

VFW National Home for Children

Press Release

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Buick-Pontiac-GMC gives another Million to National Home

Eaton Rapids, Mich. – The VFW National Home for Children received a one million dollar donation Thursday, May 31 from the Buick-Pontiac-GMC (BPG) Division of General Motors. BPG General Manager Jim Bunnell presented the check at a dedication ceremony for a new duplex that was built with a portion of a \$3.5 million donation that came from last year's BPG Memorial Day Dealership Campaign.

“It’s just the right thing to do,” said Bunnell. “For all the military men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice, what a better way to step up and say ‘The American people think about you, they care for you and they want to say thank you’.”

The million dollar donation is a part of BPG’s “A Million Thanks” Memorial Day and National Military Appreciation Month campaign. The auto division teamed up with *A Million Thanks*, a letter-writing, military-support campaign to help raise awareness of the unseen sacrifices of military men and women. *A Million Thanks* was founded in 2004 by California high school student Shauna Fleming and has generated more than 2.5 million letters, cards and e-mails. BPG’s campaign also stirred national awareness for the National Home through television commercials that aired during the month of May.

The duplex was built to help care for families of our nation’s veterans and active-duty military and 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-life home environment. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Departments of Hawaii and Alaska are assuming future sponsorship of each side of the duplex.

“The National Home wants our friends at Buick, Pontiac and GMC to know how much we appreciate the opportunity you have given us to serve two more families today and many more in the future,” said National Home Executive Patrice Green. “Some will live in these homes and some will benefit in so many other ways because of your investment in their futures.”

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A Community of Promises Kept.

This is 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.

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

A decision will be made at the next Board of Trustees meeting in October on how the generous donation will be put to use.

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.

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