

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
VFW National Home Program
2023 – 2024**

The VFW National Home is a place where military veterans and their families can get a fresh start by living rent free for up to four years and have access to case management services, life skills training, tutor, and other educational services as well as other recreational and community services needed to aid the healing process. It provides a safe and peaceful environment for the entire veteran's family.

The humble beginnings of the VFW National Home can be traced to a 23-year-old Michigan woman Amy Ross who in 1922 made it her mission and legacy to help find jobs for thousands of unemployed Veterans in her home city of Detroit. News of Ms. Ross' efforts reached millionaire cattleman Corey Spencer, who gifted her 472 acres of land near Eaton Rapids, Michigan. On January 7, 1925 the VFW National Home was founded, helping to honor the pledge of **“Honor the dead by helping the living.”**

The home welcomed its first family, a widow with six children, into an old, framed farmhouse. The home has since grown into a vast sprawling campus of tree lined streets with playgrounds, parks, childcare facilities, community center, multiple family-oriented facilities, a guest lodge, chapel, administrative offices and forty-two single family homes.

All the homes are named for the states that sponsor them, after a sponsor, or after an organization. Department of Pennsylvania VFW sponsors House # 1. The majority of contributions used for funding are from VFW's and other donations. National Home is forever evolving to meet the changing needs of veterans and military families to better assist them with reintegration, post-traumatic stress, high unemployment, rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, emotional wounds, financial stress, or fractured family relationships, among other issues that can affect a parent serving our country and his/her family. In accepting a family to the program, it is asked that they must be committed to making changes in their lives.

To remain at National Home, they must demonstrate consistent progress toward family goals. In partnership with them the home is dedicated to helping each family succeed in reaching their full potential.

If your Post or individual member knows of a family who may need assistance encourage them to:

- Call the Helpline at 1-800-313-4200
- Email help@vfwnationalhome.org
- Visit vfwnationalhome.org/help

The way that the VFW supports the National Home is through your donations. The fund supports the following:

- Maintenance of VFW sponsored buildings including emergency repairs and needed renovations.

Donations can be made through the Department of PA, by mail or in person.

Send checks to: Department of PA VFW
4200 Fenton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109
Earmark Checks: National Home

Become a Life-Member:

VFW members are encouraged to become life members of National Home. Life members may vote for Trustees who represent their National Home District and approve any changes to the bylaws and articles of incorporation.

Any individual or organization not associated with the VFW can also support the National Home by becoming an Associate Life member. These members do not receive voting privileges.

The cost of becoming a life member is a one-time fee of \$50.00 and includes a membership certificate, a wallet card, and a pin.

Visit vfnationalhome.org/membership for more information, an application, or to purchase a life membership.

Other ways to give:

Tribute Bricks are available to purchase, donations to the Tribute Park and fundraisers are other ways you can support National Home. I encourage everyone to visit their website at: vfnationalhome.org

We need to spread the word of the many wonderful programs they do and have done for our veterans and the veterans' families.

I will be working on methods of fundraising for the National Home, including taking donations to be sent to Department of PA VFW for Commander Gyger's year.

If enough interest is shown, I am hoping to sponsor a Bus Trip to the National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

NOTE: One of Commanders Gyger's requirements for All-State Post is a donation of \$ 75.00 to Department for the VFW National Home.

If you have any questions, or if you need applications

Please Contact the Department of PA VFW Chairman Ronald Peters

Cell: 814-596-1698

Email: acavrp@hotmail.com

