

# Nickels for the Nursery



For Department of New York President Karen Dotson, every penny counts. Every nickel, dime, quarter and dollar count, too, and the spare change is all adding up for a worthwhile cause.

Dotson and her team, baby bottles in tow at Auxiliary functions and Conferences, are collecting coins and cash donations for the VFW National Home for Children's nursery. By May, she hopes to present the Home with about \$2,500 to help with all of the extras that babies need – everything from diapers and wipes to cribs and mattresses.

"I've made several trips to the National Home, and it always gives me this sense, this feeling I get, of love and support and gratitude and peace," Dotson said. "Words just can't describe it. I wanted to do something to give back. I want this to materialize into doing something good for the nursery."

With the chime of every coin that goes into their bottles, District and County Council Presidents, New York's Veterans & Family Support Chairman, the Department Aide to the National President and Auxiliary members from the Empire State get that much closer to their goal.

"Raising 'Nickels for the Nursery' has been fun," said Jane Reape, National District Council Member and District 4 President. "The Auxiliaries in my District enjoyed donating as I carried my baby bottle from one Auxiliary to the next. How better to serve our veterans and their families than by taking care of their children."

Founded in 1925, the National Home is a 600-acre community in central Michigan that includes 42

single-family homes, a community center and gymnasium, on-site licensed child care center, guest lodge and chapel. It is a safe haven where qualified active-duty military, veterans, their families and descendants of VFW and Auxiliary members can get the tools they need to build better lives.

Qualifying military and veteran families can live rent-free at the National Home for up to four years while receiving educational support, child care, counseling, life skills training and more at no cost.

"The VFW National Home for Children has served military and veteran families for over 92 years thanks to generous donors like the VFW Auxiliary," said Sue Alverson, development director for the Home. Their support has helped maintain buildings on campus as well as provide life-changing opportunities for families that live at the National Home. The VFW National Home for Children offers the chance for families to heal and grow. Thank you for your continued support, VFW Auxiliary!"

Clara Dunbar, Senior Vice-President of Auxiliary 8647 and Life Member of the National Home for Children, said the Nickels for the Nursery project is one way Auxiliary members can give back to veterans and their families.

"It is important to keep (families) together and give them support to deal with very serious issues," she said. "Needless to say, children are being born while families are living in the community, and one way we can do our share is with this project." ✦ AC