

AMERICAN GI FORUM OF THE UNITED STATES

The American GI Forum of the United States (AGIF-US) was formed in 1948 to assist Veterans returning after World War II. Veterans of living in the Southwest were experiencing difficulties receiving their GI Bill benefits. The AGIF was founded to ensure those who had served valiantly would in fact receive the health and educational benefits they had earned.

Mission:

The mission of the American GI Forum is to secure and foster our American democracy at every level of life; local, state, and national; for all our Country, as well as to further the rights of all inhabitants of our Country, to further the rights of all the veterans, of our members, their families, and friends.

Motto:

“Education Is Our Freedom and Freedom Should Be Everybody’s Business.” This is reflected in the national pledge of “providing equal educational, economic, and political opportunities under the law for all United States citizens, especially as it applies to our Veteran community.

Purposes:

1. To secure the blessing of American democracy at every level of local, State, and National life for all United States citizens or residents.
2. To uphold and defend the Constitution and the United States flag.
3. To foster and perpetrate the principles of American democracy based on religious and political freedom for the individual and equal opportunity for all.
4. To foster and enlarge equal educational opportunities, equal economic opportunities for all United States citizens or residents regardless of differences or reprisal or retaliation for prior activities.
5. To encourage greater participation of all citizens or residents of the area of organizations in the policy and administration of all departments, agencies, and other governmental units of local, State, and Federal government.
6. To combat any action or practice that denies any United States resident an opportunity to develop full potential as an individual.
7. To foster and promote the broader knowledge and appreciation by all United States citizens or residents of their cultural heritage and language.
8. The above purposes will prevail according to current law changes.

The American GI Forum of the U.S. is a national governing body of the organization and is made up of State organizations. The State organizations must follow the governing documents of the National AGIF of the U.S. and is made up of the local chapters located in that State. Each local chapter has their officers and must follow the governing documents of the National AGIF-US and must participate in the activities of their state organization. Each local chapter may have an affiliated Woman’s chapter and Youth chapter. These have their own officers and must follow the National governing documents of AGIF-US. The women and Youth may have separate meetings and activities or meet with the Forum Chapter with whom they are affiliated. The activities of all chapters should work to fulfill the Purposes of the organization listed in the governing documents of the AGIF-US. Membership dues are paid at all levels of the organization. At this time there are 1.5 million veterans in the communities in which the AGIF-US works.

There are a wide variety of fundraisers that local chapters and State Organizations use for raising the money needed to do the community service projects they do or service or organization functions the members attend, or sponsor for training for various skills. Some of the most frequent used are food sales (enchiladas, burritos, tacos, etc.) or special occasion meals/banquets; dances; tournaments of various sports (golf, softball, baseball, soccer, bowling, etc.); silent auctions; live auctions; garage/yard sales; raffles (as permitted by their state), and donation drives.

The money raised in these fundraisers is used to help families whose homes are damaged or destroyed in storms or fires; families that have members that have serious illnesses or have been injured in an accident or storm, help individuals or families that have lost their employment for any reason; help families that have unexpected death of a family member who had not insurance; and other emergencies.

A very important use of fundraiser money is educational scholarships. Our Motto states the importance our organization gives to education. Some states have established IRS 501(c) 3 organizations to assist in fundraising. The AGIF-US addressed the need for scholarships by sponsoring and establishing its own IRS 501 (c) 3 organization.

AMERICAN GI FORUM OF THE UNITED STATES HISPANIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The American GI Forum of the United States Hispanic Education Foundation (HEF) was founded in 1971 to provide veterans, their children, and other persons from the Southwest states financial support for higher education. The HEF is a National 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. In the early 1970's it was clear that there was a need for Hispanic youth and their families to have a program that would provide the encouragement and support to get the youth of the Southwest and Central states whose parents worked mainly in agricultural jobs, to attend higher education, in equal proportion to youth of parents who worked in professional jobs. Our program has proven to be successful, as the statistics from the community of one of our chapters shows. In 1975 the high school had 90 students in their senior class and approximately 20 of them had parents who worked in agricultural labor jobs and only one of those students graduated and went on to higher education. 50 years later in 2025, that school had 98 high school seniors and 78 of them came from parents that had started out as agricultural laborers or are still in that kind of work. 95% of those are going on to school or are going into the military. The AGIF Chapter has worked hard to encourage all of the students to continue their education.

The AGIF-US HEF has expanded their purpose to include all youth needing scholarships to be able to attend an institute of higher education. The American GI Forum through the Hispanic Education Foundation has a goal for our youth to develop a leadership motivation. We want to not only get them to attend an institute of higher learning, but to be motivated to be leaders in encouraging other to attend and be leaders in discovering ways to make our world a better place to live in, to find solutions to health issues, to find solutions for "Climate Change", to be able to recognize potential problems and find solutions instead of charging others with blame, making the situation worse.

The AGIF-US HEF also has a need for adults who are able to envision a world that tries to solve problems and make the world a better place with education of our youth and educational opportunities for adults to expand their knowledge to solve the problems that may come with changes that come with nature and human mistakes. We need these adults to step up to be HEF board members and sponsors.

AGIF-US HEF has a history of giving scholarships to adult women that need to go back to school to train for a better career, a promotion, better income to be able to care for her family as the primary wage earner. We also have provided scholarships to Veterans that needed to return to school after leaving the military. Whether it was to update for returning to a career the Veteran had before the military, or the need to train for something new because of injuries received in the military, HEF was there with a scholarship.

AGIF-US HEF is looking for corporations that will support us in meeting the need for scholarships. We hope you will become one of those sponsors.