

# VFW National Home for Children

## Press Release

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### **VFW National Home for Children Building Again to Help America's Veterans**

**Eaton Rapids, Mich.** – Just in time for the holidays, the VFW National Home for Children will begin to put a generous gift to use by breaking ground for another new duplex to help care for families of our nation's veterans and active duty military. Groundbreaking ceremonies will take place 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8 at 3573 South Waverly Road in Eaton Rapids.

At their recent meeting, the National Home's Board of Trustees authorized the new construction on the 629-acre campus. The project will be funded by a portion of the \$3.5 million charitable donation that resulted from the 2006 Memorial Day Dealership Campaign conducted by the Buick-Pontiac-GMC Division of General Motors Corp.

The donation, presented by Division General Manager John Larson in July, was made to the National Home without designation or restriction, to be used by the Board of Trustees to best serve the needs of the National Home.

"The Board's decision to use a portion of GM's generous donation to expand our capacity will allow the Home to serve even more families as we strive to meet the changing needs of today's veterans and members of the active-duty military," said National Home Executive Director Patrice Green.

Scheduled for completion in spring 2007, the two-family home will house residents of the National Home's various family programs that serve single parent families, families of deployed service members and the families of disabled veterans participating in VA Vocational Rehabilitation. The National Home also offers long-term residential services for children in a family-like home environment.

Each side of the 2,400 plus-square-foot duplex will include three bedrooms and two bathrooms. The brick structure was selected to fit current program needs while fitting seamlessly within the campus neighborhood of over 70 buildings, including 36 individual family homes and one duplex.

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A Community of Promises Kept.

This will be the second new housing construction at the National Home since 1966 and closely follows the completion last summer of a duplex built and sponsored by the National Veterans Affairs Department of the United Auto Workers.

“With over 20 families on our waiting list and many additional families applying for National Home programs, the construction of another duplex will meet an important need for the children and families we serve nationwide,” said Director Green.

Scheduled to participate in the groundbreaking ceremonies are John Larson, General Manager of the Buick-Pontiac-GMC Division of General Motors and Melvin Garrett, President of the Board of Trustees of the VFW National Home for Children from New York.

Lansing-based Alternative Design is the project architect and M & S Development is the general contractor.

The Board resolution that authorized the new construction project also provides for the investment of the remaining \$3 million to be used for Program growth and development. This investment will provide both short and long-term resources dedicated to researching, testing and implementing new programs and services and for expansion of existing programs at the National Home.

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.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org).

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