



Foundations

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



THE HFOT IMPACT

By The Numbers Issue

SEE HOW YOU EMPOWER VETERANS

Dear Friends,

As we observe Veterans Day this year, I hope you will take time to pause and reflect on the freedoms you and your loved ones enjoy because of the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who served our nation. We feel there is no better way to honor these great American patriots and their families than by providing them with the gift of a specially adapted custom home.



I want you to know your generosity has been the cornerstone of our mission since its inception. Because of you, over 270 deserving Veterans have received the solid foundation they need to reach their fullest potential.

How do we know this?

Earlier this year, we surveyed our HFOT home recipients to determine the far-reaching impact of their homes. We gathered and analyzed data points, allowing us to capture statistics about the positive outcomes HFOT has enabled for our Veterans and families, their communities, and society at large. The results highlight growth in several key areas of empowerment after our families receive a fully accessible home including Veteran and caregiver employment, education, community volunteerism and financial stability.

In this issue, you'll learn more about this impact through our Veterans' personal stories, like Air Force Tech Sergeant Daniel Fye and his journey to becoming a firefighter. You will also meet Sharon Gittens, who is able to attend classes and advance her education with the peace of mind knowing her injured husband, retired Army SFC Sean Gittens, is safe in their fully accessible HFOT home.

While these stories demonstrate our rebuilding lives impact, we must not slow our efforts. There are currently more than 80 Veterans in our program awaiting homes, and 1,200 – 1,400 severely injured post- 9/11 Veterans nationwide in need of adapted housing. Your unwavering dedication, combined with our efforts, are key to ensuring these Veterans receive the homes they deserve.

If our Veterans and their stories inspire you, I challenge you to share HFOT's work with friends and family, so they too can become advocates for our mission. We continue to be good stewards of your contributions, as HFOT remains a highly rated Veterans and Military charity with nearly 90 cents of every dollar spent going toward programs for our Veterans. Thank you for the difference you are making in the lives of our nation's severely injured Veterans and their families this Veterans Day, and every day. Your kindness and loyalty are the keys to helping us Build Homes and Rebuild Lives.

Sincerely,

Dick Cody

Richard A. Cody
General, USA Retired
Chairman of the Board



Homes For Our Troops • 6 Main Street • Taunton, MA 02780 • 866-787-6677 • www.hfotusa.org

NOVEMBER 2018 - Inside This Issue

- Page 3 _____ Home Is Where The Heart Is
- Page 4 & 5 _____ A Look At *By The Numbers*
- Page 6 _____ Donor-Advised Funds Welcome
- Page 6 _____ Texas Roadhouse Raises Over \$250K For HFOT
- Page 7 _____ Consider An IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution
- Page 7 _____ Haselden Construction: Gunning For #1!
- Page 8 _____ Giving Tuesday Sneak Peek!

Find and Follow Us On Our Social Media



On Thursday, Sept. 6, 2018, HFOT President/CEO Tom Landwermyer testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to advocate for improving Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant funding for severely injured Veterans. You can watch a full clip of the hearing at



www.hfotusa.org/blog.



On Monday, Sept. 10, 2018, The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress, in collaboration with Homes For Our Troops (HFOT), hosted a special panel discussion. The discussion, Empowering Today's Severely Injured Veterans, included thought leaders representing a range of services working to bridge the military-civilian divide, particularly among the severely injured Veteran population.



A History of Excellence

HFOT has been evaluated as one of America's Top Rated Veterans and Military Charities.



HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

As soon as Homes For Our Troops secured land for Marine Sergeant Milan Franklin's home in Shelton, Wash., he knew it was time to propose to the love of his life, Delaree Hart. He felt it only fitting to pop the question on the lot that would one day become their forever home. *"I knew it would be a big moment for us. Almost like the start of the rest of our lives together,"* Milan says.

Initially, Milan and Delaree planned on tying the knot after they moved in. But as Delaree's grandfather's health began to decline, she wanted to fulfill his dream of seeing all his grandchildren get married. And, most of all, the two were so smitten with each other, they could not wait to be husband and wife. There was no question where the ceremony would take place. The couple said "I do" during a small and intimate ceremony, surrounded by close friends and family on their land in March. *"Getting married there became the next logical step, especially because this new home will be where we grow, and hopefully, raise our family together,"* Milan says.

The newlyweds feel the possibilities will be endless, now that Milan will be living in a barrier-free environment. They are especially excited to start their own homestead growing and raising their own food. This dream will be made possible in a specially adapted custom HFOT home on their lot.

This isn't just a house to us, it is a life. A simple and good life outside of the military that we've only dreamt about living until now.

In their current home, Milan, who lost both legs while serving in Afghanistan, cannot help Delaree with maintaining the garden because there are no paved paths around the home for him to easily navigate on prosthetics or by wheelchair. It is also frustrating that their kitchen is too small for Milan's wheelchair, resulting in Delaree doing most of the prepping, processing, and storing of the food they cultivate. *"I want to at least be able to offer some kind of assistance in running it, so she's not burdened all the time,"* Milan says.

Once Milan receives his new home, he can easily access the yard and garden through paved pathways surrounding the home, and will have no trouble preparing meals. The home will also relieve Delaree from the constant fear that Milan will hurt himself. *"One bad fall could really affect his ability permanently. The home will free him from the daily frustration of having to ask for help, and give me the relief knowing that he is safe to accomplish tasks throughout his day,"* she says.

Milan and Delaree are still in awe that they are receiving an HFOT home. *"This home will enable us to actually fulfill a large dream of ours and is, to say the least, unbelievable,"* Milan says. *"We owe so much to all of the donors, sponsors, contractors, volunteers, and all of the incredible American people who support HFOT that no amount of thanks could ever account for what we are being given. This isn't just a house to us, it is a life. A simple and good life outside of the military that we've only dreamt about living until now, thanks to every single one of you."*



Marine Sergeant Milan Franklin and his wife Delaree were married on the land of their future home earlier this year.



Milan and Delaree at their Community Kickoff event in July.

Milan and Delaree will soon receive their HFOT home in Washington. Learn more at www.hfotusa.org/Franklin.



BY THE NUMBERS

How HFOT's specially adapted custom homes empower Veterans

Recent survey results demonstrate what we at HFOT have known all along: we make a lasting impact in the lives of our nation's most severely injured post-9/11 Veterans and their spouses/caregivers. Here is a look at the different ways our program sets the conditions for our Veterans' and their families' lifelong success.*



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & VOLUNTEERING

BEFORE RECEIVING HFOT HOME	AFTER RECEIVING HFOT HOME
12%	67%

VETERANS PAYING IT FORWARD

"Having an HFOT home greatly enhances my ability to volunteer for Sea Cadets. I have more space in my new home to spread out, store equipment, and can more easily use my home for administrative and planning functions involved in running the Sea Cadet program here. My previous home, in addition to being minimally accessible, was cramped and had limited space. Additionally, after long weekends, or even weeks of volunteering with Sea Cadets, I can come home to an incredibly accessible home and relax in surroundings where I can easily complete daily tasks."

Marine Cpl Travis Echols

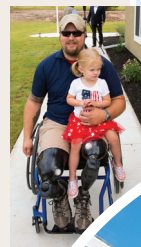


82%

of Veterans say they can now heal in a **SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

"An accessible home makes everything easier. All the little and big things that I had trouble with in the past, I no longer worry about. I can do what I need to do as a husband and father, and that means so much to me and my family."

Marine Cpl Neil Frustaglio



OVER 90%



of Veterans have regained some/much of their **FREEDOM & INDEPENDENCE**

Building Homes, Rebuilding Lives



EMPLOYMENT RATE

AFTER RECEIVING HFOT HOME

67% INCREASE

— Veterans —

OVER 300% INCREASE

— Spouse/Caregiver —



After losing his right leg while serving in Afghanistan, Air Force Tech Sergeant Daniel Fye is pursuing his lifelong dream of becoming a firefighter. He says this would not have been possible without the HFOT home he received in Bremerton, Wash., in 2017. He graduates from South Sound Fire Academy on Vashon Island in November 2018.

"The barrier-free build of our home allows me to come home after training and use my wheelchair if I need to let my body recover. The Fire Academy training takes a toll on my body, and the comfort of my home allows me to recover enough to keep pushing myself."



EDUCATION



Obtained/Pursuing a degree or trade certification

BEFORE RECEIVING HFOT HOME	AFTER RECEIVING HFOT HOME
12%	69%

— Veterans —

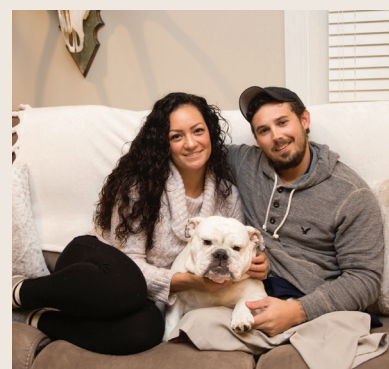
8% 90%

— Spouse/Caregiver —

The video monitoring system in Sharon Gittens' HFOT home gives her relief that her husband, Army Sergeant First Class Sean Gittens, is safe when she is not home. Having this peace of mind has allowed her to continue her education and career! She recently earned her diploma from Helms College and is now pursuing an associate's degree in culinary arts. She plans on expanding her family-run business, Jamaica Way Café, into a bigger restaurant.



"It feels really good to go back to school, it's something I've always wanted to do. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our HFOT home and made it possible," Sharon says.



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Education, better jobs for Veterans and spouses/caregivers, and no mortgage result in

37% 58%

Increased Family Income

Decreased Family Debt

57%

Increased Family Savings

"The home provides me with a great foundation, security, and financial freedom so my wife and I can use the money we would have spent on a mortgage toward a brighter future."

Army SSG Sam Shockley

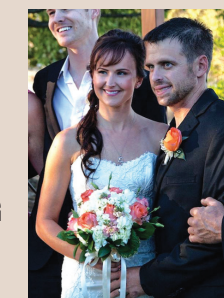
FAMILY



Start/grow families, focus on role as parent and spouse

BEFORE RECEIVING HFOT HOME	AFTER RECEIVING HFOT HOME
59%	79%

— Married —



Average American household size is unchanged at 2.6 from 2005-2017- U.S. Census

HFOT FAMILIES 2.7 TO 3.8

Over **160** Babies have been born to HFOT families since 2010

Since receiving his HFOT home in 2015, Marine Corporal Joshua Hotaling has become a husband and father. He and his wife Jenny welcomed their first child, Jenevieve, in 2017.

"My HFOT home lets me be the dad around the house that I would have been if I hadn't been injured. I can't thank HFOT enough for that freedom," Joshua says.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS WELCOME!

A donor-advised fund (DAF) is a philanthropic vehicle established at a public charity. It allows a donor to make a charitable contribution to the fund, receive an immediate tax benefit, and recommend grants from the fund to qualified non-profits over time. To create one, a donor deposits cash, securities, and other assets in a fund, then directs how grants are distributed.

Homes For Our Troops recently made supporting our mission through a donor-advised fund even more convenient by adding a DAF Direct widget to our website. This provides a simple way

for donors to give. In FY2017, HFOT received nearly \$1 million in DAF grants.

HFOT currently can facilitate grants through the DAF Direct widget from donors at Fidelity Charitable®, Schwab Charitable®, Greater Kansas City Charitable Foundation, and the BNY Mellon Charitable Gift Fund®. Please note that HFOT can accept donations from all funds; if your fund administrator is not listed above, please contact them to initiate a donation.

To make a contribution to HFOT through your DAF account visit www.hfotusa.org/get-involved/support_our_mission/ways_donate/
If you have any questions, please reach out to our Grants team at msocha@hfotusa.org.

TEXAS ROADHOUSE RAISES OVER \$250K FOR HFOT WITH SUMMER FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Homes For Our Troops is grateful to have the loyal support of Texas Roadhouse since our inception in 2004. The national restaurant chain first got involved with the organization when they held a motorcycle ride to support HFOT’s first home recipient Army Sergeant Peter Damon’s build. The ride consisted of 120 bikers and went from Methuen, Mass., to Lebanon, N.H., raising a total of \$3,000. Since officially signing on as a National Partner in 2015, Texas Roadhouse has raised over \$200,000 annually for HFOT through fundraising events and other contributions. They also frequently cater HFOT build events throughout the country.

This past summer, Texas Roadhouse hosted 14 bike runs and a car show in Connecticut, raising over \$230,000. Bubba’s 33, a newer restaurant chain owned by Texas Roadhouse, has hosted their own burger campaign the last two years, raising a total of \$25,000. This holiday season, Texas Roadhouse will feature HFOT on a co-branded gift card.



Texas Roadhouse employees at the Bike Run in Nashua, N.H., this past summer.

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS



Is your company or business interested in becoming a corporate partner? Learn more at partnership@hfotusa.org.



STOCK GIVING

As we near the end of 2018, it is a good time to begin thinking about supporting your favorite charities. Did you know that you can donate stocks, bonds or other securities?

This is a great way to support **Homes For Our Troops** and the Veterans we serve, with an added bonus of potential income-tax savings!* For more information about donating stock, please contact Suzanne Shaheen at 508-823-3300 Ext 241.

** HFOT recommends you consult a tax professional about your personal giving strategy.*

CONSIDER AN IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

An IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is generally a non-taxable distribution made directly by the trustee of your IRA to an organization eligible to receive tax deductible contributions.

Requirements:

- The donor must be age 70 ½ or older when the gift is made.
- The gift must come from an IRA account. 401(k), 403(b), SEP or SIMPLE IRA accounts do not qualify.
- The gift must come directly from your IRA administrator to Homes For Our Troops.
- Each person can donate up to \$100,000 annually.
- Qualified Charitable Distributions are excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes on your IRS Form 1040.
- Distributions count toward your required minimum distribution for the year in which you made the gift.
- See IRS Pub 590-B for more information.

If you are interested in choosing Homes For Our Troops for an IRA qualified charitable distribution, contact Suzanne Shaheen at: sshaheen@hfotusa.org.

It's important to consider your tax situation before deciding whether to make a charitable distribution from your IRA. Be sure to consult with your financial advisor.

HASELDEN CONSTRUCTION: GUNNING FOR #1



Several HFOT Veterans participated in Haselden Construction's Clay Shoot this year.

What makes a fundraiser successful? We would argue that the driving force behind Colorado-based Haselden Construction's continued fundraising success is teamwork, dedication to the HFOT mission, and a healthy dose of CEO & President Byron Haselden's competitive spirit.

The company first became involved with Homes For Our Troops in 2014 after looking for a highly-rated Veterans charity. Similar to HFOT, Haselden Construction treats their team members as part of the family. This past June the company hosted its 5th Annual Clay Shoot, raising over \$110,000 for HFOT's current Colorado home builds (SPC Steven Baskis, Navy HM Joel Booth, LCpl Sean Carroll, SFC Tara Hutchinson, and 1LT Nick Morris). For the company, the shoot is about more than shooting sporting clays, but rather a chance for subcontractors, owners, architects, and yes, sometimes even competitors, to spend a day together outside, enjoying Colorado in support of a good cause.

Every team member, including Byron himself, has an opportunity to get involved with the event, which is a huge part of Haselden's robust corporate social responsibility program. The company focuses on supporting charitable causes within their clients' communities that resonate strongly with team members, like Homes For Our Troops. "Haselden's Homes For Our Troops fundraiser is something our team members, clients, and partners look forward to every year," stated Byron. "The event has grown each year over the past five years and it's truly amazing to see the support it generates."

As a leader in the construction industry, it is no surprise that Haselden has maintained a spot on HFOT's Top 10 Fundraiser list since they got involved in 2014. Byron and his team have really come together to turn this event into a well-oiled machine, and they aspire to reach that #1 spot in the near future. Among HFOT's passionate supporters, they have proudly secured a spot in the Top 3 for the past two years, standing out among over 500 fundraisers across the country each year.

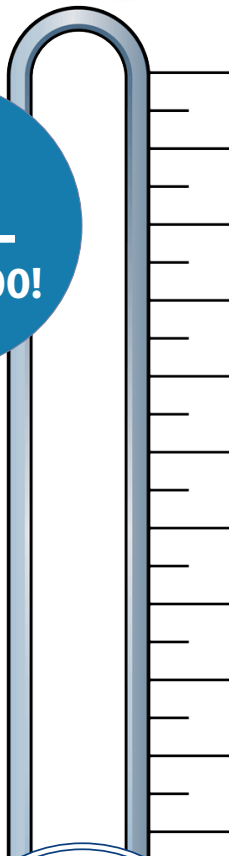
In the coming months, Haselden will begin preparations for their 6th Annual Clay Shoot taking place at the Kiowa Creek Gun Club on June 7, 2019. HFOT is confident that this event will continue to grow, gaining momentum as we work together to help rebuild the lives of severely injured Veterans.



Coming Soon!



★ OUR GOAL \$150,000!



Building Homes, Rebuilding Lives ★

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

A Global Giving Movement | November 27, 2018



A History of Excellence ★

HFOT has been evaluated as one of America's Top Rated Veterans and Military Charities.