion Auxiliary supports this grant.

**Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome** of Saint Paul, Minnesota, was awarded \$54,735 for their project, "National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Educational Equity Project." This project will provide information to raise awareness, educate and build an interest in gaining competency about FASD and implications for schools, families and students.

**National Autism Association** of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, was awarded \$59,375 for their project, "Big Red Safety Box." This project will educate, raise awareness and provide tangible tools that may assist in preventing and responding to dangerous wandering-related incidents in the autism community.

**National Meningitis Association, Inc.** of Fort Myers, Florida, was awarded \$29,000 for their project, "Get Vaccinated." This project will raise awareness and aid in the distribution of informational CD packages throughout the country. The Sons of The American Legion supports this grant.

**Our Military Kids** of McLean, Virginia, was awarded \$56,055 for their project, "In Their Own Voice: Military Children Tell Their Stories." This grant will enhance outreach and marketing efforts of the organization. The American Legion Auxiliary supports this grant.

**Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome Foundation** of Avon, New York, was awarded \$4,449 for their project, "I Have SDS." This grant will produce books on SDS and educate hospitals, clinics, physicians and families on this rare bone marrow failure disease.

**The American Legion National Headquarters** of Indianapolis, Indiana, was awarded \$69,000 for their project, "American Legion National Oratorical Contest 2017." This grant will provide half of the funds necessary for awarding academic scholarships to fifty-four youth competing as national finalists in The American Legion National Oratorical Contest.