

# VFW National Home for Children

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## **Heath grabs hearts at Department Convention**

*National Home Alumni expresses appreciation for opportunities*

**Eaton Rapids, Mich.** – When representatives from the VFW National Home for Children were welcomed to the stage at the New Jersey Department Convention in Wildwood, those present had no idea about the story they were about to hear. National Home Alumni Latisha Heath expressed deep appreciation for the support and opportunities she and her brother received through the generosity of VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members.

Heath first arrived at the National Home with her mother and younger brother. Two years later, Heath's mother died unexpectedly at a young age. Heath was a senior in high school and preparing for college. Amazingly, she became an emancipated minor and gained custody of her younger brother. This allowed them to continue to live at the National Home with a full support system to keep them in school and focused on their goals. Heath not only graduated from college, but now works for an agency helping others. Heath acknowledged that none of this would have been possible, if not for the support of the National Home staff and the generosity of the VFW and Auxiliary.

Currently the National Home is reaching out to young veterans from current conflicts to help families in need. National Home Public Relations Director Susan Stevens highlighted the efforts to spread the word about the good work the VFW is doing for veteran's families.

“We know there are military and veteran families out there right now who need help. Tell people about the difference you are making in the lives of veteran's families every day at the National Home. Tell them there is help available for them or their buddies' families. Just tell them that we are here for them,” said Stevens.

The Department of New Jersey National Home Chairman Larry Harvey set a goal last year to raise \$10,000 for the National Home. At the convention, Harvey was proud to present a check for \$12,000 to the National Home. The staff, residents and alumni of the National Home are grateful for the generosity of the New Jersey members and extra support from friends like Harvey, Commander-in-Chief Richard Bradshaw and Senior Vice Commander Jack Shiverdaker.