

# The Update

February  
2010

A newsletter from the VFW National Home for Children



3573 S. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827



vfnationalhome.org



(800) 424-8360



## Valentine's Day Fun at the Nursery

The VFW National Home for Children's Nursery held a Valentine's Day Party on Friday, February 12. The kids exchanged cards and candy, while also partaking in several Valentine's themed games and activities, ranging from candy tosses to cookie decorating.

The kids learned the value of giving and sharing, while exploring the themes of the holiday, such as friendship, caring and love. It was a memorable and fun filled experience for the kids of the National Home.



## Special Thanks and Valentines Wishes to our Cootie Friends

Valentine's Day is for expressing love, thankfulness and appreciation to your dearest friends and family. Here at the National Home, we'd like to share those sentiments with all of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members that are an integral part of the VFW National Home for Children.



We would like to single out the Military Order of the Cootie this Valentine's Day for all they have done for the National Home throughout the years. "The Cooties were instrumental in establishing the National Home way back in 1925 and supporting the Home is the cornerstone of their organization," said Executive Director, Patrice Green "The generous members of the MOC and MOCA exemplify love and friendship in all that they do."



For Valentine's Day, the children of the National Home sent Supreme Commander Maurice Theriac and Supreme President Pam Hamilton a special surprise, consisting of a card with a recorded message of the nursery kids yelling "Happy Valentine's Day!" and a box of chocolates (although a few pieces were missing, as some of the kids just couldn't resist the temptation).

The kids, staff and Trustees are so very thankful for all of the dedicated work the Cooties have done to help honor our veterans and their families!



## Junior Girls get Creative

At the January Jr. Girls meeting, which was held at the Community Center, seven Jr. Girls from the National Home participated in making memorial Buddy Poppy displays for the mid-winter Buddy Poppy contest. One was in the shape of a birthday cake to tie-in with the National Home's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. In March, the Jr. Girls will be helping with the annual Cancer Smorgasbord fundraiser at VFW Post #2406.

HELP ★ HOPE ★ HONOR

# Winter Fun

The long awaited return trip to Echo Valley occurred this month. On February 13, winter enthusiasts from the VFW National Home for Children made their way to the winter park for a day of sledding and tobogganing.

Armed with only sleds and their courage, the young winter fans tackled the towering hills of Echo Valley head on. Children flew down the slopes and then jumped right back in line after reaching the bottom.

The children enjoyed both tobogganing and sledding on the slopes and the thrill seekers rode down the hills for hours.



Everyone that made the trip also enjoyed a delicious feast for lunch – climbing up those hills and zooming back down builds up quite an appetite.

Special thanks to Dave Schmid, past Trustee of the National Home, and the Wisconsin Cooties for funding this special and memorable wintery extravaganza.

Overall, it was another successful and fun filled adventure at Echo Valley, one that already has the kids giddy with anticipation for a return trip next year.

## COMING EVENTS

**February 21, 2010**  
UAW Carnival

**March 21-27, 2010**  
Awareness Week

**April 26-28, 2010**  
Easter Treat

**May 13-15, 2010**  
Department Jr. Vice  
Orientation

**June 5, 2009**  
Alumni Day

**June 5, 2010**  
Fishing Rodeo

**June 7, 2010**  
Board of Trustees Meeting

## National Home Goes Green

The VFW National Home for Children is committed to saving energy and steadfast in its efforts to use sound environmentally friendly practices.



This commitment was recently recognized by the City of Eaton Rapids, Michigan. Mayor Steven Platte visited the campus to thank the National Home for participating in the city's Energy Optimization program and presented National Home Executive Director Patrice Green with a grant for more than \$2,400. This enabled the National Home to replace the lighting in the gymnasium with far more efficient and brighter lights. Going green at the National Home is ongoing as different projects are funded by gifts such as this.