



## Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home for Children

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### SUPREME COOTIES TO LIGHT UP CAMPUS *Two-year special project to provide materials for new, safer lighting*

**Eaton Rapids, Mich.**—Thanks to Cootie friends from across the United States, the VFW National Home for Children will be a brighter place to live, work and visit. The Supreme Military Order of the Cootie has announced their 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 special projects to purchase \$35,000 in materials to repair, upgrade and add additional streetlights on the National Home campus.

Supreme Commander Terrance “Shorty” Lyons and Supreme Senior Vice Commander Ray Fern met with National Home directors on Saturday, December 10 and agreed upon the two-year project. Pending Council of Administration approval, each Commander will work to raise \$17,500 during their leadership year with contributions from Military Order of the Cootie Grands, Councils and Pup Tents from across the country, and the globe.

“The Cooties are extremely generous with their special projects, and select challenging undertakings that really improve the quality of life here at the National Home,” said Patrice Green, National Home Executive Director.

Most of the streetlights lining the National Home campus are more than 50 years old. Time, weather and daily use have taken a serious toll on the lights.

“The direct burial cable is failing, so the entire system needs to be rewired,” said Todd Marriott, National Home Facilities Director. “The lights themselves also need to be brightened to enhance the safety and beauty of the campus at night.”

Higher-output, high-pressure sodium lamps will replace the outdated system. The project could take up to five years to complete because all labor, including trench work, will be provided by National Home staff and volunteers. Hiring an electrical contractor would triple the cost of the project labor.

“Purchasing the materials ahead of time will keep costs down by avoiding inflation and the sometimes-volatile copper market,” said Marriott. “Our staff will have the supplies they need to complete this important project thanks to the Cooties.”

Some past Supreme MOC special projects have included recreation projects, scholarship funding, and building construction and renovations.

Since 1925 the VFW National Home for Children has been providing for the children and families of our nation’s veterans, while at the same time serving as a living memorial to our nation’s heroes. For more information on the National Home, please call (517) 663-1521, toll-free at (800) 424-8360 or visit [www.vfnationalhome.org](http://www.vfnationalhome.org).

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Press Release