**Purposes:**

The Children & Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring for and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans and military families.

**Principles:**

To preserve the integrity of the family home.
To maintain a “whole” child program, with due regard for all needs of children – physical, spiritual, emotional, and educational. To cooperate with and strengthen other sound organizations and agencies for children, avoiding duplication of existing programs.

**Method of Operation:**

1. Direct cash, assistance and service, primarily to individual children or families of veterans.
2. Education of the membership and the general public on the needs of children and recommended ways of meeting those needs.
3. Support of needed federal legislation for children in accordance with resolutions adopted by the National Convention or National Executive Committee of The American Legion; of state legislation in accordance with resolutions adopted by the Department Convention or Department Executive Committee: of local ordinances in accordance with resolutions adopted by the local American Legion Post or Posts.

**Organization:**

Unit: Every American Legion Auxiliary Unit should have a Children and Youth Chairman, and if the Unit is of sufficient size, a Children and Youth Committee. Working under the general guidance of the Unit President, it is the responsibility of the Children and Youth Chairman to help achieve the two primary goals of the Children and Youth program within her community: (1) Care and protection of children of veterans; (2) Improved conditions for all children. Each American Legion Post should also have a Children and Youth Chairman. The National Headquarters of The American Legion strongly recommends that the Post and Unit Chairmen work in the closest cooperation. A local coordinated Children and Youth Committee can often help achieve this end. Some device for coordinating the efforts of Post and Units is particularly needed in those communities which have more than one American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit.

**Children’s Hospital Representatives**

**All Children’s Hospital (St. Petersburg)**

Dee Bell
11200 102nd Ave N #122
Seminole, Florida 33778
(727) 393-0631
dbell834@tampabay.rr.com

**Mailman Center for Child Development (Miami)**

Denice Grinis

1248 SW 1st Ave

Pompano Beach, FL 33060-8708

(754) 264-4388

DeniceFL@gmail.com