

**VFW National Home
School of Instruction
Hays, KS
August 14-16, 2026**

The Foundation—(what does it take to make good foundation on a home...a good sturdy frame??)

The VFW National Home was founded in 1925 as a place where families left behind by war—mothers and children, brothers and sisters—could remain together, keeping the family circle intact even when their serviceman didn't come home. The National Home serves as a living memorial to America's veterans by helping our nation's military and veteran families during difficult times. Their commitment to honor our nation's veterans and service members by providing help and hope for their children and families.

The Community—(What kind of a community would you want to live in?)

The VFW National Home is located in Eaton Rapids, MI. and it has helped military and veteran families who needs a fresh start.

- 1). Families can live there rent-free for up to 4 years-it can include one or both parents with one or more children
- 2). Has access to professional case management services
- 3). On site licensed child care
- 4). Life skills training
- 5). Tutoring and other educational services
- 6). Recreational and community service opportunities

Family—(Healing and becoming a functional family unit)

- 1). Safe and peaceful environment-tree lined streets
- 2). 43 single family homes that are kept up
- 3). Access to gym, library, computer and science labs, daycare center, playgrounds, fishing pond, & hiking trail
- 4). Must be committed to making changes in their lives
- 5). Must demonstrate consistent progress towards family goals
- 6). Dedicated staff to help each family reach their full potential goals

Funding—(what kind of support does it take to keep the VFW National Home alive as it is a non-profit organization)

- 1). Health & Happiness fund-each VFW Auxiliary is to donate at least 10 cents per member to the fund which supports
 - a). Maintenance of VFW Auxiliary-sponsored buildings
 - b). Emergency repairs and renovations
 - c). Christmas and graduation gifts
 - d). Donations can be made online in Malta or by mail
- 2). Life Memberships and Associate Life Membership
 - a). Life Membership is a one time fee of \$100 and you must be a member in good standing and allows a member voting privileges for your District trustees or any bylaw or articles of incorporation changes
 - b). Associate Life Membership is also the one time fee of \$100 and is not a member of the VFW or the VFW Auxiliary and has no voting privileges.
- 3). Other ways-
 - a). Become a Home Front Hero-a dedicated monthly donor
 - b). Purchase a Tribute Brick or a Centennial Garden brick for \$500 and can have it engraved as a supporter or in memory of someone.
 - c). Purchase an item for the Tribute Park
 - d). Gifts from your IRA, stocks and securities
 - e). Amazon Wish List
 - g). Purchasing apparel and promotional material from the VFW National Home.

VFW Auxiliary Sponsorship—(How can we help as an Auxiliary and to what projects?)

- 1). The Health & Education Center
- 2). The Margaret A. Armstrong Guest Lodge and Memory Chapel
- 3). Early Education Center
- 4). Community Center that hosts many functions
- 5). VFW National Home's Welcome Center
- 6). Heroes to Hives

- 7). Guitars for Veterans
- 8). Regenerative Farming Program

Special Project—(What can we do as the Department of Kansas)
The Kansas Cottage-this is our VFW Kansas house in which both the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary help fund every year. Other Kansas organizations assist as well, but, we are the main support system. Each time the home is emptied, the staff comes in and makes any renovations, repairs, cleaning and ect. to it. This is why we need funding for the home as the cost of living continues to climb so does the expenses...so please consider a nice donation to this special project and make sure you write "Kansas cottage" in the memo....

Awards-

1. Citation to the top 3 Auxiliaries in each membership group with the best promotion of the VFW National Home.
2. Citation to the top 3 Auxiliaries in each membership group with the best promotion of the VFW National Home Helpline.
3. Monetary gift to the VFW Auxiliaries that purchased at least one VFW National Home Life Membership in the current Program Year.
4. Monetary gift to the VFW Auxiliaries that purchased at least one VFW National Home Tribute Brick in the current Program Year.
5. Citations to those that donated at least \$50 to the "Special Project."

Thank you all for coming along with me to the VFW National Home. I look forward to seeing your good works within this program and your donations to the "Special Project" which is also our Department President Kim's and her Department Commander Jay's special project as well. Let's Reach for the Stars on this project and help lead Kim to a victory over her Commander Jaye and the VFW.

Marsha LaRosh
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