Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Department of MD

VFW National Home Program

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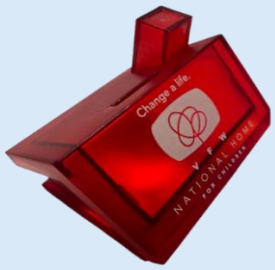
November 2026

Hello Everyone,

I'm enjoying traveling to all the district visits with our Department President, Nancy Shenk. Her theme includes Embracing the Future and every time you support the National Home and the children that live there, you're embracing their future. Remember to send me a report for any education event, activity, or fundraiser. Any donation through Malta or the Department or directly to the Home should mean you send a report to me also. Get credit for all your work for the VFW National Home!

Fundraiser:

Make good use of the National Home "piggy bank". Have the house-shaped donation box at your meetings when you talk about the program and encourage members to donate their small change. Those coins add up!
Don't forget to send me suggestions for creative fundraisers in order to be placed in a drawing at Christmas Conference.



Did You Know?

Children at the VFW National Home can earn "credit/money" by getting good grades and helping out with community service projects around the campus. The kids use the "credits" to shop at Santa's Workshop for Christmas gifts for their siblings and parents. This program promotes a good work ethic, responsibility, and generosity. The Workshop is looking for donations of new unwrapped gift items that a child would be proud to give to their family. I have attached the Santa Shop wish list with suggestions and info. Your auxiliary can also make monetary donations. (Unused items are made available year-round for the children to shop for birthdays and special events.)

Home Cookin' = Pumpkin Mac N Cheese

1LB pasta (shells or macaroni) cooked as directed.
4Tbl butter
¼ C flour
2 C milk
1 tsp dried mustard
½ tsp each salt & pepper
¼ tsp nutmeg
1 C pumpkin puree
2 C shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 350
Spray 3 Qt casserole dish with nonstick spray.
Melt butter in lg pot and whisk in flour to form a roux. Add milk whisking until sauce bubbles and thickens. Reduce heat and add all the seasonings. Then add pumpkin and ¾ of the cheese. Stir until melted and smooth. Stir in cooked pasta, spoon into casserole dish, and top with remaining cheese. Bake 25 min until golden brown.

Courtesy – Inspired Taste

VFW NATIONAL HOME

Santa Shop 2026 Gift Suggestions

Lego Kits, Toddler Toys	Remote Control Cars
Men's Toiletries/Gift Sets	Inexpensive Watches
Wallets and Billfolds	Barbie Accessories (cars, clothes, etc.)
Inexpensive jewelry - Men & Women	Gift Sets with Candy
Small Tool Sets	Jerky or Popcorn Gift Baskets
Pet Toys (dog, cat, rabbits, etc.)	Teen Boy or Girl Body Sprays, Cologne
Car Emergency Kits	Travel Coffee Mugs/Tumblers
Coffee Cup Sets	Scented Body Washes and Lotions Gift Sets
Nail Polish/Makeup Sets	Teen Boy Shaving Kits/Gift Sets
Squishmallows	Craft/Activity Sets
Sports Balls-Basketballs, Footballs, Softballs, Kick Balls and Soccer Balls	Science Kits for Kids
Christmas Tree Ornaments/Christmas Decorations	Dolls, Small, Large, White and African American
Sport Water Bottles/Cups	Portable Bluetooth Speakers, Headphones, Ear Buds
All Branches of Military Hoodies, T-Shirts, Hats for all Ages	Men's and Women's Slippers
Binoculars, Walkie-Talkies	Fanny Pack Belt Purse, Crossbody Purse
Sport Team Hoodies, T-Shirts, Hats (all ages)	Hot Wheels Tracks, *Have Plenty of Cars*
Super Soft Cozy Blankets	Coffee, Tea, and Hot Cocoa Gift Sets
Michigan State University & University of Michigan Items	Hello Kitty, Star Wars, Fort Nite, Marvel, Pokemon Items

Santa's Shop is a store where our children can shop for Christmas gifts and experience the joy of giving. We stock it with gifts appropriate for all ages; children may be shopping for moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, big brothers, little sisters, best friends and other special people. To help with Santa's Shop, donate ***new*** *items appropriate for all ages, but especially for adults. Overflow of generous gifts to the Santa Shop will also be available to the children for birthdays, special events and an incentive closet. When mailing packages or making a delivery, please indicate your gift is for Santa's Shop and* ***delivered no later than December 4, 2026****. Gifts can be delivered to: VFW National Home, Attn: Santa Shop, 3573 S. Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. Please call 866-483-9642 with questions.* ***Thank you!***

Updated 09/21/2026