

# The Update

April  
2007

The latest news and notes from the VFW National Home for Children  
3573 S. Waverly Road~Eaton Rapids, MI 48827~800-424-8360~vfwnationalhome.org

## National Home Residents Share Easter Fun with Grand of Ohio Cooties



Cooties and bunnies were found roaming the campus of the VFW National Home for Children on March 31 during the annual Easter Treat sponsored by the Grand of Ohio Cooties. National Home residents, staff and Cooties enjoyed an Easter basket delivery, egg hunt, ice cream social and roller skating party.

Easter Treat is an annual event focused on connecting Cooties with the residents of the National Home. More than 30 members from Ohio and other states traveled to the National Home for a weekend of fun with the children and families. The Cootie crew was led by Ohio Grand Commander Chuck Chilar and Ohio Grand President Josephine Gony. Additionally, festivity participants included National Home Board of Trustees Vice President Roger Taylor of Grover Hill, Ohio, MOC Supreme Chaplain Barry Walker of East Palestine, Ohio and MOC Supreme Senior Vice Commander Ralph Corno (pictured in the photo on the left) of Edison, N.J.



The weekend began with a spaghetti dinner hosted for the residents of the Ohio House Friday evening. Saturday morning brought a basket delivery by the Easter Bunny to every family on campus. The Community Center lawn was then peppered with colored eggs filled with candy and cash for the young residents to find and keep.



After the egg hunt, everyone was invited to the ice cream social in the Community Center Café. Tours of the Ohio House and Stephen P. Yokich duplex concluded the afternoon activities on campus. In the evening, children and youth enjoyed a roller skating party at Jackson All-Skate.

Easter Treat is funded and sponsored by the generous members of the Grand of Ohio Cooties. Chairpersons Dave Fackler and Theresa "Tex" Columer organize the donations from Easter baskets to egg hunt prizes and the rest of the fun for the weekend.



## Announcing the 2007 National Home Graduates!

The VFW National Home for Children is proud to announce the Class of 2007. Two National Home residents will complete their high school education in June and two continuing education students will complete their college education in May. Our VFW and Ladies Auxiliary friends are invited to share in the excitement and joy of these graduations. The Community Celebration is on the evening of June 7 at 6:00 p.m. The educational accomplishments of the residents will be recognized, including scholastic improvements, honor roll achievements and Single Parent Family Program successes.

The 2007 graduating class includes high school graduates Alex and Samuel and college graduates Cathy and Danielle. Donations for National Home graduates should be sent to the VFW National Home for Children and earmarked for "graduates." Monies will be distributed to this year's seniors upon successful completion of their graduation requirements.

## New Duplex Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Set for Thursday, May 31

It is an exciting time for the VFW National Home for Children! Since December 2006, construction has been underway on the two-family duplex. The construction is being funded by a portion of the \$3.5 million charitable donation that resulted from the 2006 Memorial Day Dealership Campaign conducted by the Buick-Pontiac-GMC Division of General Motors Corp.

You are invited to join us for history in the making at the May 31 ribbon cutting dedication at 10:00 a.m. on the National Home campus. Attending the ceremony are special guests Gary Kurpius, VFW Commander-in-Chief, Virginia Carman, Ladies Auxiliary National Sr. Vice President and John Larson, General Manager, Buick-Pontiac-GMC Division of General Motors. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by May 24 to Bobbie Langdon at (800) 424-8360 or e-mail her at [blangdon@vfwnationalhome.org](mailto:blangdon@vfwnationalhome.org).



## Buick-Pontiac-GMC Surprises Residents with NCAA Final Four Souvenirs



Residents of the National Home were treated to a gift gym bag filled with NCAA Final Four Souvenirs thanks to the Buick, Pontiac and GMC Division of General Motors. John Larson, General Manager for the Division, sent more than 80 gifts bags to the National Home which were filled with a NCAA Final Four t-shirt, mini-basketball, cap and pad of paper.

In the future, look for details in the coming weeks on how General Motors will partner with the VFW National Home for Children in honoring America's soldiers during the month of May, National Military Appreciation Month.



## National Home Accepting Nominations for Board Vacancies

Do you or someone you know have the desire to be a National Home Trustee? The National Home Board of Trustees has two future vacancies that will be created by the term expiration of Dana Hussey, District 1 Trustee, and Melvin Garrett, District 2 Trustee in October 2007. Dedicated, hardworking individuals are encouraged to seek election to these esteemed positions to promote awareness, understanding and support of the National Home within the National Home District they represent.

A Trustee candidate must:

- Be a resident of a Department included in the vacant National Home Districts;
  - District 1 candidates must reside in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island or Vermont.
  - District 2 candidates must reside in New Jersey, New York or Europe.
- Be a Life Member of the National Home for at least one year prior to nomination;
- Be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or its Ladies Auxiliary;
- Obtain written endorsement of his or her Post, County Council, District, Department, or the Auxiliary thereof;
- Submit a biography of qualifications limited to 200 words; and
- Undergo a criminal background check if elected due to Michigan licensing requirements.

Letters of endorsement and biographies must be submitted to the Executive Director on or before **June 1, 2007**, for the above mentioned vacancies.

## VFW National Home for Children Awareness Week 2007 a Success!

Our friends across the country have certainly taken on the task to “Be Our Voice!” More than 800 participants registered for Awareness Week from Departments in the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary. Many unique ideas and donations continue to come in everyday as Posts, Auxiliaries, Districts and Departments are letting the National Home know how they’ve been our voice. As of April 17, of the units that have reported to us, Ladies Auxiliary #7478 of Greenwood, Delaware has raised the most money for Awareness Week. They raised \$2,400 by sticking Senior Vice President and Department National Home Chairperson Dee Jones in jail for four days! “Jailbird Jones” was finally released through bail money, even though funds were given to keep her in jail!

Remember, you can “Be Our Voice” all year long! Although Awareness Week is over, we invite Posts and Auxiliaries to spread the word about the National Home as often as possible. Also, if you did participate in this year’s Awareness Week, don’t forget to let us know what you did! You can either call us at (800) 424-8360 or email [slyon@vfnationalhome.org](mailto:slyon@vfnationalhome.org). Thank you to every Post and Auxiliary who are voices of the National Home!



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# New House date



Now that insulation has been installed, construction continues as the finishing touches are put on the drywall. Outside, brick layers have been busy making the exterior look beautiful. The house is really starting to look like a place to call home!

Mark your calendars for May 31 at 10 a.m. as we will be having an official ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the doors to the new duplex. If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to Bobbie Langdon at (800) 424-8360.



## Current Campus Population

As of April 16, 2007, the National Home population includes:

- 73 Children**
- 26 Single Parents**
- 2 Veteran Family Parents**
- 2 Military Family Parents**
- 10 Continuing Education/  
Aftercare Students**

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**113 Total Served**

## VFW National Home for Children Upcoming Events

- May 10-12** – Dept. Junior Vice Orientation
- May 31** – New Duplex  
Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony
- June 2** – Alumni Day
- July 29** – Michigan Day
- August 4** – Ohio Day
- August 9-13** – National Home to  
host "Moving Wall"
- September 30** – Indiana Day
- October 6** – Illinois Day

