



District 10 Trustee Newsletter

★ **AUGUST THEME** ★

THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE VFW NATIONAL HOME

Community • Wellness • Education • Advocacy

Dear VFW, VFVA, MOC, MOCA National Home Life Members, Department Chairmen, and Department Commanders/Presidents,

As we continue into the new VFW/VFVA program year, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to each of you for your continued dedication and support of the VFW National Home.

Every Life Membership, donation, volunteer hour, fundraiser, and act of support helps strengthen the National Home's mission of providing a safe, nurturing community where veterans, service members, and their families can find stability, opportunity, and hope.

This month, we turn our attention to The Four Pillars of the VFW National Home: Community, Wellness, Education, and Advocacy.

These pillars remind us that the National Home is much more than a place to live. It is a community designed to help the entire family rebuild, grow, and prepare for a successful and independent future.

Please share this newsletter with your Department Chairmen, District Chairmen, Posts, Auxiliaries, Pup Tents, Grands, and members by including it in your monthly mailings, newsletters, meetings, and social media pages.

The more we share the story of the VFW National Home, the more people we inspire to support its incredible mission.

AUGUST FEATURE: THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE VFW NATIONAL HOME

The VFW National Home provides families with much more than a house.

Its programs, resources, staff, volunteers, and supporters work together to help families create stability, strengthen relationships, overcome challenges, and prepare for independent futures.

This month, we are highlighting four important areas that demonstrate how the National Home supports the **whole family**.

PILLAR ONE — COMMUNITY

At the VFW National Home, families become part of something larger than themselves—a caring and supportive community.

The beautiful campus near Eaton Rapids, Michigan, includes **43 single-family homes**, recreational facilities, playgrounds, walking and hiking trails, a gymnasium, library, educational resources, and community gathering spaces.

But community is about much more than buildings.

It means:

- Neighbors supporting neighbors
- Children developing friendships
- Families participating in activities together
- Veterans connecting with others who understand military life
- Families knowing they do not have to face difficult times alone

For families experiencing uncertainty or transition, that sense of belonging can be an important part of rebuilding their lives.

Community reminds every family: You are not alone.

PILLAR TWO — WELLNESS

Strong families need opportunities to heal, grow, reconnect, and develop healthy routines.

Wellness at the National Home focuses on supporting the whole person and the whole family.

Recreation, outdoor activities, family experiences, supportive services, and therapeutic opportunities help create an environment where families can move forward.

Programs such as:

-  **Heroes to Hives**
-  **Guitars for Vets**
-  **RAVE — Regenerative Agriculture for Veterans**

provide veterans with opportunities to discover new interests, develop skills, build confidence, and connect with others.

Wellness also means creating positive experiences for families and children so they can make new memories together.

Wellness helps families replace uncertainty with hope.

PILLAR THREE — EDUCATION

Education creates opportunity.

The National Home provides resources for both children and adults to learn, develop new skills, and prepare for their futures.

Campus educational resources include the:

-  **Child Development Center**
-  **Library**
-  **Computer and Science Labs**

Children also have opportunities to participate in programs such as **4-H**, where they learn responsibility, leadership, teamwork, and agricultural skills.

For adults, educational and employment assistance can help veterans and family members pursue new careers, improve employment readiness, and work toward greater financial independence.

Every class completed, new skill learned, résumé prepared, or career goal achieved can become another step toward a family's successful future.

Education gives families the tools to build tomorrow.

PILLAR FOUR — ADVOCACY

Sometimes the most important support is simply having someone who knows where to turn.

Veterans and military families may qualify for benefits, services, educational opportunities, employment assistance, or community resources they do not know are available.

Through advocacy and resource assistance, the National Home helps families navigate those systems.

Support can include:

- Veteran Service Officer assistance
- Veteran Navigator assistance
- VA benefits guidance
- Employment services
- Educational support
- Referrals to community resources
- Assistance identifying additional programs and services

Advocacy means helping families understand their options and giving them guidance as they determine their next steps.

Advocacy helps ensure our veterans and military families have a voice and a path forward.

FOUR PILLARS — ONE MISSION

COMMUNITY gives families a place to belong.

WELLNESS helps families heal and grow.

EDUCATION creates opportunities for the future.

ADVOCACY connects families with the resources and support they need.

Together, these four pillars help create a strong foundation upon which veterans and military families can rebuild their lives.

JULY NATIONAL HOME UPDATE

Families, Programs & Progress

July was another busy and productive month at the VFW National Home.

HOUSING & FAMILIES

The National Home maintained 39 occupied homes out of 43, while four recently vacated homes were being prepared for incoming families.

Two new families were welcomed to the National Home community during July, moving into the New York 2 and Colorado homes.

In addition, six families were moving through the assessment process.

These numbers demonstrate that the need for the National Home's services and opportunities continues.

4-H & THE EATON COUNTY FAIR

National Home youth proudly participated in the Eaton County Fair, showing hogs and rabbits they had raised through their 4-H experiences.

One young participant earned FIRST PLACE for his rabbit!

Congratulations!

The 4-H experience teaches much more than agriculture. Children learn:

- Responsibility
- Leadership
- Confidence
- Friendship
- Animal care
- Practical life skills

This is a wonderful example of the Education Pillar in action.

FAMILY FUN AT CEDAR POINT

Twenty-one National Home families participated in the annual Cedar Point trip.

The National Home remains grateful to the VFW Post that generously makes this family experience possible each year.

Experiences like this give families opportunities to spend time together, strengthen relationships, create positive memories, and simply enjoy being a family.

That is Community and Wellness working together.

RAVE CONTINUES TO GROW

The **RAVE — Regenerative Agriculture for Veterans** program continues producing an abundance of fresh vegetables and beautiful flower arrangements for the Welcome Center Convenience Store.

Farm-fresh eggs were also expected to become available.

The program provides another example of how hands-on activities can build skills, purpose, confidence, and community.

WELCOME CENTER CONVENIENCE STORE

All campus families received access cards allowing them to use the Welcome Center Convenience Store outside regular business hours.

This improvement provides families with greater flexibility and easier access to needed items.

Sometimes even a relatively small operational change can make everyday life easier for the families we serve.

A PROUD NATIONAL CONVENTION MOMENT

MEET NOELANI — VFW BUDDY POPPY CHILD

Noelani was officially hatted as the VFW Buddy Poppy Child during the VFW National Convention.

She represented the VFW National Home with enthusiasm and pride and did an outstanding job helping sell National Home merchandise.

Congratulations, Noelani!

Moments like this remind us that the children and families of the National Home are at the heart of everything we do.

NATIONAL CONVENTION GENEROSITY

The National Home made many meaningful connections during the VFW National Convention.

A very special thank-you goes to:

ALASKA AUXILIARY POST 10041

for its incredible

\$35,000 DONATION

to complete the Early Education Center playground project!

This generosity is another wonderful example of what happens when our VFW and Auxiliary family comes together in support of the National Home.

THANK YOU!

AROUND THE CAMPUS

Progress continued throughout the National Home campus during July.

Among the improvements:

- The **new front entrance sign was completed**
- Two new handrails were installed in front of the Early Education Center
- Work continued on **Alumni Circle**
- Additional bricks and decorative stone were installed
- The **Guest Lodge basement renovation** continued moving toward completion
- DTN Management Company donated kitchen cabinets and supplies valued at more than **\$10,000**
- Planning continued for the **Florida and Auxiliary houses**

Every campus improvement contributes to creating a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for the families who call the National Home their temporary home.



ATTENTION DEPARTMENT NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMEN

As we begin the new program year, it is time to update your department's **National Home Life Membership records**.

Please send your updated list of deceased Life Members to:

Sue Alverson

salverson@vfwnationalhome.org

Keeping these records current allows the National Home to maintain accurate membership files and helps prevent correspondence from being mailed to families following the loss of a loved one.

Thank you for helping us keep our records up to date.



Information Spotlight

The VFW National Home is much more than a campus—it is a community built on **hope, healing, opportunity, and family**.

The community includes:

-  **43 Single-Family Homes**
-  **Child Development Center**
-  **Veteran Resource Center**
-  **Gymnasium**
-  **Library**
-  **Playgrounds**
-  **Computer and Science Labs**
-  **Walking and Hiking Trails**
-  **Community Gathering Spaces**

Every part of the campus is designed to help create stability while families prepare for successful, independent futures.



PROGRAMS SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

The VFW National Home continues providing opportunities that empower veterans and their families through programs and services such as:

- Employment Services
- Educational Support
- On-site Veteran Service Officers
- Veteran Navigator Assistance
- Heroes to Hives
- Guitars for Vets
- Regenerative Agriculture for Veterans — RAVE
- 4-H Youth Program

These programs provide valuable life skills, career development, education, recreation, personal growth, and therapeutic opportunities that strengthen both veterans and their families.

SHOW US WHAT YOU ARE DOING!

I want to hear from **YOU!**

Please send me a short blurb and pictures showing how your:

Post • Auxiliary • District • Department • Pup Tent • Grand

is promoting the programs and mission of the VFW National Home.

Send your:

-  Pictures
-  Short stories
-  Fundraising ideas
-  National Home projects
-  Life Membership drives
-  Special events
-  Success stories

I would love to include them in an upcoming **District 10 Newsletter** and on our **District 10 – VFW National Home Facebook page**.

Your idea may inspire someone else!

COMING THIS YEAR

VFW NATIONAL HOME HISTORY & PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Each month, we will spotlight another chapter, program, or important part of the National Home's incredible story.

SEPTEMBER- 🇺🇸 Meet the Veteran Resource Center

OCTOBER- 🕒 Then & Now — How the National Home Has Changed Over 100 Years

NOVEMBER- ❤️ Stories of Hope — Families Who Found a New Beginning

DECEMBER- 🎄 Holiday Traditions at the National Home

JANUARY- 🐝 Heroes to Hives — Veterans Finding Purpose Through Beekeeping

FEBRUARY- 🌱 R.A.V.E. — Regenerative Agriculture for Veterans

MARCH- 🎸 Guitars for Vets — Healing Through Music

APRIL- 🐰 4-H at the National Home — Learning, Leadership, and Responsibility

MAY- 🧒 Child Development Center — Investing in the Next Generation



Stay Connected



Join our Facebook Group:
District 10 – VFW National Home

Throughout this year, my goal as your District 10 Trustee is to keep our departments informed about the many services, programs, and success stories happening at the VFW National Home.

I also want to showcase what **YOU** are doing throughout District 10!

Together, we can continue sharing the story of the National Home and ensuring its mission remains strong for future generations.



Home Front Heroes

The newest edition of **Home Front Heroes** should have arrived in your mailbox.

If you have already finished reading your copy, please consider sharing it with another member, a veteran, or someone interested in learning more about the National Home.

Every issue contains inspiring stories and valuable information about the families whose lives have been changed through your generosity and support.



THANK YOU

Whether you recruit a new Life Member, make a donation, volunteer your time, organize a fundraiser, share a Facebook post, or simply tell another person about the National Home, **you are making a lasting difference.**

Because of your continued support, families facing difficult circumstances are able to find:

Stability • Community • Resources • Opportunity • Hope

Thank you for everything you do for the **VFW National Home** and for the veterans and military families we proudly serve.

 DISTRICT 10 TRUSTEE'S THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

“The Four Pillars remind us that helping a family requires more than providing a roof over their heads. Through Community, Wellness, Education, and Advocacy, the VFW National Home gives families the tools, support, and opportunities they need to build a stronger future. Every Life Membership, every donation, every volunteer hour, and every person who shares the National Home story helps keep these pillars strong.”

— **Shirlee Frias**
District 10 Trustee
VFW National Home
2022–2028

Together, we continue to make a difference—one family at a time.