**CHILDREN & YOUTH**

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Hope all are doing well.

 Most Units have many activities for children and youth in their communities, however, not all of them send in reports! Twenty-two units reported serving over 1000 children and spent over $6,250.00. They served over 300 military children and spent over $2,200.00. $345.00 has been donated to the TAL Child Welfare Foundation. Information regarding the ALA Children & Youth Program was made available in Department mailings, Division Meetings, and Fall Conference.

Units reported many different activities to support children in their communities. They collect school supplies, food for ‘Backpack Buddies’ designed to feed children on weekends, toys for special needs children, and many items for Christmas, including thirty-five bikes. They sponsor Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and church related youth groups. Units have donated flags to classrooms, supported Special Olympics, made donations to several Ronald McDonald Houses, and supported Children’s Miracle Networks.

They man concession stands for Junior American Legion and TAL baseball. They passed out the ALA Safety Halloween brochures during various safety programs. One Unit compiled notebooks of available scholarships and TAL/ALA Programs for high school students, and gave them to high school guidance counselors in their county. Another Unit sponsored a Christmas party for children of domestic violence.

North Carolina offers four grants of up to $500.00 to assist Units in planning activities held in their communities. A “Boo Brigade” was held at Halloween to entertain children in a safe location in one community. There are other activities planned utilizing these funds. There are two grants still available, please contact mlainward@cs.com for information.

Reporting is important to each ALA program. Also, other units like to hear about programs that are successful. Please share!

Mary L. Ward, Chairman

Committee Members: Gladys Hawley, Pati Askew