

# VFW National Home for Children

## Press Release

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### **Departments of Wisconsin, Missouri Bring Treats to National Home Children**

**Eaton Rapids, Mich.** – About 80 VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members traveled from Missouri and Wisconsin to treat residents of the VFW National Home for Children to a fun-filled Saturday of activities during the annual Missouri/Wisconsin Halloween Party on October 27.

VFW Departments of Missouri and Wisconsin host the day's activities, rotating sponsorship each year, with the Department of Missouri as this year's host. The National Home was honored to have many Department Officers present from both Departments led by Dept. of Missouri Commander Jerry Jones and President Jeri Sherwood, and Dept. of Wisconsin Commander William Hustad and Jr. Vice Commander Wilfred "Twiggy" Johnson.

Under the direction of Missouri Department National Home Chairmen Jim Mueller and Carol Butterworth, Department Officers collected donations from area businesses and fellow members to provide Halloween gifts to each child residing at the National Home. Wisconsin Department National Home Chairmen Dave Schmid and Carol Laabs-Kanios also contributed goodies and assisted in making the Halloween party a huge success.

Events began with campus tours, including stops at the Missouri and Wisconsin houses, the new Alaska/Hawaii Duplex, the Guest Lodge/Chapel, Nursery and Museum. Many attendees, as first-time visitors to the National Home, were touched and impacted by the community atmosphere on the 629-acre campus.

"I am so glad I finally got to see this place," said one VFW member. "For years I heard about it, but you can't really experience the full effect until you see it with your very eyes."

Following campus tours, National Home residents enjoyed a variety of carnival games and prizes in the Community Center. Children of all ages dressed up in their Halloween costumes and competed for first, second and third place prizes awarded by Department of Wisconsin officials. Pizza and caramel apples brought the afternoon to a close. A campus hayride and Halloween dance concluded the activities.

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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