

VFW National Home for Children

Press Release

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Third Annual Alumni Day Brings Back Memories

Eaton Rapids, Mich. – Alumni of the VFW National Home for Children were welcomed back home for a special, third-annual alumni event on Saturday, June 2.

More than 2,000 children and families have lived at the National Home throughout the organization's 82-year history. While alumni frequently visit on their own, an alumni-only event allows former residents to meet and reconnect.

"The National Home is pleased to welcome back former residents," said Executive Director Patrice Green. "It is wonderful when alumni can visit the place where they grew up and revisit all their memories."

Approximately 100 alumni and their families members attended the event. All visitors were offered the opportunity to tour many of the homes on campus as well as other campus buildings. Many walked through the front doors of their former homes with tears in their eyes.

Lunch was served to the entire campus community, allowing current and former residents to share a meal and memories. Alumni spent much of the time sorting through the National Home's extensive photo collection and making copies of pictures they remembered.

For many, it was their first time back to the National Home. Mary Gabelsberger of Portland, Ore. came back to her "home" after being gone for 52 years. A former resident from 1950-1955, Mary reminisced with other former residents who lived at the National Home during the same time period, browsed through historic photos and visited the three homes that she lived in.

"Coming back after more than 50 years brought back many memories," Mary said. "It was so nice to be back Home."

The National Home has made Alumni Day an annual event on the Saturday in June that corresponds with the Eaton Rapids High School all-class reunion. Next year's event is tentatively schedule for June 7, 2008. Former residents seeking more information on Alumni Day are asked to call the Public Relations Department at (800) 424-8360.

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.

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