

## **FAMILY ISSUES STATE GOALS – 2020**

**Slogan:** Educate families to promote individual character and community service for present and future generations.

**Objective:** To help families unite and improve home and community life.

### **Oklahoma Family Fundamentals**

- Increasing family skills across all generations-with program curriculum such as *Take a Stand*,(on bullying) and *Manners Matter*.
- Helping parents and grandparents with family communication.
  - Understand family relationships and/or household dynamics, and multigenerational families.
- Financial Education for limited budgets
  - Teaching individuals how to budget
- Helping to develop home life skills such as canning, sewing and manners
- Preparing to care for others with special needs and the elderly; and to receive assistance when needed.

### **Developing Community Outreach**

- Discover how to increase involvement and assistance to Community Coalitions and create alliances with other community and county organizations.
- Small community service projects: “Examples” Tooth Fairy Pillows, Cool Ties, Nursing Home Projects, provide school supplies for needy children, identify & volunteer or donate to Abuse Centers, organize a book drive for local needs.
- Neighborhood Community Social event such as: Potluck Supper, Ice Cream Social
- Volunteer to tutor or mentor community adults and children.

### **Protecting Your Family**

- Raising awareness of possible mental help needs within family.
- Raise awareness of proper storage and disposal of prescription medication.
- Family Emergency Planning & Response Training from the Office of Homeland Security
- Neighborhood Watch Party
- Internet Protection Safety Education

### **Military Support**

- Continue to send packages and letters to military personnel. i.e save coupons to be sent to military to use in their commissaries.
- Encourage support to the military family by forming support groups and including them in group and county activities.

- Help in forming support groups for wounded veterans, and service personnel in communities: i.e. Wounded Warriors cancelled stamp project. Website: Stamps Wounded Warriors; quilt projects, i.e. Home of the Brave and Quilts of Valor.
- Contact and assist local VFW centers as needed.

### **Promoting Family Literacy**

- Volunteer to read to pre-school or young elementary age children. Check with county educator for available programs i.e. Raising Young Readers .
- Implement reading programs such as F.R.E.D. (Families/Fathers reading every day).i.e. Texas Tech curriculum to encourage family time and use of libraries. i.e. Make bags to use with children, fill with age-appropriate books and activities. Work with location programs for distribution.
- Adopt a “book box” project using information gained though [www.littlelibraries.com](http://www.littlelibraries.com) for your area or underserved community in your county.

### **Life Essay**

- Each county conducts a life essay contest according to the state guidelines as listed. County winners should be submitted to the state awards chair for judging.
- Write about ONE EVENT OR TIME IN LIFE, for the purpose of providing future generations a written picture of life. Spelling and punctuation are not judged, but clarity of ideas is important
- The goal is to compile the best stories as deemed by the family issues committee members into a possible future publication as a fundraiser for OHCE.

### **Rules of the Life Story Essay Contest**

- Two entries per county
- One entry per person
- Entry must be written by an OHCE member in good standing.
- Entries will only be judged if they are placed in a 3-brad paper folder with pockets for 8½ x 11 paper. The information is needed in the following order; Life story, name of the author, address, county, district and year written on the upper right-hand corner of the label affixed on the folder.
- The essay must be on a typewriter or computer using Times New Roman font 12 size and double-spaced with a 1-inch left hand margin. It should be one to three pages in length.
- Do not include photographs, clipart, news clippings or page protectors.
- All life essays submitted for state judging must include the current signed Life Essay “Release Form” statement by the author giving OHCE the right to read publicly and publish, electronically on OHCE website for public viewing without further financial compensation to the author.
- County winner essays must be submitted to the OHCE Awards Chair postmarked by February 1st.

**Awards:**

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> - County Award Book: \$25, \$15, \$10

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Local Group Award Book: \$25, \$15, \$10

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Life Essay: \$25, \$15, \$10

**Committee:**

Darline Ruyle, SE Chairman

Lydia Troyer, NE Member

Tammy Elliott, SE Member

April Green, SE Member