



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

National Home News for Our Friends at Your Organization

Dear Mr./Ms. ,

Greetings! We hope your new year is off to a great start!

Please enjoy this newsletter chock full of updates on the National Home. In this edition, you will hear from alumni Robyn Kemp, learn more about virtual learning in our Early Education Center, and more.

We thank you for your support,

Your friends at the VFW National Home for Children

March is Reading Month!



Photo of National Home Trustee, Kim Sloan reading to children in the Early Education Center during October 2019 Board Meeting

Read to National Home kids for National Reading Month!

Record a video of you reading a children's book and send it to us by visiting:
vfnationalhome.org/readingmonth



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NATIONAL HOME
FOR CHILDREN

An Alumni Update

Alumni Update: The Kemps

You may remember the Kemp Family, who shared **their story** with us a few years back. Well, mother



Robyn reached out to us recently with an update on her family!

"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."

What's Going On At The Home?

Virtual Learning at the Early Education Center

recognition. Other topics covered in February were Dental Health and learning how to say 'I love you' in sign language!

Refinished floors in the National Home Gymnasium!



Among the day to day repairs and working to get unoccupied homes ready for the next family, our Facilities team recently finished the big project of refinishing the gymnasium floors.

With our gymnasium being closed for so long due to Covid-19 restrictions, it provided the perfect opportunity for us to strip and refinish the floors.

Gym Reopening!



Using the CDC's guidelines on best practices, the National Home's Gymnasium has reopened with COVID protocols! Residents who have not recently had a

sickness in their house and pass a COVID screening and temperature check can make one hour reservations to use the gymnasium. Strict cleaning protocols are adhered to between reservations to keep the gym a safe space for everyone to enjoy!

Piano lessons have resumed.



Piano lessons have resumed at the National Home! Piano instructor Rhonda Kennedy has been teaching the children of the National Home for over 30 years! Spending over 11 months without teaching piano lessons this last year has been hard for her. “The first thing that hit me the most after interacting virtually with these kids this past year is seeing them walk in taller, more mature. Some of us educators missed a year of their lives! The kids are just so happy to be back doing something normal. Everyone is taking the protocols very seriously and just excited to be back!”

Have you taken a virtual tour of the National Home?

We know not everyone has the opportunity to visit us in Michigan, that's why we have created this [virtual tour](#) of the VFW National Home for Children.



96 Years of History. 96 Years of Changing Veteran Family's Lives.

This month we celebrate the 96 year anniversary of the first family coming to live at the National Home. [Here is the story of the Pollett family.](#)



In February 2021, 43 parents and 63 children lived in our community in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

The National Home's neighborhood is open to the families of active-duty military personnel, veterans and relatives of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. The family can be one or both parents with one or more children.



If you know a family that could use our services, please encourage them to call 800-313-4200 or [contact us through our website.](#)



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Contact Us

We Are Social:

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