

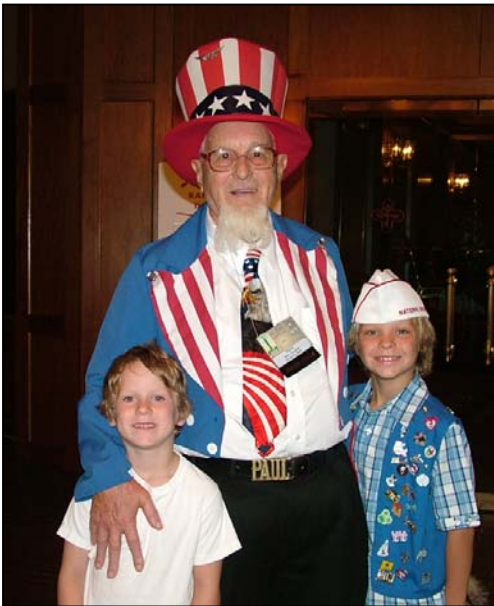
The Update

September
2007

The latest news and notes from the VFW National Home for Children

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

National Home Brings Delegation to Kansas City for VFW National Conventions



Buddy Poppy Child Hunter Hammerschmidt and his younger brother Kaden were able to meet many supporters from across the nation.

The VFW National Home for Children sent its delegation all the way to Kansas City, Mo. to represent the National Home at the VFW, Ladies Auxiliary and Military Order of the Cootie National Conventions from August 18-24.

From the Patriots Chorus to the Buddy Poppy Child, the 2007 Convention was a fun time to spread the message about the National Home, its residents and ways to get involved.



Members of the Patriots Chorus sing at the VFW National Convention.

Highlights included:

- Presentation to Ladies Auxiliary Past National President Linda Meader and her assembly of Ladies Auxiliary delegates.
- Presentation to VFW Past Commander-in-Chief Gary Kurpius and his assembly of comrades.
- A Military Assistance Program Leadership Breakfast for MAP Chairmen and special guest National MAP Director Mike Penney.
- An inspiring performance by the National Home Patriots Chorus at the Patriotic Rally, National Home Workshop and Cootie Convention Joint Opening Session.
- Buddy Poppy Child Hunter Hammerschmidt accepting pins, hugs and best wishes from new friends.
- The participation and support from members of the National Home Board of Trustees.
- An Awards Breakfast where the National Home honored and thanked its supporters. More than 100 organizations were honored for their financial commitment to the National Home with Star Donor awards. Additionally, the National Home presented Department Life Membership awards to eight Departments.
- An outstanding amount of donations totaling more than \$30,000.
- A great turnout for the National Home workshop!
- For Awards Breakfast and National Convention photos, visit www.vfnationalhome.org/Photo_Gallery/Convention/Index.htm



All National Home Trustees attended the Conventions to represent the Home. Here, they are pictured with Hunter Hammerschmidt, Buddy Poppy Child.

Disbanding Michigan Post gives Generous Donation to National Home

Representatives from VFW Post #393 of Harrison Township, Mich. arrived to the National Home on August 30 with a very special gift in tow: a check for \$60,501.98. Sadly, the Post is disbanding due to lack of membership, but because of this disbandment the Post is able to finally disburse funds that have been in the works since 1919. Even before the existence of the National Home, the Post saved money to someday give for a good cause, and finally 88 years later it was presented to the Home with a lot of history attached.

National Home Executive Director Patrice Green was deeply touched by the donation.

“There is a great deal of VFW history behind this donation, as well as significant hard work and dedication from committed VFW members – going all the way back to 1919,” Green said. “These members can be certain that the legacy of their commitment and devotion to the children of our veterans will continue well into the future through their generosity.”

The money was specifically designated for the Michigan Building Fund. After presenting the donation, Post Commander Leo Arens and member Joe Arens, along with their wives, took a tour of the National Home’s grand campus.



National Home Facilities Director Todd Marriott (left) and Executive Director Patrice Green accept the donation for more than \$60,000 presented by the Arens brothers of Post #393.

Attention Life Members – Decision Time 2007

Last month, National Home Life Members who belong to Posts and Auxiliaries in National Home District 1 (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont) and District 2 (Europe, New Jersey, New York) received a ballot to vote for a representative to serve a six-year term on the National Home Board of Trustees. Associate Life Members (non VFW or Ladies Auxiliary members or organizations) are not eligible to vote and will not receive a ballot.

Thank you, in advance, for completing your ballot and sending it back to the National Home in a timely manner. All ballots must be received at the National Home by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 to be counted. Remember, one of the greatest benefits of Life Membership is the privilege of voting for National Home Trustees. If you are not a Life Member, contact the National Home to find out how you can become a member.

Annual Meeting, Saturday, October 27, 2007
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN
EATON RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

TO LIFE MEMBERS OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Corporation will be held at the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, on October 27, 2007 (the 4th Saturday in October) at 9 o'clock a.m. EST, in accordance with the Corporation’s Bylaws.



National Home Residents Visit Ohio for Annual Fishing Trip

National Home staff took eleven residents to catch fish and visit with veterans on August 30. Before heading to Lake Erie to go on a charter fishing boat, they stopped by Post #2480 in Port Clinton for some lunch and socializing. After lunch, they boarded on the boat with members of Post #9871 in North Ridgeville. Post member and Department of Ohio National Home Chairman Jack Uber organized the fishing trip.

“Several of the kids had never been on a boat or been fishing, making both the ride and the experience interesting to watch and very exciting for them,” said National Home employee and chaperone Brian Lorente.

The kids caught several kinds of fish including perch and sheephead. Several local Post members came along to chaperone and help kids with the fishing. After a long day of fishing, everyone went back to the North Ridgeville Post for a nice dinner. Thank you to our Ohio friends for showing National Home kids a great time!



We Need Your Help! Hundreds of Thousands of UPC Codes Still Needed

Last month, the National Home received word that we still have time to turn in UPC codes to receive another minivan! Since then, we've received about 35,000 UPC codes but we still need **405,000** more. Additionally, Campbell's announced that instead of 1.5 million labels needed to get a van, it is now 1.6 million labels. So please, keep them coming!



In the last five years, through the combined efforts of Ladies Auxiliaries and their members, Junior Girls Units, VFW Posts and their members, MOC/MOCA, dedicated volunteers, residents and staff, the National Home has acquired three minivans. We are confident that all of our supporters can join together to help us reach this magnificent milestone. Please send in any UPC codes that you have by October, and stay tuned to see if we've reached our goal!

This minivan will help the National Home in transporting children to school and church activities, sports practices, dance and music lessons and doctor appointments.

Please send UPC codes to: **VFW National Home for Children, 3573 S. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827**



Want to See More Moving Wall Photos?

Visit www.vfnationalhome.org/Photo_Gallery/The%20Moving%20Wall/ to see an archive of many photos that were taken while the Moving Wall was here at the National Home.



VFW National Home for Children Upcoming Events

September 30 – Indiana Day

October 6 – Illinois Day

October 24-26 – Board of Trustees Meeting

October 27 – Annual Meeting of Life Members

October 27 – Missouri/Wisconsin Fall Festival

Current Campus Population

As of September 17, 2007, the National Home population includes:

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

111 Total Served



National Home residents and staff had their annual softball game on August 28. Before the game a barbecue dinner was enjoyed. The game and dinner are a great way to welcome new residents and staff to the campus and gives all a chance to get acquainted with each other. So, who won? As usual, residents beat out the staff. Better luck next year!

