

“Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home for Children Promotion #1 | July 2022

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A visit to the VFW National Home for Children is like a walk in Mr. Roger’s neighborhood. My first visit to the National Home came the year I was appointed Department Chairman of the “Buddy”® Poppy & National Home Program. I wanted to see what it was all about. **Road trip!** Three other Auxiliary members and I rented a van and off we went. It was a life-changing moment for me. I became a believer! I am honored that National President Jane Reape has placed her trust in me to lead you in this amazing Program.

My Name is Cathey Farley from the Department of South Carolina. I am a Life Member of the North Myrtle Beach VFW Auxiliary 10804. I have served in many capacities for the organization at the Auxiliary, District and Department levels. I made an effort to serve as Program Chairman for almost every Program before becoming South Carolina’s Department President during the height of the pandemic. I take pride in saying, “been there, done that” when asking members to embrace and work a specific Program. My goal this year is to unite the “Buddy”® Poppy & National Home; when we promote one, we can promote the other.

“Buddy”® Poppy + National Home = Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes®

Wouldn’t it be nice for the “Buddy”® Poppy & National Home Program to be the first to have 100% in reporting?

Here’s how we can do it. Announce that each Auxiliary needs to bring to the School of Instruction:

1. Info and/or pictures of their involvement with the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies on Memorial Day and/or participation in the Memorial Day Ceremony at their Post.
2. Documentation that their Auxiliary has met their fiduciary responsibility to Health and Happiness.

At your School of Instruction, make available a copy of your report form and help attendees fill out reporting on 1 and 2.

BAM!!!! 100% in reporting. Get the information out to your Chairmen ASAP; this could work with a little organization and cooperation from everyone.

Summer is always over too soon. Now is the time to get organized for back-to-school preparations. As in any home or community, families and businesses are preparing for back to school, and a great way to help the National Home is to have a back-to-school fundraiser for our veterans’ children. Purchase a stock of pens or pencils from your favorite local businesses (supporting your community) and sell them for \$1 or the amount donors want to provide to the back-to-school fundraiser for the National Home. By wrapping a “Buddy”® Poppy on each pen or pencil you can remind everyone that with the Fall season and a return to school comes Veterans Day on November 11.

Now is the time to start planning events for Veterans Day.

- Work with your counterpart at the Post.
- Contact distribution locations for “Buddy”® Poppies.
- Ask local dignitaries to participate.
- Plan a service involving your whole community.
- Advertise and promote your event.
- Don’t forget to order VFW National Home for Children brochures to distribute.

This is a wonderful opportunity to explain that the National Home is one of the many Programs the “Buddy”® Poppy supports.

This year is going to be a difficult year for everyone. The cost of gas and food is eating away at monthly checks, the cost of utilities and day-to-day expenses keeps climbing, and as always, the unexpected, that we are never prepared for, has a way of showing up when we are least prepared.

The National Home has the same issues as you do when it comes to stretching income where it is needed most. This year I am asking each Auxiliary to become a Home Front Hero.

1. Go online at [VFW National Home](http://vfnationalhome.org) at vfnationalhome.org
2. Click on “Donate”
3. Click link to “Home Front Hero”
4. Complete the form online
5. Note the many ways you can support the National Home

A monthly donation from each Auxiliary will go a long way to help the National Home support veterans and their families. This commitment would be only for one year; what you decide next year is up to your Auxiliary.

Please consider this once-a-month opportunity to help the National Home.

All Information on the “Buddy”® Poppy & National Home Program and resources to assist you in promoting this Program can be found in the 2022-2023 Program Book. If you need any help or have any questions, please contact me. Contact info can be found in the 2022-2023 Program Book.

I am here to help you serve veterans through the “Buddy”® Poppy & National Home Program. Whenever you promote one, promote the other.



