

NATIONAL HOME

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The VFW National Home for Children is a non-profit, residential child care agency providing long and short term residency to the children and grandchildren of the VFW and its Auxiliary members. These are children whose parents are deceased, disabled or where they cannot provide needed care. Ages include preschool to young adults who are referred by the VFW and Auxiliary. The National Home also accepts eligible single parent families in need for a limited goal-defined program. Since its founding in 1925, more than 2,000 children and families have been served.

The National Home consist of 71 buildings on 629 acres of land, this includes 36 brick houses, community center, guest lodge, chapel, library, children computer lab, greenhouse, nursery school, maintenance building, museum, fire barn and administrative buildings. The National Home is funded by gifts of the VFW, Men's Auxiliary, Ladies Auxiliary and MOC/MOCA organizations, and many individual contributors. The National Home receives no federal or state funding.

Additional support is provided through the annual Seals Campaign and other direct mail appeals, life memberships, special events and earnings from investment of the endowment fund.

Educational programs: Children attend the Eaton Rapids Public Schools; the home education department provides tutoring, the use of computers, a library, piano lessons, drug and alcohol awareness training, sex education, horticultural education, student work programs and community building.

HOW TO REPORT

All activities should be reported on-line via the Department website **Youth Activities** at <http://www.vfwca.org/membertools/programform12rpt.html> and by submitting a report (Form-12) to the Department National Home Chairman.

Important! – To qualify for awards a Post must send a copy of the Program Reporting (Form 12) to the Department Chairman with all applicable attachments.

AWARDS

Awards will be presented at the State Convention as follows:

- 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall (Post & District) will be awarded a plaque, based on Chairman recommendation.

APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE NATIONAL HOME

Application for admission must be made through the local VFW Post. National Home Referral of Children (Form-20)

FUNDS TO OPERATE THE NATIONAL HOME

Please keep in mind that the Home is a totally private agency with no outside support. It derives its support solely from the membership of the VFW Post, Auxiliary and the Military Order of the Cooties. Below are the four (4) primary sources of contributions that provide for the operation of the National Home:

1. The donations for National Home Seals (nearly 50% of the budget).
2. The donations for Buddy Poppies (one cent from each poppy).
3. Donations for Life Memberships and Associate Life Memberships (\$35.00).
4. Bequests from wills and gifts.

Money received from Life Memberships and gifts are placed in an Endowment Fund and only the interest is used to run the Home.

Any active VFW or Ladies Auxiliary member, or any unit from those organizations can become an active (voting) member of the corporation by purchasing a "LIFE MEMBERSHIP" in the VFW National Home for \$35.00. Life Memberships may also be given as gifts or purchased in the name of a Post, Auxiliary or individual. These associate memberships may likewise be purchased by or for organizations and people of good character; however, associate members do not have National Home voting privileges.

Each National Home Life Member, whether active or associate, receives a plastic pocket card and a certificate attesting inclusion on the VFW National Home Life Membership Rolls. The pocket cards and certificates may change periodically and they can be replaced or updated for a small fee.

Mail your Life Membership applications (Form-19) and donations directly to National Home at VFW National Home, 3573 Waverly Road South, Eaton Rapids, and MI 48827. **For donations, please earmark your check "California Home."**