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.

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1915 Post 2100 helps sponsor a Boy Scout troop in Everett, Wash.
1916 First national VFW essay contest held.
1922 Buddy Poppy Program begins.
1923 VFW enters the war on drugs by printing a resolution calling for an international conference.
1927 VFW donates $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 is signed.
1938 VFW supports the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.
1940 VFW Junior Rifle Clubs are formed with National Rifle Association.
1942 VFW Aviator Cadet Program begins.
1950 A cooperative disaster-relief plan is developed with the Red Cross.
1952 The Dunn family (Kansas flood victims) wins a $75,000 farm in Washington courtesy of the VFW.
1953 VFW National Teen-er Baseball: First tournament is held in Hershey Park, Pa.
1956 150,000 kids take part in the national VFW marble competition.
1958 VFW becomes full partner with Voice of Democracy (VOD).
1959 Minnesota VFW/Ladies Auxiliary raise $325,000 for dedication of the VFW Cancer Research Center at the Univ. of Minn. (Minneapolis).
1961 VFW assumes primary sponsorship of VOD—within four years 262,000 students participate.
1962 Lite-a-Bike program: a $300,000 project with 3-M Co. of St. Paul, Minn., provides "Scotchlite" reflector tape—50,000 VFW members from 4,500 Posts participate.
1964 VFW/Ladies Auxiliary contribute nearly $100,000 to earthquake victims in Anchorage, Alaska.
1970 Drive-to-Survive program begins.
1973 Drug Awareness program begins.
1978 Women admitted to VFW.
1979 VFW Political Action Committee forms.
1980 Minnesota VFW Posts sponsor the U.S. hockey team in the Winter Olympics.
1983 VFW agrees to permit the Red Cross to use VFW facilities as shelters and relief centers during national disasters and emergencies.
1986 VFW donates $122,000 to the Statue of Liberty Restoration Fund.
1990 VFW contributes $49,000 to California earthquake victims.
1992 VFW disburses $197,000 to relieve victims of Hurricane Andrew and other disasters.
1993 Relief funds total $500,000.
1995 Youth Essay Contest (7th-8th grades) begins.
1997 Buddy Poppy celebrates 75th anniversary.
1998 VFW Posts raise $100,000 for the March of Dimes.
1999 VOD gives $2.5 million in scholarship monies to high school students. VFW donates $50,000 and 25,000 reprints of its war chronology to Vietnam Veterans Memorial's Young *American Vietnam War Era Studies Project*.
2000 VFW distributes 60,000 audio books to armed forces worldwide through *Operation Yarnspinner.*
2002 VFW contributes $110,000 to diabetes research.
VFW equally distributes $120,000 among families of active-duty personnel killed in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon.
2003 VFW partners with USA Freedom Corps homefront initiative.
2004 VFW establishes relationships with the National Council for Social Studies (NCCS) and National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).
2005 VFW disburses $560,000 to Gulf Coast veterans after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
VFW distributes 5,000 copies of CD entitled, "*Vietnam: A Nation Remembers.*"
VFW establishes VFW Military Scholarship program.
VFW expands Patriot's Pen Essay Competition.
2007 VFW Radiothon raises nearly $100,000 for Unmet Needs.
2010 VFW donates over $648,000 toward construction of the Vietnam Veterans Education Center.
VFW increases Voice of Democracy National Scholarships to $150,000. VFW raises over $20,000 to assist service members with family in Haiti following the January earthquake.
2011 VFW pledges $500,000 toward the construction of the Veterans Hall in the National Museum of the United States Army.
VFW provides over $145,000 in emergency financial relief to military families living in tornado-stricken areas.
2012 VFW provides over $120,000 for Hurricane Sandy victims on the East Coast.
2013 VFW provides $30,000 for the Moore, Okla. tornado victims and over $30,000 for the flood victims in Colorado.
2015 VFW provides $10,000 to the Pacific Areas for typhoon relief.
2016 VFW provides $25,000 for flood relief in Louisiana.