

“BUDDY”® POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

Program Goals:

- “Buddy”® Poppy Education and Community Outreach
- National “Buddy”® Poppy National Display Contest
- VFW National Home Education and Community Outreach

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT’S THEME

“Champion for Veterans”

NATIONAL PRESIDENT’S THEME

“Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”

Buddy® Poppy

As the VFW’s official memorial flower, the poppy represents the blood shed by American service members, past, present, and future. The VFW conducted its first poppy distribution before Memorial Day in 1922, becoming the first veterans’ organization to organize a nationwide distribution.

- The focus of the 2022-2023 Buddy® Poppy program is to increase awareness and benefits by communicating through use of newsletters, social media, and Department meetings.
- Each month the sharing of successful ideas and information which size Auxiliary can follow for promoting this program. This small flower can make a difference in the community for recognizing veterans’ sacrifices, while promoting our VFW National Home for Children.
- As members we are representing this national and historical program to our community showing that we have a heart to care for Veterans and families by working with our hands to serve and reaching out to our communities for support.

History & Distribution of the Buddy Poppy

- Funds raised partially supports the VFW National Home for Children.
- Distribution of Poppies at your Auxiliary/Post events remembering special holidays, i.e., Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Pow/MIA Day, July 4th, Patriot Day, Pearl Harbor, and other patriotic holidays thru the year.

The VFW National Home for Children

The VFW National Home for Children, located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, is a community open to families of active-duty military personnel, Veterans, and descendants of members of the VFW and VFW Auxiliary. The VFW National Home for Children receives no State or Federal Funding it relies solely on donations.

- Health & Happiness Fund- contribute \$.10 per member based on June 30th membership or Auxiliary donations of \$.25 per member will receive a National Citation.
- Purchase Life Memberships for Birthday, Christmas or any occasion for members and non-members (*Associate Life Members*)
- Purchase a customized Tribute Brick in honor or memory of someone for \$100.00 or that special Volunteer that really goes above and beyond.

“BUDDY”® POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

- 1. Most outstanding event that demonstrated how the “Buddy”® Poppy and the VFW National Home for Children impact each other.**
 - Special Award to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) membership classes with the **Most outstanding event that demonstrated how the “Buddy”® Poppy and the VFW National Home for Children impact each other.** *Criteria and entry form (required) www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources . Auxiliaries must send the entry form to Department Chairman by March 31, 2023.*
- 2. Most outstanding community education about the “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home for Children.**
 - Special Award to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) membership classes **that hosts an activity and/or event that educates the community about the “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home for Children.** *Criteria and entry form (required) www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources . Auxiliaries must send the entry form to Department Chairman by March 31, 2022.*

NATIONAL AWARDS

AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

- 1. Most outstanding event that demonstrated how the “Buddy”® Poppy and the VFW National Home for Children impact each other.**
 - **Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that exhibited and/or explained how the “Buddy”® Poppy and the VFW National Home for Children impact each other.** *Criteria and entry form (required) available at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home for Children Chairman by March 31, 2023. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.*
 - **Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding activity and/or event that shows how the “Buddy”® Poppy and the VFW National Home for Children impact each other.** *Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.*
- 2. Most outstanding community education about the “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home for Children.**
 - **Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates the community about the “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home for Children.** *Criteria and entry form (required) available at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources . Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2023. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters*
 - **Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/ or event that educates the community about the “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home for Children Program.** *Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.*
- 3. Citation to each Auxiliary that contributes a gift of 25 cents or more per member to the Health & Happiness Fund based on June 30, 2022, membership statistics.** *Citation will be mailed directly to the Auxiliary from National Headquarters.*

Betty A. Bailey
Buddy Poppy &
VFW National Home for Children Chairman
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