

2021 - 2022

BUDDY POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

This two-in-one program addresses two vital needs in our service to all veterans. To honor and remember those who served and those who fell. And to serve the immediate needs in veteran lives and the lives of military families following enlistment.

THE VFW BUDDY POPPY is assembled by retired and disabled United States military veterans to benefit veterans in need. It's a double-sided veteran service. (1) The veterans who construct the Buddy Poppies are given an income and a form of therapy. (2) The monies an Auxiliary earns from the distribution of the Buddy Poppy goes into the Auxiliary Relief Fund to be used for * meeting obligations or sending monetary gifts to the VFW National Home for Children; * Veteran's & Family Support for all veterans, members of the armed forces and Auxiliary members and their families; * Hospital work for veterans, members of the armed forces, Auxiliary members, and family; * to help Auxiliary members in need of financial assistance; * and special National Auxiliary purposes. Additionally, the Buddy Poppy perpetuates the memory of deceased veterans and members of the armed forces and to comfort their survivors. The Buddy Poppy fosters true patriotism through historical and educational programs.

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

THE VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN, located among the rolling hills of mid-Michigan just outside of Eaton Rapids, welcomes families of active-duty military personnel, veterans and families of the United States military, members and families of the VFW and VFW Auxiliary. Though VFW membership is not a requirement for acceptance into their incredible programs, the one main requirement is that the veteran or veteran family must have children under the age of 18. Families must also be self-motivated, ready for a life change and willing to work hard for a better future. Through decades of serving military veterans and families following it's founding in 1924 The VFW National Home for Children has evolved from housing and caring for veteran orphans into a 400-acre small town community of 42 single family homes with all the amenities of small-town life including a community center, pre-school day car center, recreational facilities and much more. Veterans and their families can live at the VFW National Home for up to four years rent free and benefit from numerous community services as they work to identify what they need and want to accomplish. Resident children receive an education in the local public school system while adults can attend the universities and trade schools in the area, family's basic needs are met, and an assigned case manager will guide them through their growth process during the length of their stay. Veterans and their families are never alone to navigate life's paths.

Through everything one thing has remained constant: The National Home's commitment to honor our nation's veteran and service members by providing help and hope for their children and families.

Learn more about the National Home at vfnationalhome.org .



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BUDDY POPPY

Support the veterans of the United States Military by supporting the VFW Buddy Poppy program through education and distribution. This small but mighty flower has raised millions of dollars for the welfare of veterans and their dependents. The funds it raises assist in maintaining state and national veteran's rehabilitation and service programs.

Educate the public through your local Buddy Poppy Drives where you can not only hand out Poppies but collect funds that will increase your Relief Fund and help you meet commitments to the Auxiliary, the VFW National Home for Children, and veterans in need.

Advertise your Buddy Poppy Drive so the community as well as your members will know where and when they can get a Buddy Poppy by posting the date, time, and location of your Poppy Drive:

- On your local town or city facebook page.
- Create an event on your Post and/or Auxiliary facebook page.
- Ask your local TV or radio station to promote the Buddy Poppy Drive on their facebook page, station websites and event calendars.
- Post flyers at your local grocery store, library, community center, coffee shop etc.
- Put an add in the local newspaper to let the whole community know what you're up to

Hand out printed information with each Buddy Poppy. Pamphlets are available through the VFW Store: vfwstore.org

- The Story of the Buddy Poppy sold in 100 pamphlets packs.
- The Buddy Poppy Activity Book for elementary school age children sold in packs of 25.
- Get a roll of 100 Buddy Poppy Decals so you can give one to children and adults.
- OR make your own little tag to go with the Buddy Poppy.

The more you educate the more you can raise both awareness and funds.

Don't forget your home. The VFW members and Auxiliary members are a ready team of supporters of the Buddy Poppy. Create Poppy Plates to be sold in the canteen if your Post has one. Make a new theme every month or season. Poppy Plates work all year.

Remember to have fun with your Poppies during the year. Create centerpieces, corsages, and anything else you can think of to incorporate the VFW Buddy Poppy into your Auxiliary everyday life. Enter both the Buddy Poppy Display Contest at Mid-Winter Conference and the Buddy Poppy Hat Contest at June Convention. Guidelines for each contest will appear in your bulletin packets and on the Department facebook page: *VFW Auxiliary Dept. of Ohio National Home and Buddy Poppy Program*. As well as in the Buddy Poppy Chairman's manual at vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

Purchase your Buddy Poppies through the Department of Ohio VFW office.

ONE (1) report for Buddy Poppy is required to achieve 100% reported status at year end.
But I encourage you to work all year and report all year.

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VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

Buddy Poppy and the VFW National Home for Children are programs that work together to support veterans and veteran families. They are funded by donations from VFW and Auxiliary members individually or through their Posts and Auxiliaries and our communities. Just as we must educate and distribute the Buddy Poppy, we must also educate our membership and the community about the VFW National Home and the benefits it provides veterans and their families. This can be done during Poppy Drives, at community information fairs, or at our meetings. You can do separate fundraisers for the VFW National Home much like you do Poppy Drives.

Promote the VFW National Home Helpline. 1-800-313-4200 (*NOT A HOTLINE*)

The Helpline is a free service provided by the VFW National Home for Children. It's answered by experienced problem-solvers who care deeply about veterans and their families. They have the knowledge and contacts needed to help each caller. Even if the caller is not eligible or accepted to live at the National Home, they can be put in touch with organizations in their area that can assist them.

This is not a hotline or a crisis line. It is answered during normal business hours Monday – Friday 8:00a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time. Messages left after hours or on holiday will be answered the next business day. Every call is important and gets a response.

Encourage VFW National Home Life Memberships. VFW and VFW Auxiliary members and organizations are eligible to become Life Members. As a Life Member you are able to vote for the Trustees and approve proposed changes to the National Home Bylaws. You support the National Home through the \$50 fee to obtain Life Member status and the subsequent desire that comes with it to talk about, visit, sustain and share information regarding the benefits of reaching out to the National Home for veterans. Share the information at your Post, in your Auxiliary meetings, and throughout your community. Membership in the VFW or its Auxiliary is not required to seek and receive assistance through the VFW National Home. What is required is a need, a desire to improve a life situation, a connection to a veteran and a child under the age of 18.

For more information go to vfnationalhome.org. And consider joining us for OHIO DAY at the National Home on Saturday, August 21, 2021 for a day at the Home and experience the peaceful, loving atmosphere veterans and their families have every day. Come early and share in the fun of the Friday Golf outing which also supports the National Home.

3573 S Waverly Rd
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
info@vfnationalhome.org

For Help Call 800-313-4200
For Donations Call 866-483-9642
For General Information 800-424-8360
Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ES

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