

VFW National Home for Children

Press Release

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National Home - 85th Birthday Celebration

Eaton Rapids, Mich. – The VFW National Home for Children celebrates 85 years of helping children and families of our nation's veterans this coming January. The 85th Birthday will be commemorated with a special project spearheaded by 2009-10 National President Jan Tittle and the Ladies Auxiliary.

At her recent homecoming celebration President Tittle announced the project asking Ladies Auxiliary Departments, Conferences, Auxiliaries and members to join together to help purchase a wonderful 85th birthday gift to take care of a very special need for a **29 passenger Mini-Bus**.

In December 2010, a new state law will prevent the National Home from using the 11 passenger vans to transport children, therefore, the National Home needs a Mini-Bus.

Throughout the year, the National Home transports larger groups of children for educational field trips, sporting events, recreational activities and to do community service work. During the summer, the Education and Recreation Departments transports larger groups of children several times weekly.

The Mini-Bus will meet or exceed all State and federal laws for transporting children and a Commercial Driver License will be required for drivers of the bus. The goal is \$60,000 for the mini-bus project.

President Tittle asks members and auxiliaries to join in and **send a birthday card to the National Home and if possible, enclose a donation for the Mini-Bus**. The Home will display the cards prominently during the celebration by using them to fill in a large outline of a mini-bus. President Tittle will visit the National Home in January for the 85th birthday party, and hopes the outline of the bus is filled by then.

The ladies have wasted no time in making this project happen. Dept of Ohio President Meg Klaameyer challenged her fellow members at the homecoming celebration who raised \$479.25 on the spot!

At her homecoming, President Tittle also surprised National Home Executive Director Green with a donation of \$5,000 to get this project off to a great start.

Another fun part of the mini bus special project is an 85th Birthday Mini-Bus Keychain Contest. Those who wish can send in a fun and special key chain to the National Home. The children will vote for their favorite keychain which will then become the official mini-bus keychain.

Notice: The 7 passenger mini-vans the Home has received from the Campbell label program are still very much needed to transport small groups of children. So please keep the Campbell UPC codes coming in!

With your generous help, the children will have reliable transportation to educational, social, and community service activities, helping their young minds and souls to flourish.

Since 1925 the VFW National Home for Children has provided Help, Hope and Honor for the children and families of our nation's military and veterans. For more information please call (517) 663-1521, toll-free at (800) 424-8360 or visit www.vfwnationalhome.org.

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