

Department of Florida Education Year End Report

Department of Florida is proud to shout that they are 100% in district reporting. The total reported participation in the **Give Ten for Education** was in excess of 100 units with a total of \$31,625. I am proud to report that many units thought outside the box and supplied schools with underwear, clothing, shoes and sanitary products for necessary changes as discussed at the Fall Workshop. We reported 1707 needy children who were supported with \$16,875 and a total of 689 volunteer hours. Box tops, labels, capri sun and kool-aid packages were also projects our units participated in donating a total of 6490 box tops totaling \$649.00 and 2300 labels to our schools. Florida units filled a reported 334 back packs with school supplies including sneakers for Elementary Middle and High Schools and had a total of 445 working hours.

Five volunteers with a total of 82 hours in District 2 prepared and served 220 teachers at a Teachers' Appreciation Luncheon with a cost of \$1032. Teachers throughout the Sunshine state were given monetary donations to supply their classrooms with more than \$4000. Unit 65, Delray Beach, provided 2 "Golden Apples" that were awarded to teachers as chosen by a local school. This school also provided a lunch for the staff of an entire elementary school which included teacher's aids, cafeteria workers, etc. during National Education Week to honor their service.

The South Daytona **VA Wellness Center's veterans** partnered with **District 17**. Each year District 17 hosts a Christmas shop/wrap party for the center, but instead of receiving or shopping for Christmas presents by the veterans, they wanted to give back to the community. So, they adopted a school in rural Pierson which is inhabited by fern farm students whose second language is English. It was still a Christmas party however, instead of the usual Christmas type presents units brought in school supplies for the veterans to present to the elementary school. There was a mound of supplies totaling approximately \$1000.00 donated by the district.

Our **Veterans in the Classroom** program was presented by 69 Units with a total cost of \$2135 and volunteers had a total of 1557 hours. Lehigh Acres Unit 323 had a veteran legionnaire addressed an elementary assembly of 500 students and staff and distributed flags, coloring books, and poppies at a Veterans Day ceremony. It didn't stop there. They presented 29 "Veterans in the Classroom" with a total 870 volunteer hours at a cost of \$500. Unit 392, Panama City, with the assistance of two veterans read the book "America's White Table" by Margot Theis Raven to 6th grade classes. This book was written for children to help them understand the significance of the items on the POW/MIA table. The story and history of the poppy was read to six classes in the Pensacola area by Unit 392, Pensacola. The chairman of Unit 129 Jacksonville Beach hosted the Beaches Honor Guard presentation. The presentation included flag etiquette, uniform information and the reason for the Honor Guard.

The Department of Florida had 19 units actively support **veterans' association on campus** for a total of 151 volunteer hours. Unit 392, Pensacola participated in "Military Hour" on a radio talk show at Gulf Coast State College. This hour is spent providing current information for veterans on the campus and in the community.

Although a correct number of help for **needy students** is not known, the Sunshine State recorded helping 1,160 students with a total of 2841 volunteer hours at a cost of \$10,468.

Florida units donated to the Department a total of \$6498 for memorial **scholarships** and \$2454 for department scholarships. At the department level we received a total of 19 applications and awarded a scholarship to Carson Wilber from Unit 75, Cresthaven. We forwarded an application for Non Traditional, Spirit of Youth and Children of War Veterans Scholarships to National for their consideration. We gave over 46 local scholarships with a total of \$38,000.

The Department of Florida reported contributing a total of \$116,236 towards the American Legion Auxiliary Education program.

It is with great pride that I submit to you the Department of Florida's End of the year report.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Amato

Department of Florida

Education Chairman