



Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home for Children

3573 S. Waverly Road
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
800-424-8360

For Immediate Release
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VETERAN, UAW LEADERS COME TOGETHER FOR HISTORICAL GROUNDBREAKING *VFW National Home to build first new housing in four decades with union support*

Eaton Rapids, Mich.—The UAW National Veterans Affairs Department is opening doors of opportunity to children and families of veterans with the construction of a new duplex on the VFW National Home for Children campus. A groundbreaking ceremony will take place Tuesday at 10 a.m. on the south end of the campus neighborhood. The event marks the first new residential construction on campus in 40 years.

“With 25 single parent families on our waiting list, the UAW is meeting an important need for the children and families we serve nationwide,” said Patrice Green, National Home Executive Director. “Our organizations share the important mission of caring for veterans and their families.”

The two-family home, scheduled for completion by spring 2006, will house residents of the National Home’s single parent family program. The time-limited, goal-oriented program allows single parents up to three years of National Home services to regain self-sufficiency. The National Home also offers long-term residential services for children in a family-like environment.

Each side of the 2400-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 70 buildings, including 36 individual family homes.

“The average size of our existing campus homes are 2000 square feet or more,” Green said. “Placing single parents in a smaller home will give them a more manageable space to rebuild their lives and reconnect with their children.”

International UAW President, Ron Gettelfinger, UAW Vice President and Director of National Veterans Affairs Department, Cal Rapson, VFW Commander in Chief James Mueller, Ladies Auxiliary National President Sandy Germany and Board President John E. Hamilton will share the honor of breaking ground with 10-year-old National Home resident Jacklynn Dickerson.

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Lansing-based Alternative Designs is the project architect. General contractor is Thatcher Construction Co. Using union labor and donated materials, Thatcher will manage the \$370,000 project. A tremendous amount of materials and volunteer labor have already been promised by local unions and business partners nationwide, significantly cutting cost projections. To date, commitments to project fundraising exceed \$250,000.

“The VFW National Home for Children is ecstatic about the generosity of the UAW community,” Green said. “We’ve already had offers to provide everything from drywall, flooring and paint materials to the kitchen sink. The support we’ve felt even prior to the groundbreaking is fantastic.”

For more information or directions to the Sept. 20 groundbreaking at 10 a.m. on the National Home’s Eaton Rapids campus contact the VFW National Home at **(517) 663-1521**.

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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