

National Home – October 2026

“Every Family Has Goals. Every Goal Deserves a Chance.”

I want to take a few minutes to talk about an organization that is an important part of the VFW and VFW Auxiliary family—the VFW National Home.

When we hear the words National Home, we might think of a place where veterans live. But the National Home is so much more than that.

The VFW National Home is a community dedicated to helping military and veteran families with children overcome challenges and build stronger futures.

And that is an important distinction. The National Home isn't simply providing a roof over someone's head. It is helping families work toward a better future.

So, who can the National Home help?

The campus serves eligible active-duty military families, honorably discharged veterans, Active or Guard Reserve veterans, surviving spouses with dependent children, and qualifying VFW and Auxiliary families.

These are families who may be facing challenges that make it difficult to move forward on their own.

The National Home provides no-cost support and resources for the whole family.

That includes housing, daycare and school programs, education and job training, financial education, veteran resources, and a safe and supportive community.

What does that mean for a family... It isn't just a house.

It may be a safe place for the children.

It may be childcare that allows a parent to work or attend school.

It may be job training that helps a parent become financially independent.

It may be assistance connecting with veteran resources.

And perhaps most importantly, it is a community where a family doesn't have to face its challenges alone.

The National Home doesn't have a one-size-fits-all schedule for length of stay.

The program is phased according to the goals of each family, with normal stays ranging from three to five years. Families transition when they are ready.

Approved residents work closely with a case manager under the **Red, White and Blue Program**.

The **Red phase** focuses on identifying barriers, reducing distress, establishing goals, making sound financial decisions and connecting veterans with local Veteran Service Organizations.

The **White phase** focuses on learning and growing—strengthening relationships, overcoming limiting beliefs, establishing additional goals and making progress toward housing and financial stability.

And the **Blue phase** focuses on transition and integration—preparing the family to move forward into the community and establishing a transition plan.

That is what makes the National Home different.

The goal isn't simply to help a family today. The goal is to help that family become prepared for tomorrow.

And our membership makes a difference.

At the 2026 National Convention, the VFW Auxiliary National Council of Administration voted to build homes for the VFW National Home. Those homes are being funded in part through the 10 cents per member that Auxiliary members send annually to National Headquarters, along with other gifts and investments. Groundbreaking for the new homes began in August 2026.

And we are seeing the results of that support.

The July 2026 report showed 39 of the 43 homes filled, with 107 children living on campus. The challenge for this year is to fill the remaining homes and find funding to build additional homes.

Our support also helps with the everyday needs of these families.

And there is another important point. A family doesn't necessarily have to live at the National Home to receive assistance. Nationwide Support provides referrals, support and guidance to military and veteran families across the country.

So when we know a military or veteran family with children who is struggling, we may be able to help connect them with the National Home and the resources they need.

You need to remember: **Every family has goals. Every goal deserves a chance.**

Our goal this year is to share the information about the National Home and help connect families who need assistance with the people who can help them.

Because sometimes, our awareness can open the door to hope for a family in need.

I challenge each Auxiliary to sponsor a Brick for \$200 or a Life Time /Associate Lifetime Membership for \$100. Turn in your purchase information to me. Your auxiliary name will go in to a drawing. There will be a \$20 award for a brick and one \$20 award for a life time membership. There will be a \$30 award for the best promotion of the National Home.

Check out the National Home Program on the department web page. There is a list of all memberships and bricks purchased by South Dakota members, family and friends.