VFW Community Achievements

The VFW takes great pride in its history of service to its communities both stateside and abroad. Annually, VFW and Auxiliary members donate nearly nine million hours to community service projects, relief efforts and local VA facilities each year.

1915  VFW Post 2100 helped sponsor a Boy Scout troop in Everett, Washington
1916  First national VFW essay contest held
1922  "Buddy"® Poppy program began
1923  Entered the war on drugs by printing a resolution calling for an international conference
1927  Provided $10,000 to Mississippi Valley flood victims
1930  First VFW scholarship award ($300) goes to a Boy Scout
1936  Boy Scout-VFW plan of cooperation was signed
1938  Supported the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis
1940  VFW Junior Rifle Clubs are formed with National Rifle Association
1942  VFW Aviator Cadet Program began
1950  Cooperative disaster-relief plan developed with the Red Cross
1952  The Dunn family (Kansas flood victims) won a $75,000 farm in Washington courtesy of the VFW
1953  VFW National Teen-er Baseball: First tournament was held in Hershey Park, Pennsylvania
1956  150,000 kids took part in the national VFW marble competition
1958  Became full partner with Voice of Democracy (VOD)
1959  Minnesota VFW/Auxiliary raised $325,000 for dedication of the VFW Cancer Research Center at the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis)
1961  Assumed primary sponsorship of VOD — within four years 262,000 students participated
1962  Lite-a-Bike program: A $300,000 project with 3-M Co. of St. Paul, Minnesota, provided "Scotchlite" reflector tape — 50,000 VFW members from 4,500 Posts participated
1964  VFW/Auxiliary provided nearly $100,000 to earthquake victims in Anchorage, Alaska
1970  Drive-to-Survive program began
1973  Drug Awareness program began
1979  VFW Political Action Committee formed
1980  Minnesota VFW Posts sponsored the U.S. hockey team in the Winter Olympics
1983  Agreed to permit the Red Cross to use VFW facilities as shelters and relief centers during national disasters and emergencies
1986  Donated $122,000 to the Statue of Liberty Restoration Fund
1990  Provided $49,000 to California earthquake victims
1992  Provided $197,000 to relieve victims of Hurricane Andrew and other disasters
1993  Relief funds totaled $500,000
1995  Youth Essay Contest (7th-8th grades) began
1997  "Buddy"® Poppy celebrated 75th anniversary
1998  VFW Posts raised $100,000 for the March of Dimes
1999  VOD gave $2.5 million in scholarship monies to high school students
       VFW donated $50,000 and 25,000 reprints of its war chronology to Vietnam Veterans
       Memorial’s Young American Vietnam War Era Studies Project
2000  Distributed 60,000 audio books to armed forces worldwide through Operation
       Yarnspinner
2002  Donated $110,000 to diabetes research
       Equally distributed $120,000 among families of active-duty personnel killed in the
       Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon
2003  Partnered with USA Freedom Corps homefront initiative
2004  Established relationships with the National Council for Social Studies (NCCS) and
       National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
2005  Provided $560,000 to Gulf Coast veterans after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
       Distributed 5,000 copies of CD entitled, “Vietnam: A Nation Remembers”
       Established VFW Military Scholarship program
       Expanded Patriot’s Pen Essay Competition
2007  Radiothon raised nearly $100,000 for Unmet Needs
2010  Donated over $648,000 toward construction of the Vietnam Veterans Education Center
       Increased Voice of Democracy National Scholarships to $150,000
       Provided over $20,000 to assist service members with family in Haiti following the
       January earthquake
2011  Pledged $500,000 toward the construction of the Veterans Hall in the National
       Museum of the United States Army
       Provided over $145,000 in emergency financial relief to military families living in
       tornado-stricken areas
2012  Provided over $120,000 for Hurricane Sandy victims on the East Coast
2013  Provided $30,000 for the Moore, Oklahoma, tornado victims and over $30,000 for the
       flood victims in Colorado
2015  Provided $10,000 to the Pacific Areas for typhoon relief
2016  Provided $25,000 for flood relief in Louisiana
2017  Provided $621,300 in aid for victims of Hurricanes Matthew, Irma, Harvey and Maria,
       and $19,000 for victims of the California wildfires
2018  Provided $139,000 in aid for victims of Hurricanes Michael, Irma and Florence, and
       $35,000 for wildfires in California and Colorado. Provided $55,000 for Pacific area
       victims of Tropical Cyclone Gita, and victims of the Mount Kilauea volcanic eruptions,
       and $20,000 for disaster relief efforts in Saipan
2019  Provided $32,182 in aid for victims of Hurricane Florence in North Carolina, and
       $15,000 for flood victims in Nebraska
       Provided $20,000 for Pacific area victims of Typhoon Yuta
2020  Provided $30,000 in aid for victims of floods from hurricanes in Louisiana
       The VFW and VFW Foundation provided $400,000 to Posts and Auxiliaries for
       Community Service Grants
2021  The VFW and VFW Foundation provided $1 million in grants to boost Post and
       Auxiliary operations through the COVID pandemic. The VFW provided $50,000 in aid to
       support relief efforts from a severe winter storm in Texas

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