

## Community Service Program Plan of Action 2023-2024

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Community Service is considered one of the American Legion Auxiliary's family support programs. In the spirit of God and Country, we serve veterans, military, their families and communities. The Community Service Program demonstrates who we are, what we do and why we matter. By being visible in our communities we raise awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary and its mission.

1. Action Steps: Activity suggestions for veterans and their families; Plan a Family Day of fun activities at your post, adopt a deployed service members' family in the community or organize a community wide "Day of Service" for veterans and active-duty service members families.

### Recognized National Days of Service

September 11, 2023	9/11 National Service Day
September 24, 2023	Gold Star Mother's & Family Day (always last Sunday in September)
October 28, 2023	Make a Difference Day
November 11, 2023	Veteran's Day
November 18, 2023	National Family Volunteer Day
December 7, 2023	National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
January 15, 2024	Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service
February 14 – 20, 2024	Random Acts of Kindness Week
April 19 - 21, 2024	National & Global Youth Service Days
April 14 – 20, 2023	National Volunteer Week
June 14, 2024	Flag Day
July 4, 2024	Independence Day
September 11, 2024	9/11 National Day of Service
September 29, 2024	Gold Star Mother's & Family Day

2. Action Steps: Promote community service activities that help veterans, active-duty service members, their families and community. Activities might include volunteering in a homeless veteran's program such as helping prepare meals or collecting non-perishable food items for local food shelves or collecting clothing for homeless veterans and veteran run non-profit organizations. Have the Unit sponsor a special open house holiday meal for veterans, their families, military service members and the community. Organize and participate in service projects for veterans or get involved with your neighbors and those outside our Legion family by volunteering at your local library, food pantry, domestic violence shelter, senior citizens centers and nursing homes. Volunteer with your local

Meals on Wheels or assist with your community's Veteran's Day observances. The opportunities for Community Service are limitless.

Be sure to keep a record of your time, goods, services & monetary values of all Community Service activities for your Community Service Reports. (To be submitted by & 4/1/24)

What can you do for Community Service?

- Become visible in your community, wearing your American Legion Auxiliary apparel or pin while volunteering in the community to let people know who we are and why we matter.
- Get involved in community service projects.
- Get involved with your neighbors & those outside our Legion family by volunteering at your local library, hospital, nursing homes, food pantry, Veteran's Non-Profit businesses, domestic violence shelter, senior citizen centers, etc.
- Volunteer with your local Meals on Wheels to deliver meals on days when they are typically closed such as holidays.
- Organize & participate in service projects for veterans, service members, their families and local community programs on ALA suggested days of service.
- Attend & represent the Auxiliary at special celebration events in the community such as holiday parades, grand openings of community facilities & community leader recognition ceremonies.
- Volunteer to organize or assist with you community's Veterans Day observances.

**3. Action Steps: The "Buddy Angel Challenge" 2023-2024 = 100 Acts of Kindness**  
Community Service Challenge – NH American Legion Auxiliary Community Service Chairperson, Sandy Morris, challenges all American Legion Auxiliary Members to perform, record and report 100 Acts of Kindness during the 2023-2024 year. A "Buddy Angel" lapel pin will be awarded to all who complete 100 Acts of Kindness, record all Acts and submit your list of Acts to Community Service Chairperson when completed. (Full "Buddy Angel Challenge" including "Buddy Angel" song & reporting form included).

#### **DEPARTMENT TROPHIES:**

Feather Trophy – Unit in Department submitting the best report.

Drake Trophy – Unit in Department submitting the second best report.

Muriel Racheotes Trophy – Unit in District 1 submitting the best report.

Dumais Trophy – Unit in District 3 submitting the best report.

John Poirier Trophy – Unit in District 4 submitting the best report to the District Director & Department Chair.

Ernst E. Tiede Trophy – Unit in District 5 submitting the best report.

Millie Roberts Trophy – A traveling Trophy awarded to the Unit in District 7 submitting the best report to District Director and the Department Chairperson by April<sup>st</sup>.

Unit 82 Gold Star Mother's Trophy – Unit in District 8 submitting the best report.

Community Service Color Guard Trophy (Awarded on the parade field) – To be awarded to the Color Guard Unit submitting the best narrative report in their community service activities.

Report must be type-written in narrative form, not exceeding 1,000 words. The Title: “Color Guard Community Service Activities” and entries cover from Dept. Convention through April 30, 2024. Submission by April 1, 2024, to Sandy Morris, Community Service Chairperson.

### **NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS:**

#### Unit Award –

A citation will be presented to a Unit in each Division with the most outstanding overall promotion of the Community Service Program during the 2023-2024 administrative year. Each entry must include at least two of the designated areas of special emphasis. Entry must be in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words. Photos of program and projects are encouraged. The Unit name and address, name of the Department and a completed copy of the annual report form must be included. Entry must be postmarked by April 1, 2024; and sent to the Department Community Service Chairperson. Each Department Community Service Chairperson will select a winning entry and will submit that entry to the Divisional Community Service Chairperson and must be postmarked by June 1, 2024.

#### Operation Impact Award –

A citation will be presented to a Unit in each Division with the most outstanding promotion of a monthly Community Service Program. A minimum of 10 months must be covered. The projects must follow the Plan of Action and be mission related. Each entry must include a monthly breakdown of program, topic of each program, how many attended program and results from that program. Photos are encouraged of each event. Each entry must be in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. The Unit name, Department and address, Unit Chairperson's name and contact phone number must be included on cover page. Cover page does not count in the total word count. Each entry must be postmarked by June 1, 2024, and sent to National Chairman.

#### Senior Volunteer of the Year Award –

A senior member from each Division will be honored for outstanding service in at least one activity emphasized in the Plan of Action. To be eligible for the award, volunteer service must be provided during the 2023-2024 administrative year.

The application must be fully completed with required certification and a narrative of 300-500 words completed by the applicant. Photos are encouraged. Senior entry must be postmarked by April 1, 2024, and sent to the Department Community Service Chairperson. Each Department

Chairperson will select a winning entry and will submit the entry to the Divisional Community Service Chairperson, postmarked by June 1, 2024.

Junior Volunteer of the Year Award –

A junior member from each Division will be honored for outstanding service in at least one activity emphasized in the Plan of Action. To be eligible for the award, volunteer service must be provided during the 2023-2024 administrative year. The application must be fully completed with required certification and a narrative of 300-500 words completed by the applicant. Photos are encouraged. Junior entry must be postmarked by April 1, 2024, and sent to the Department Community Service Chairperson. Each Department Chairperson will select a winning entry and will submit the entry to the Divisional Community Service Chairperson, postmarked by June 1, 2024.