



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY**  
**Department of Wisconsin**  
**“Buddy” Poppy & National Home for Children**  
**November 2021**  
[www.wivfwaux.org](http://www.wivfwaux.org)

We are in the final phase for our trip to the National Home at the end of October for the Halloween Party for the Children and residents. If you attended this year’s party let us know by sending some pictures to the VFW Newspaper and to our General Orders. If you did not attend this year, think about it for next year.

### **“Buddy” Poppy**

Here are some notes from our National “Buddy” Poppy Ambassador, Donna Ralston. You as an Auxiliary can use the “Buddy” Poppy in other Programs and events.

**Americanism:** Order Flag pencils, attach a “Buddy” Poppy and hand them out during events in your community.

**Legislative:** Send a card/letter to your legislative officers, attach a “Buddy” Poppy and the “Buddy” Poppy card. Ask them to wear the “Buddy” Poppy.

**Membership:** Attach a “Buddy” Poppy and the “Buddy” Poppy card to a membership brochure.

**Youth:** Reach out to a youth group and ask them to help you create a “Buddy” Poppy display for the next Department Meeting.

### **Events:**

1. Contact your local gardening club or group and ask if they will help plant poppies around town.
2. Invite a local dignitary to lay a “Buddy” Poppy wreath at a veteran’s memorial in your community, invite Post and Auxiliary members to be present.

### **VFW National Home for Children**

On October 5<sup>th</sup> a Zoom meeting was held with all of the “Buddy” Poppy Chairmen, Donna Ralston – our National Ambassador and members of the VFW National Home for Children.

This meeting was to let us know a little about how the application process goes for eligibility.

Each family is assigned a Case Manager throughout their stay at the National Home and while there they are taught “Life Skills” for after they leave there and reenforce self- sufficiency. Each family can stay up to 4 years and there are yearly reviews. There are 42 family homes on campus. When you receive calls and emails with questions regarding eligibility for residency at the National Home for Children, remember there are three (3) ways in which a family can apply to live at the National Home.

Eligibility stems from the child(ren) in the family. The family is:

- A veteran family (at least one parent has served and been honorably discharged.)
- An active-duty military family (A parent is currently serving in the armed forces or reserves.)
- A family that is related to a VFW or Auxiliary member (this includes step-parents and grandparents.)

The first step to living at the National Home is always through our Helpline at 1-800-313-4200. Helpline staff will help callers determine eligibility.

The helpline is also available to help anyone and will give out local information to the Veterans Service Officer in your local area and other local individuals for quick fixes.

Please make a copy of this information and place it in your Post and carry a copy with you for future needs.

VFW National Home for Children  
For Donations Call 866-486-9642  
For Help Call 800-313-4200  
For General Information 800-424-8360  
Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. EST  
[info@vfwnationalhome.org](mailto:info@vfwnationalhome.org)  
3573 S. Waverly Rd.  
Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827

I hope you are thinking of a “Valentine” themed “Buddy” Poppy display that you can make for the Midwinter Conference. You have a few months yet to think about it. Please make sure to use one or both of the President’s themes in your display and remember “1” (one) Buddy” Poppy must be in its original form.

**“Don’t Fudge on Care for Veterans” while “Soaring Above & Beyond”**

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