



Foundations

A Newsletter from Homes For Our Troops | www.hfotusa.org | July 2018



Champion the Cause

YOUR SUPPORT ENABLES VETERANS TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES

A LETTER FROM ONE OF OUR BOARD DIRECTORS



Dear Friends,

My family and I received the keys to our HFOT home in May 2016. It's hard to believe how much our lives have changed in the short two years since we moved in. Every aspect of our family has improved with the gift of a mortgage-free, fully-accessible home. Our family's physical, emotional, financial, and all-around quality of life has improved thanks to this great organization.

Physically, I have had very few issues with my residual limb since moving in. I can only attribute that to the lack of stairs in our HFOT home versus the two flights of stairs I had to constantly climb in our old home. It is much easier to get around our new home, get in and out of the shower, and accomplish basic tasks, in or out of my wheelchair. My physical health has improved overall since moving in. So much that in October 2017, I completed the Army Ten Miler and in Jan 2018 completed the Disney Marathon, both on my handcycle.

Everyone in our family reaps the benefits of our home emotionally. The constant pain and frustration I had to deal with in our old home took its toll on everyone. When I was down, my marriage suffered, as well as my relationship with my children. It was difficult to stay engaged with my family when I was always in pain. Being able to stay healthy allows me to stay happy and focus my attention and energy on my wife and kids. I am now able to actively engage in life with my family instead of sitting on the sidelines.

Financially, living in a mortgage-free home has opened so many opportunities for us. Both of our daughters compete in gymnastics and swim. We can afford to send our oldest daughter to a private school. We've taken vacations we otherwise may not have been able to afford. We've started raising chickens, planted a garden, installed a pool, and have been able to pay off debt and save for the future. Almost nothing can beat the peace of mind provided by financial freedom. And we have HFOT to thank for that.

I believe in the Homes For Our Troops mission so much that in the Summer of 2016 I joined the Veterans Action and Advisory Team (VAAT), and became the Chairman in 2017. The VAAT is a small group of HFOT Veterans and caregivers that have benefited from Homes For Our Troops. We continue to serve our peers by promoting the HFOT mission; providing critical feedback to leadership; and connecting with our fellow HFOT recipients through outreach programs in order to ensure every HFOT Veteran has the necessary support needed to rebuild their lives. Members of the VAAT are able to engage with other home recipients on a Veteran-to-Veteran level, as well as engage directly with the HFOT staff, executives, and board.

Although the organization claims they are paying Veterans back for the sacrifices we made during our service, I do not feel that I can ever pay HFOT back for the gift they have provided me and my family. We are healthy, happy, financially free, and loving life. We are rebuilding our lives.




Sincerely,
Steven Curry
Sergeant (USA, Retired) Director
Homes For Our Troops



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Find and Follow Us On Our Social Media

-  <https://www.facebook.com/homesforourtroops>
-  @homesforourtroops
-  @HomesForOurTrps

Upcoming Events

- 7/7/18** – Marine Sgt Milan Franklin's **Community Kickoff** – Shelton, WA
- 7/21/18** – Army SGT Lyndon Sampang's **Volunteer Day** – Gettysburg, PA
- 8/3/18** – Army CPL Aaron Jacinto **Key Ceremony** – New Braunfels, TX
- 8/4/18** – Navy PO1 Christopher Andrieu's **Volunteer Day** – Jamul, CA
- 8/5/18** – Marine LCpl Matthew Grashen's **Key Ceremony** – Temecula, CA
- 8/11/18** – Army SGT Lyndon Sampang's **Key Ceremony** – Gettysburg, PA
- 8/25/18** – Navy PO1 Christopher Andrieu's **Key Ceremony** – Jamul, CA



Homes For Our Troops

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www.hfotusa.org



A History of Excellence

HFOT has been evaluated as one of America's Top-Rated Veterans and Military Charities for seven consecutive years.



A NEWFOUND DREAM

HFOT HOME ALLOWS JENNIFER JERGENS TO PURSUE SCHOOL AND CAREER



Jennifer and Brian Jergens with their three children, Jasxon, Camden, and Emma.

In 2011, going back to school and starting a career felt impossible for Jennifer Jergens. Her husband, Army Sergeant Brian Jergens, had just returned home after losing both legs and sustaining a traumatic brain injury (TBI) while serving in Afghanistan, and needed her care around the clock. Jennifer, who was 18 at the time, did what any loving wife would do and pushed her own goals aside to fully focus her attention on her husband's recovery. She spent most days consumed with Brian's appointments and helping him around their home. Since their living situation was not accessible, Brian relied on Jennifer for everything from getting ready in the morning to preparing his meals. Jennifer lived in constant fear about her husband's safety while home by himself. "I didn't think school and a career were ever in my future. Brian had so many needs, I just didn't have the time," she says.

Jennifer finally breathed a sigh of relief when she and Brian received their specially adapted custom home in California on Dec. 12, 2013. The home restored much of Brian's independence, and gave him the ability to care for not only himself but their three young children too. With Brian being more self-sufficient, Jennifer had more freedom to pursue her own goals. After years of foregoing her dreams, Jennifer was finally in a position to go to school and pursue a career. She is able to study and go to class knowing Brian can safely watch their kids. "Our HFOT home made it possible for me to focus on school by giving Brian the ability to easily take care of the kids regardless of how his legs were feeling that day. He could be in his wheelchair or on his prosthetics, and I knew that he would have access to everything that he would need for them," she says.

Jennifer's hard work is certainly paying off. She graduates with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in July 2018. She is currently interning for a judge, which will prepare her for her ultimate goal of becoming a probation officer. Looking back on all she and Brian overcame, she is overwhelmed with emotion. "It feels amazing, since I never thought it was possible. I was just super proud of myself for all the hard work and long hours I put in," she says.

Brian shares his wife's happiness in reaching her goals. "I'm proud of Jennifer for getting her degree and setting an example for our kids, and showing what they can achieve if they set their mind to it and work hard," he says.

Jennifer's unwavering devotion to Brian combined with living in a barrier-free home proved to be invaluable. Brian has made miraculous progress, and he now stays physically active by working out, running, and hand cycling. In spring 2018, he completed his first Spartan race.

AFTER RECEIVING THEIR HFOT HOMES, A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF CAREGIVERS ARE ABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL AND START A CAREER.

BEFORE RECEIVING HFOT HOME

Have/Pursuing
a **degree**
or **trade**
certification

12%
Veterans

Spouse/
Caregiver
8%

EDUCATION



AFTER RECEIVING HFOT HOME

69%
Veterans

Spouse/
Caregiver
90%

EMPLOYMENT



21%
Veterans
Employed

Spouse/
Caregiver
15%

35%
Veterans
Employed

Spouse/
Caregiver
54%

*Results are based on a March 2018 survey of Veteran home recipients and their caregivers; response rate was 64%.

Read more inspiring stories about our home recipients at: www.hfotusa/rebuilding-lives



CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS WITH HFOT

For the past five years, CertainTeed has been ensuring HFOT Veterans and their families have quality homes by being HFOT's exclusive provider of roofing, insulation, drywall, and siding/outdoor living products. As a Corporate Partner, CertainTeed has donated product to approximately 120 of HFOT's 257 completed homes.

HFOT and CertainTeed executives recently celebrated their relationship with a reception at the the company's headquarters in Pennsylvania. "We're excited to extend our support and continue our partnership with Homes For Our Troops by donating our innovative products to help build specially adapted custom homes for post-9/11 Veterans and their families," says Mark Rayfield, CEO of CertainTeed. "It's an honor to serve our community and pay it forward to the Servicemembers and Veterans who help keep our nation safe."



President/CEO Tom Landwermeyer (right) presents CertainTeed President/CEO Mark Rayfield with the flag that flew over Army Sergeant Cristian Valle's home, HFOT's 250th home recipient.



Pictured (from left): HFOT Veteran Christopher Gordon, Rinnai National Account Director Ric Mitro, Rinnai VP of Sales Tim Wiley, HFOT Executive Director Bill Ivey, HFOT Veteran Patrick Wickens, and Rinnai Executive Assistant Liason Takanori Oka at the International Builders Show in January 2018.

HFOT RENEWS PARTNERSHIP WITH



We are grateful to Corporate Partners, like Rinnai who provides top-of-the-line tankless hot water heaters for all HFOT homes nationwide. The water heaters save energy, are compact, and have wifi capabilities that give HFOT Veterans and their families hot water when they want it.

In January 2018, Rinnai renewed its partnership with Homes For Our Troops with a signing ceremony including Army Staff Sergeant Christopher Gordon, Army Corporal Patrick Wickens, and HFOT staff at the International Builders Show in Orlando.



SIGNS ON AS A NATIONAL PARTNER

Homes For Our Troops is proud to welcome The J.G. Wentworth Company® as a National Partner. A national commercial spot is highlighting their 2018 campaign to donate \$10 to HFOT for every VA loan closed. HFOT President Tom Landwermeyer signed the agreement while at JG Wentworth's offices in Chesterbrook, Penn. in February 2018.



Chief Executive Officer Stewart A. Stockdale of J.G. Wentworth and HFOT President Tom Landwermeyer sign the agreement for the company's support at their offices in Chesterbrook, Penn.

Is your company interested in becoming a Corporate Partner? Learn more at: www.hfotusa.org/partner



CRUISING TO RECOVERY

FUTURE HFOT HOME RECIPIENT MICHAEL MONTHERVIL
MAKING PROGRESS THROUGH RUGBY

All Army Specialist Michael Monthervil could think of after he was injured while serving in Afghanistan was: *What is going to happen to me next?* On July 28, 2014, SPC Monthervil was running backward when he fell on his neck, injuring his spinal cord and paralyzing him from the waist down.

At first, Michael could not even imagine being the athlete he was in high school because of his injuries. While a patient at the Tampa VA hospital, Michael became motivated watching a rugby tournament during an outing. He knew immediately it was something he wanted to play. He joined the Tampa Generals Rugby Club and now travels throughout the east coast competing against other teams. When he's on the court with his team, he feels like his old self again. "I am always focused when I play. I feel like I am capable of anything," he says. "It's a blessing to know I can still go out and give my all, especially with my level of injury."

The sport has proved to be beneficial in his recovery. He has regained strength, which is helping with his mobility. "It showed me new opportunities and gave me the ability to regain my independence," he says.

Although Michael has made significant progress through rugby, there is still one major obstacle preventing him from living the life he desires: his inaccessible home. It is frustrating for Michael to have to rely on his girlfriend, Ashley, for everything. But once Michael found out he was accepted into the Homes For Our Troops family, he was finally able to envision the future he always wanted. "Being able to receive this home I see myself going back to school, having a family, and being able to start a business," he says. "I am most looking forward to having a home where I can grow and strive, knowing that I have full independence."

The home will also be beneficial for Michael's rugby performance. He is excited that he will have more space to train in the off-season and store his equipment.

Michael is grateful for the generosity of HFOT's donors and supporters who are willing to contribute to the building of his forever home. "No words can describe how appreciative and blessed I am to have been chosen for this opportunity and for the support of this great country," he says.

Homes For Our Troops will be featuring Michael in its "Before the Build" video series later this year. Learn more about Michael's story and how you can get involved with his build at: www.hfotusa.org/monthervil

Which Will You Lace Up Your Sneakers For?

Every year, hundreds of runners raise funds and awareness for the Homes For Our Troops mission at races throughout the country as a member of Team HFOT. There are two ways you can join the team, either on Team HFOT or as a DIY Runner.

Take a look at the difference, and decide which one is right for you!

TEAM HFOT

What is Team HFOT?

Our running team of over 500 runners who support our mission and secure entry through HFOT for major races throughout the country. Race events are of all lengths:

5K, 10K, half marathons and full marathons.

Do it Yourself (DIY) Runner

What is a DIY Runner?

Someone who is currently registered in an upcoming race, triathlon or fun run, who wants to fundraise and support the HFOT mission every step of their race.

BENEFITS OF RUNNING FOR OUR CAUSE!



"Running for HFOT gives me the opportunity to combine my love for our country and running to build homes for our returning combat injured Veterans, which I believe is the responsibility of all Americans. Every step I take is dedicated to them."

Kassie O. Top Fundraiser
for Disney Princess Half Marathon
Weekend 2018

- Low fundraising minimum
- Custom Team HFOT jersey*
- Free fundraising webpage you can personalize and manage
- Personalized support & technical help
- Fundraising toolkit & HFOT promotional material
- Fundraising incentives

*When minimum fundraising commitment is fulfilled.



"I raised money for HFOT by running the Twin Cities Marathon because these Veterans deserve more than our gratitude and admiration. They need our support, and I'm proud to do my small part to help them lead productive and happy lives after their years of service."

Michael R.
DIY Runner 2017



JOIN TEAM HFOT & MAKE EVERY MILE COUNT!

TEAM HFOT 2018-2019 SEASON



**Bank of America
Chicago Marathon**



**Marine Corps
Marathon**



**Disney Wine & Dine
1/2 Marathon Weekend**



**TCS NYC
Marathon**

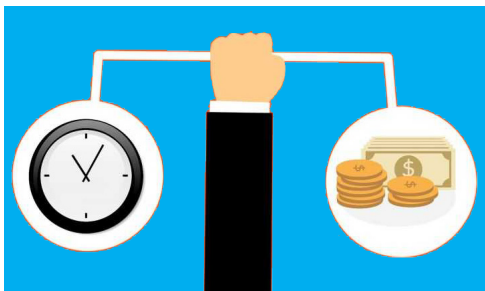


**Walt Disney World
Marathon Weekend**



**Disney Princess
1/2 Marathon Weekend**

Make every mile count at: www.hfotusa.org/TeamHFOT



IS AN IRA **Charitable Distribution** RIGHT FOR YOU?

It is important for IRA charitable distribution donors to know their contribution is going toward a worthy cause. As a top-rated military nonprofit, you can rest assured HFOT will be good stewards with your donor dollars.

"With the requirement of my IRA Distribution upon me I wanted to find out the different options that were available to me from a tax perspective. After meeting with my financial planner and learning that I would incur no taxes if I decided to use my distribution for a charitable gift, I knew this was the right option for me. With a 42 year Military background I wanted to find a reputable charity that served Veterans. After extensive research I found Homes For Our Troops and I was impressed with their mission. Not only do they build and donate safe custom homes, but they follow their Veterans after they are in the home to make sure they are going to be able to afford the home. I know the Veterans work with Homes For Our Troops volunteer qualified Financial Planners. I think this is great. It was easy for me to do my IRA distribution to Homes For Our Troops and recommend others to consider this option." – R.R.S., an HFOT IRA charitable distribution donor.

If you are interested in choosing Homes For Our Troops as an IRA charitable contribution contact Gifts Officer Suzanne Shaheen at: sshaheen@hfotusa.org

The IRA Charitable Distribution is a great and simple way to make a gift and receive tax benefits in return. Here are the requirements:

- The donor must be age 59 ½ or older when the gift is made.
- The gift must come from an IRA account. (401(k), 403(b), SEP IRA accounts, and other retirement accounts do not qualify.)
- The gift must come directly from your IRA administrator to Homes For Our Troops.
- Donate up to \$100,000 annually.
- IRA Charitable Distributions are excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes on your IRS Form 1040. You receive no charitable deduction, but pay no tax on contributions or earnings.
- Count toward your required minimum distribution for the year in which you made the gift. (donors age 70 ½ or older)

**It's important to consider your tax situation before deciding whether to make a charitable contribution from your IRA. Be sure to share this gift plan with your financial advisor.*

TEEING OFF FOR **Veterans** TOGETHER WITH



**ARMY DISTAFF
FOUNDATION**

On April 30, Homes For Our Troops and The Army Distaff Foundation came together for the inaugural 2018 Camaraderie Classic. Though the two organizations have different missions, their main goal is the same: taking care of our nation's Veterans. HFOT Board Member Tim McHale is the President/CEO of The Army Distaff Foundation, a nonprofit that provides housing, health, and wellness services to retired military Veterans and their families.

Homes For Our Troops Veterans Army Sergeant Kevin Jaye, Army Sergeant Chris Gordon, and Marine Corporal Adam Kisielewski joined the 76 golfers on the green to spread the word and enjoy a nice day on the course. The event proved to be successful, raising a total of \$24,000, which will go toward both organizations. Special thanks goes to L3 Technologies and Army Emergency Relief Foundation for sponsoring the event.

Interested in hosting a fundraiser? We would love to hear your ideas!
Please contact Fundraising Coordinator Victoria Weston at:
vweston@hfotusa.org for more information.



GALLOPING FOR HFOT

SENTIENT JET AND WINCHELL THOROUGHBREDS LLC CHAMPION HFOT AT TRIPLE CROWN RACES



Combatant and Tenfold may not have finished their Triple Crown races with a wreath around their necks, but they are stars in the eyes of HFOT Veterans and their families. Homes For Our Troops had the special honor of being represented at all three major races, thanks to a partnership with aviation company Sentient Jet and Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC. The companies raised awareness for HFOT through their sponsorship of Combatant at the Kentucky Derby, and Tenfold at the Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes.

Several HFOT Veterans got to join in on the action by sitting in front row seats at the races, attending special events hosted by Sentient Jet, and the opportunity to get up close and personal

with the horses and their trainers. At each race, the thoroughbreds donned a blanket bearing HFOT's logo and Sentient Jet donated 100 percent of the proceeds from merchandise sold during the races to HFOT.

The events were televised on NBC and garnered significant media coverage from national outlets, including Forbes, FOX News, and ESPN. Because of the national attention, Kappa Sigma Fraternity donated almost \$40,000 to Homes For Our Troops.

We are grateful to Sentient Jet and Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC for bringing awareness to our mission, supporting our severely injured Veterans, and helping us Build Homes & Rebuild Lives.

Read more inspiring stories about our home recipients at: www.hfotusa.org

Find Us On Social Media - Keep up-to-date on all things HFOT by following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

 <https://www.facebook.com/homesforourtroops>

 @homesforourtroops

 @HomesForOurTrps

Thank You To Our Corporate Partners



A History of Excellence

HFOT has been evaluated as one of America's Top-Rated Veterans and Military Charities for seven consecutive years.

