



VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN
Every child deserves a happy family.

HomeNotes June 2021

A Message From The Executive Director

This year, this Independence Day is even more special. Why, you ask? Well, here at the VFW National Home for Children, we and our fellow Michiganders are celebrating our freedom and independence as all Covid-19 restrictions in our great state have been lifted!



This summer, our visitors are welcomed. Our State Days will be blooming with friends from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana visiting campus. What a breath of fresh air, what a release, what a freedom that brings us all!

It has been said that you don't really appreciate something until it is gone. What the pandemic and the restrictions brought to us is the restriction of the freedom of movement.

Something we never thought we would lose until the reality of losing it became a reality for all of us. Yes, our lives as we knew them were certainly disrupted.

As we all know, veteran families sacrifice some of the freedoms in their lives when they serve. Their lives as they know them are disrupted as a consequence of the service they or a family member provide. The dreams they have may be put on hold or even derailed due to that service. Their freedom from worry now is unsettled, not knowing if their service member or families are doing okay. How will our veterans be impacted by their service? Will my home life be the same as when I left?

In essence, many of the same emotions you and I went through living through the pandemic. With one major exception, our restrictions have been lifted. Our lives are getting back to a resemblance of what we knew before the pandemic.

At the National Home, our very existence is to help veteran families unshackle the restrictions of the consequence of their service, to reignite their dreams, to help them reach their goals, and to unburden their worry over their future. We do this as a repayment of the service provided by these families to secure our country's freedoms. We do what we do here at the Home so those who lived with freedom compromises can get back to a resemblance of what they knew before their service.

It is only through the generosity of our friends and donors, people like you, that we can help our veteran families breathe again, dream again and prosper again.

So on this special Independence Day, when we are blessed to live in a country of freedoms, let's not forget there are others that still will need your generosity to begin living theirs.

Thank you.

Fred Paffenberger
Executive Director/CEO
VFW National Home for Children

Early Education Center Teacher of the Month: Quinn!



Quinn has been working with children for 24 years. She spent most of her early education career at Rainbow Child Development Center as a preschool teacher before they closed their doors. The National Home was fortunate enough to have Quinn join us in 2016 as an assistant teacher in the toddler room. After a few months she moved into the preschool room as the lead teacher.

Quinn is dedicated in her work as a provider with the use of her years of experience in early childhood education preparing preschoolers for transition to kindergarten. She takes on extra task without hesitation while expressing a positive attitude motivating those around her.

Classroom and center ideas come naturally for Quinn, she is often the go to teacher for advice on developmental concerns, activities and procedures. Her caring heart goes

above and beyond the expected care for the children each day. She shows confidence in interactions with others. Her friendly tone and generous smile helps coworkers and families engage in open and honest communication. Her professionalism is greatly appreciated throughout the center.

Quinn has been happily married to her high school sweetheart for 21 years. She has 2 beautiful daughters and an ambitious son who keeps her on her toes. She enjoys spending quality time with her family in the comfort of their home cooking, playing games and reading. Decorating brings her much joy especially during the holidays. The pleasure she has for the holidays always shows delight in the children at the EEC. Her easy going personality with the desire to keep children happy and engaged will forever be welcome here at the Early Education Center. We look forward to many more years of Quinn's tender heart impacting the children of the National Home.

Thanks for being AMAZING Ms. Quinn!!!

Windy days call for flying kites!



Recently some of our resident took advantage of a blustery day to fly some kites! Families gathered at the Cootie ballfield and the older children showed the youngsters how it's done. [Enjoy this video of their happy afternoon!](#)

National Home Retirements

The National Home says goodbye to Jo Cox

After 45 years of service to the VFW National Home for Children, the one and only Jo Cox has stepped down as Health Services Coordinator.

Jo has held many roles here at the Home through her years of service, including managing the donated goods bank, training and certifying staff in first aid and CPR, and working on-campus summer events, but none more fulfilling to her than the donated bicycle program.

Jo would often tell stories of her joy of seeing a youth receiving their bike for the first time and how joyful it made her feel to see their reaction.

Jo spent her career at the VFW National Home in service to its residents and honoring the Home's mission to provide our nation's military and veteran families with opportunities for growth and development.

Although Jo is retiring from full-time employment at the Home, this won't be the last we've seen of her as she has agreed to come back and assist at public events when needed.

Thank you, Jo, for all your years of service. You will be missed! Good luck in your next chapter!!



National Home Counselor, Barb Kolp Retires



Barb Kolp has embodied what it means to serve here at the National Home since 2012. Her professional competency as a counselor has been appreciated and utilized by countless residents over the course of time. Not only was Barb a valued clinician, but she was also a positive addition to the Program Team. She often could be found helping at State Days, Cootie Christmas, and other special events. Also, Barb served on the Helpline Team as well and co-led our successful Single Parent Group.

Barb was always willing to listen, support, laugh, and share her incredible cooking

skills with us (chicken enchiladas), and she will be greatly missed by National Home staff. We are confident that she will continue to help others wherever her retirement journey takes her!

Congratulations on a job well done!

Battle the boredom!

As we continue to spend a lot of time at home, what better activity than putting together one of these 150 pc puzzles featuring a beautiful scene of the VFW National Home for Children!

Only \$15 and proceeds from all sales go to help the military and veteran families living at the National Home.



Find this and more National Home merchandise on our [store](#)!

Please note that our shop works best in Google Chrome.

Help our future shine as bright as our past and present by becoming a Home Front Hero this year!

Want to make a consistent and lasting difference in the lives of military and veteran families? You can start today by committing to a monthly contribution to the VFW National Home for Children. As a [Home Front Hero](#), you'll help ensure the seamless and consistent delivery of programs and services to our families, which include housing, counseling, tutoring, life skills, daycare, and more.

- It's easy – Choose to have your monthly gift paid automatically from your credit card or checking/savings account.

- It's flexible – You determine the amount of your monthly donation. You can also email us to increase, decrease or suspend your gift at any time.

- It's eco-friendly – Save trees by switching to paperless, automatic donations.

- It saves money – Save the cost of a stamp with every gift you make.



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