

## Children and Youth Bulletin #1

Congratulations to all the District and Unit "Nannies". We have a big job ahead of us so let's get down to work. Finding the military child is easy in some areas and difficult in others. If there is a 4H in your community reach out to them. They have partnered with Operation Military Child. In some cases supplies are readily available. Items included in the Packs should be a balanced collection of family support materials, communication tools, and fun items the recipient can enjoy with their siblings, remaining parent/relatives, or friends. The most important item of each Hero Pack is a handwritten letter of thanks and appreciation from a local non-military youth. Think Juniors? Girls State Citizens?

After a back pack is given out remember these questions: How can we keep the lines of communication open? What will the future needs of this family be? These are important to think about as the military child can be very fragile.

For more information on the OMK project you might look at [www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org) On the Auxiliary web-site there are links and order forms for the backpacks.

A brand new project I have heard of is the FBI Child ID. By going to the web site: [http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2011/august/child\\_080511/child\\_080511](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2011/august/child_080511/child_080511)

A parent or anyone with a smart phone can download an APP onto their phone. In the app will be current pictures of the children, and pertinent health questions, in the event a child is lost, or missing. Imagine how helpful this could be for law enforcement if a child wanders off in a mall, or playground. I encourage every Unit to share this information with your members, and the general public.

This month many of our Units and Posts will have Labor Day events. Why not invite a military family or families? Next month is Halloween. Did you know that the American Legion Children and Youth Program has a pamphlet entitled "Make Halloween a Fun and Safe Night" These pamphlets are free of charge and there is no shipping costs either. They can be obtained by calling (317) 630-1200 or by visiting [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

TFA (Temporary Financial Assistance) to Veterans with children is available through this program. Your donations to the children and youth fund finances this very important aspect of the program. I encourage every Unit to make a donation of \$50 or more. The Units that do will receive a certificate from this chairman. Forms for the TFA can be found on the web-site.

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