Helping Military and Veteran Families for over 95 years.

2019-2020 Annual Report
The VFW National Home for Children's mission is to provide children, and families of veterans, active-duty military, and members of the VFW and its Auxiliary opportunities for growth and development in a nurturing community, and by doing so, serve as a living memorial to all veterans.
Dear Friends,

Since 1925, the VFW National Home for Children has stood as a symbol of America’s gratitude for the sacrifices made by service members and their families.

The National Home assists our veterans and their families by providing a community where they can accomplish significant life goals, working to build a stable future for themselves, their children, and generations beyond.

Our comprehensive approach to assistance not only includes free housing and *available day care but a customized and individualized family program to guide and assist each member of the family in attaining their individual and collective goals. These services include but are not limited to educational, relationship, health, and wellness.

In addition to our residential program(s), our programming team oversee our Military and Veteran Family Helpline 1-800-313-4200. This referral line has assisted thousands of veterans and their families throughout the country since it was established in 2008.

In this past year, the Covid-19 pandemic has made the availability of our services to our veterans and their families more relevant and necessary than ever before.

Yesterday, today and tomorrow we are here to help our veterans and their families.

So, in closing, whether you volunteered your time or services, sent in a donation, or kept us in your prayers, your philanthropy has impacted the lives of hundreds of veteran families living at the VFW National Home for Children.

Thank you,

Frederick Puffenberger
CEO/Executive Director

*currently closed due to Covid-19 precautions
What are people saying about the VFW National Home for Children

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Because of people like you, families like us have a second chance at living, functioning, and growing together.”

-Anonymous Resident

“My experience was life-changing. It made me a better parent, a better person and more community involved“

-Malika, National Home Alumni

“Thank you for the continued support of this organization. Your donations have allowed families like mine to continue to feel safe and stable in an otherwise hectic world.”

-Anonymous Resident

“I wouldn’t be where I am today without the caring staff that all had a hand in raising me during my time at the National Home. ”

-John, National Home Alumni and Marine Corps Veteran

“We are incredibly lucky to have this unique and once in a lifetime opportunity. We truly cannot express how grateful we are.”

-Anonymous Resident

“Thank you for giving me the greatest gift anyone could possible give—a chance for a good life.”

-Matt, National Home Alumni and Marine Corp Veteran
Kemp Family Update!

You may remember the story of Robyn Kemp that has been featured on our social media channels, website, past annual reports and other publications. Robyn was kind enough to reach out recently with an update on her family. Here’s what she had to say:

“When our family left the National Home I had gotten my credit back on track. I was able to save up enough money to buy a home, and we couldn’t be happier in our new home.

I am working as a Paralegal at a law firm which is the same job I started when I first moved into the National Home. I am happy to say that I still love my job after seven years.

My oldest son Zachary is now 21 years old, and after graduating from Eaton Rapids High School he went on to Olivet College on a football scholarship. He is currently working as a carpenter apprentice, and is attending trade school at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, MI. He has found a field that he enjoys and has a promising future ahead of him.

My daughter Kourtney is now 20 years old. She is currently at Army Basic Training in Fort Jackson, SC. She will be doing her AIT in Virginia after she comes home for her quick two week break. I get to speak with her every Sunday for a few minutes if the Drill Sargent allows it and they are on good behavior! She tells me she loves serving in the military and it is much more than she expected it to be. Her blisters are now turning into callouses so that’s a good thing! Kourtney is also making new lifelong friends from all over the country. Proud Army Mom!!

My youngest son Zane is now 16 years old and a junior in High School this year. He is currently at home doing virtual classes. He is also still active in basketball and loves that he can drive and has his own car. He is still often stopped in the street with people asking for his autograph from when he was the National Home’s Buddy Poppy Child and met the President.

I would like to thank the VFW National Home for Children and all of their supporters for the opportunity that was given to my family. Without the National Home I would not have been able to achieve my own goals, as well as set my three children in the right direction to succeed and meet their own goals!

Thank you and God Bless.”

See a video of Robyn’s story and more. Visit vfwnationalhome.org/stories
2019-2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
(as of 6/30/2020)
Sam Compton, Board President, District 4
Armithia “Sissy” Borel, Board Vice President, District 6
Keith Jackson, District 1
Art Scheunemann, District 2
Ron Stensland, District 3
Darlene Mays-Tittman, District 5
Annabelle Furgason, District 7
Mike McGrath, District 8
Steve Van Bergen, District 9
Sylvia Sanchez, District 10
Kim Sloan, District 11
Renee Fulk, District 12

Ex-Officio Trustees
VFW Commander-In-Chief, William “Doc” Schmitz
VFW Adjutant General, Kevin Jones
VFW Quartermaster General, Debra Anderson
VFW Auxiliary National President, Peggy Haake
VFW Auxiliary National Secretary/Treasurer, Ann Panteleakos

2019-2020 Management Team
Frederick Puffenberger, Executive Director
Molly Studinger, Program Director
Todd Marriott, Facilities Director
Lynn Hagerman, Finance Director
Sue Alverson, Development Director
OUR PROGRAM

The VFW National Home for Children is grateful for the generous friends and supporters who have reached out to help military and veteran families. The Home was founded in 1925 as a place where the 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. Today's families face different challenges – reintegration, post-traumatic stress, high unemployment and rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, among others – and the National Home has evolved to meet those changing needs.

Families find a healing calm in our tranquil, rural, small-town community. Our neighborhood is essentially a small village with its own gymnasium, hiking trails, fishing pond, playgrounds, sports fields, and green spaces.

Families who need a fresh start can live at the National Home for up to four years and benefit from numerous community supportive services, including professional case management services, on-site licensed child care, life skills training, tutoring and other educational services, as well as recreational and community service opportunities.

Additionally, many families benefit from our services throughout the country. In the 2019-2020 year alone, hundreds of families were helped by our Military & Veteran Family Helpline 800-313-4200.

This free service offers information, creates connections and gives hope to struggling military and veteran families.

Families can also learn more about our program and contact us at:

vfwnationalhome.org/help.
## Summary of 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements

### Summarized Statement of Activities

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect care</td>
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<td>Facilities mgt</td>
<td>$1,322,155</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiscal services</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$864,557</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>$4,836,356</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Change in Assets</td>
<td>-$264,294</td>
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### Summarized Statement of Financial Position

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<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending Net Assets</td>
<td>$17,556,114</td>
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### 2019-2020 Expenses Ratio

- **Program Expenses**: 70%
- **Administration**: 12%
- **Fundraising**: 18%