

Buddy Poppy & VFW National Home for Children Bulletin #1

As we all know this coming year could be a very difficult year for all of us. It could be even more difficult for our veterans. Having the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" and "Self-Distancing" programs in place for many of us can be even harder for **ALL** our Veterans. That is why we need to show our support by "**Honoring our Mission to Serve Veterans**" every day. We can do this in two ways, supporting the "**Buddy**" Poppy and the **VFW National Home for Children** programs.

We can help to educate our communities and local business's about "Buddy" Poppies and what their donations do for our Veterans. By giving them an opportunity to learn about how and why "Buddy" Poppies are so important to our mission. We need to encourage them to work with our organization to distribute "Buddy" Poppies and the information that we have in our fliers, and brochures.

When your Auxiliary hosts, or co-hosts a "Buddy" Poppy drive, the monies go into the Auxiliary Relief Fund to assist and aid Auxiliary members in need of financial assistance. These monies also go to help with many other programs such as, Veterans & Family Support, obligations or sending monetary gifts to the VFW National Home for children, and the National Auxiliary Cancer Aid & Research Funds, and many more.

Learn and share more information by visiting the VFW website at vfw.org/community/community-initiatives/buddy-poppy.

There are still a few of the "Buddy" Poppy Commemorative coins available and I will have them at all of our Department activities or you can e-mail me if you would like them sent to you.

VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

The VFW National Home for Children is located in Eaton Rapids Michigan. It is open to families of active-duty military personnel, veteran and relatives of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. The mission of the VFW National Home for children is to help family members commit to making a positive change in their lives. Together, the National Home's comprehensive services help each family reach their full potential.

As Auxiliary members we can support the National Home in many ways. We should encourage our members and our families to become Life Members of National Home for Children. With a life membership fee of \$50.00, you will receive a membership certificate, wallet card and a

Life Member Pin. A life membership is an everlasting bond between yourself and the mission of the National Home.

Your Auxiliaries monetary donations are crucial for support of the National Home as it receives no government funding and relies on our donations to support its mission. Monthly or yearly donations can be made, or a purchase of a Tribute Brick of \$100 that are placed in various walkways at the National Home are also a much appreciated support.

Consider hosting a fundraiser for National Home. You can see more information about this and other support on their website at vfnationalhome.org/ideas.

If you know a military and/or veteran family struggling with unemployment, post-traumatic stress or other challenges, please encourage them to call the **HELPLINE** at

MILITARY & VETERAN FAMILY **HELPLINE**

800-313-4200

A service of the VFW National
Home for Children

help@vfnationalhome.org

I encourage all Auxiliaries to pay their **Health & Happiness** pledges of \$.10 cents for members as soon as possible. This pledge is needed for Christmas cheer and can be sent on the MALTA online system or by mailing an Auxiliary check made payable to **VFW Auxiliary** and earmarked **Health & Happiness** to: VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111.

I encourage all of us to remember to "**Honor our Mission to Serve Veterans**" every day in every way.

Respectfully,

Yvonne Baumann
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