

Meghan Mitchell

From: VFW National Home for Children <info@vfnationalhome.org>
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To: Meghan Mitchell
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VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN
Every child deserves a happy family.

HomeNotes September 2021

A Message From The Executive Director

The last few weeks, a number of our colleagues have gone over and above in their service to the VFW National Home for Children.

The team we sent to Kansas City to represent at the VFW Convention brought an enthusiasm and spirit beyond expectations. A big thank you goes out to Sue, Jeri, Meghan, Chris, and Brian.

Great work!

Another of our colleagues, Carrie, was recognized at the same convention for her tireless and dedicated work on behalf of the Michigan VFW Auxiliary. Carrie was inducted into the **Circle of Excellence**, a recognition and honor reserved for only a select few in the VFW National Auxiliary membership.

Excellence indeed!

Upon returning from the convention, Chris and Laura from our staff represented the VFW National Home for Children at the VetFest held at the Fowlerville Fairgrounds.

Nice job!



These individuals' spirit and collaborative efforts are but a snapshot of what our entire staff does every day. We serve our veterans and their families with an enthusiastic spirit and caring support. We know what we do makes a difference in family's lives, veteran family lives.

The support and services we offer are often carried on through generations of family members who never have stepped onto our campus. We know this, we have seen this, and we have lived it.

Now that August is upon us, it brings the beginning of our friends and visitors from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois descending on our campus for their traditional State Days.

These days along with the October Fall Festival, October Life Member Meeting, October Board of Trustees meeting as well as the ever-popular Cootie Christmas, make it historically our busiest time of the year. We expect nothing less this season.

In closing, thank you for your support of prayer, donations, and spirit over the past 96 plus years. We can't do what we do without you. You are a part of everything we do, and every day we do it.

Nice job, great work, and excellent indeed!

Thank you.

Fred Puffenberger
Executive Director/CEO
VFW National Home for Children

Early Education Center Teacher of the Month: Caron!



If you are having a down day, a moment in the presence of Ms. Caron will turn your frown into a smile. She always has the right words or small gestures to make someone feel special.

Caron is a true blessing at our Early Education Center, assisting in the preschool room, and more than often offers a helping hand where she sees needed throughout the center.

Most of Caron's career with children was spent as an associate with Child Protective services in the sunny state of Florida. The

National Home has been blessed with her loving care of children for over three years. She

continues to strengthen her early education knowledge by observing fellow professional educators and participating in yearly trainings.

The children just adore Ms. Caron. She is a sweet soul with the patience of steel, making a true difference at the EEC.

Caron married her high school crush John after being apart for almost 40 years. She is a mother of 3 children. The two oldest reside in Florida. The youngest lives with Caron keeping her young at heart with above and beyond dreams of the future. Extended family will often hear from Caron as she makes it a point to stay in touch as they are very dear to her. Let's not forget about the family pet Phoenix who enjoys all the adventures they do together.

Rocks, rocks, and more rocks... Caron spends her spare time collecting and assembling rock projects which she sells at LFW Farmers Market in Mason. Spending the whole day on Lake Michigan beaches from dawn to dusk feeds her rock addiction. She has a strong love for God and simple things like rides in the car, antique and craft stores, along with a good thunderstorm relaxing her mind and soul.

Tasty pleasures like pizza and chocolate are her forever favorites occasionally shared with others as she likes to make everyone happy around her. Caron has blossomed as an early childhood educator over the years and has a wonderful work ethic. She proudly accomplishes duties in a timely manner and is always eager to learn new things. She has a broad view of what is best for the children's development and uses her creative mind to plan educational classroom activities. Coworkers are put at ease with knowing the day will run smoothly as Caron takes on any loose ends.

We look forward to many more years with Ms. Caron as part of our EEC team spreading cheer.

Alumni Update!



The impact of the VFW National Home for Children extends beyond the success of the parents participating in our program and on to their children.

National Home Alumni McKenna is a prime example of how the National Home can help parents build the tools and skills to give their children the foundation for a happy and successful future.

Learn about how McKenna and her life after living at the National Home by visiting our [blog](#).

<https://www.vfwnationalhome.org/sin.../alumni-update-mckenna>

Welcoming Guests Back to Campus!

National Home staff were so pleased to be able to welcome visitors from the VFW Departments of Michigan and Ohio in mid-August. After more than a year without on-campus events, everyone relished the opportunity to get together and enjoy one another's company, tour the campus, and celebrate the National Home.

This year we had a videographer to capture the events. Please enjoy these videos of Michigan and Ohio Days 2021.

[Ohio Day Video](#)

[Michigan Day Video](#)



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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