

Buddy Poppy/ National Home August

National Home

This month I'm going to share a story about a young boy named Brian, whose family that came to the National Home and how they changed his life.

When Brian Daniels, his mother, and his siblings arrived at the National Home in 1996, he was only ten years old. It was the first time he had experienced stability and the chance to have a real childhood.

Before coming not the National Home, life for him and his family was chaotic after his divorced mother lost her job, leaving them destitute.

"We went from living in a seedy motel to a beautiful home with four bedrooms," Brian recalled. "It was unheard of stability for me. The National Home gave me a real childhood. I got to go fishing and play in the woods. I had food and shelter.

Living among veterans inspired him to join the military. When 9/11 struck, he answered the call to serve by enlisting in the Army. Soon after, he was sent to Iraq. Toward the end of his tour, the vehicle he was riding in during combat patrol struck an IED, instantly killing his comrades and severing his foot. Although doctors were able to reattach his foot, Brian had a long road to recovery that included 12 surgeries and years of recovery. After this ordeal he earned a Purple Heart for his services in Iraq.

This is where Brian Daniels came from FULL CIRCLE. For years Brian has served as a volunteer ambassador for the National Home through speaking engagements, videos, magazine articles, and campus visits. He also brings years of relationship-building through serving on the Lansing City Council and operating his own gym, EmPOWER Lansing.

"It feels like I've come full circle because my time living at the National Home led me to serve in the military, and now I'm back at the Home serving veterans," he said.

Let's give a big shout out to Brian for being hired by National Home to serve as Community Development and Alumni Engagement Manager.

"I'm excited to be part of something that changes the lives of veterans so we can make the world a better place," he added.

Be a Part of Our Centennial Garden with a Personalized Brick!

The VFW National Home will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2025. To commemorate, they are in the process of adding our new 2025 Centennial Garden. Because donors are vital to helping us continue our legacy, we offer those who are among the first to donate \$500 a unique opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to helping military families with a personalized 8" x 8" brick. Numbers are limited, so order your personalized engraved brick today at www.vfwnationalhome.org/centennial-brick.

Did you know that.... Military members are more educated than the general population? To enlist, one must have a high school diploma or GED. As a result, 99% of the military have high school education, while only 60% of the general public has one. Now you know!

Buddy Poppy Program Count

- What ways can you use them in our other National Programs?
- Remember, the more we buy and the more we raise, the more help we provide for our veterans.
- When reporting, we want to know what you did with the money, not the amount you raised.

#poppiescount



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