



Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home for Children

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NATIONAL HOME, UAW ANNOUNCE HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP *Organizations collaborate to build new housing for veterans' families*

Eaton Rapids, Mich.— The Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home for Children and the United Auto Workers announce a historic partnership to build a duplex for the children and families of veterans. This two-unit structure will be the first new housing construction since 1966.

The new homes will be built with union labor on the National Home's campus in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. Founded in 1925, the National Home operates distinctive programs to house and support veterans and their families.

"We're delighted and proud to have the UAW Veterans Affairs Department as partners," said Patrice Green, Executive Director of the VFW National Home for Children. "This marks the first time we have partnered with any organization outside of the VFW in this way, and the first new housing to be built in 40 years."

Groundbreaking is planned for spring if enough funds are raised. The UAW is appealing to its members for funding to cover the construction, furnishing and ongoing support of the new homes.

"Our members feel very strongly that we as a union should do whatever we can to support veterans and their families," UAW President Ron Gettelfinger said.

The proposed duplex will house residents in the National Home's Single Parent Family Program. The goal-oriented program provides housing and support to struggling families for up to three years as they complete education, training and counseling to become self-sufficient community members.

In the partnership with the UAW, laid-off union volunteers will assist in building the duplex. Laid-off UAW members are already volunteers at the National Home, helping to maintain the homes and automobiles, as well as handle clerical tasks.

UAW Vice President Cal Rapson, who directs the Union's Veterans Affairs Department, said the idea formed as UAW members sought ways to help veterans and current military service personnel.

"Our Veterans Department was looking for ways we could serve those who have served this country so honorably," Rapson said. "We found a common purpose with the VFW National Home for Children."

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 toll-free (800) 424-8360 or visit www.vfnationalhome.org.

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