



# Foundations

[www.homesforourtroops.org](http://www.homesforourtroops.org) | A Newsletter from Homes for Our Troops | **END-OF-YEAR 2009**

## Dear HFOT Supporter: *(A Letter from Our Founder and President)*

As 2009 comes to an end I look forward to a new year with a renewed sense of urgency to build more homes that provide freedom, independence and comfort to our severely injured troops. I have had the honor and privilege of seeing Homes for Our Troops grow into a first class philanthropic organization in just 5 short years. During those years more than 40 homes have been completed, and we have dozens more currently underway. As we continue our mission of building specially adapted homes for these returning heroes, I am reminded of the daily challenges faced by these veterans and how this impacts the entire family. I have seen firsthand how our severely injured veterans' lives have been transformed by regaining their freedom and independence having homes that were designed for their specific needs and built through Homes for Our Troops. We have been able to achieve so much because of your generous support yet there is so much more to do.

Since 2001, we have been a nation at war. Almost two million American troops have served in combat; many in multiple tours, more than 5,100 have been killed and more than 35,000 have been seriously injured. Every day our military stands and fights for our freedom. I am personally asking you to respond to their needs once they return home after suffering devastating injuries by supporting our mission with a tax deductible donation. Homes for Our Troops has consistently maintained an average cost for administration and fundraising at 8% of revenues so you know your donations are being used efficiently.

As our waiting list grows, so should the support and awareness needed to bring our mission to all Americans. With your help we will continue to provide the much needed support to our returning severely injured veterans. Please help us tell all Americans, "they were there for us, we must be there for them".



John Gonsalves  
President

Homes for Our Troops  
6 Main Street, Taunton, MA 02780  
P - 508-823-3300 ext 201  
F - 508-823-5411

Web: [www.homesforourtroops.org](http://www.homesforourtroops.org)

## HOLIDAY OFFERINGS MEANINGFUL GIFT IDEAS

### NEW! 2009 LIMITED EDITION Ornament!



A gift from the heart for the holidays and any day! This high-quality, gold tone ornament was crafted by ChemArt and is **made in the USA!** Give a gift that will keep on giving to our severely injured

Veterans and will be enjoyed for generations to come by the recipient!

The ornament features our logo and a home exhibiting one of our designs used to build homes for HFOT Veterans. It also has the year with a flag and flagpole. On the back is inscribed "Limited Edition 2009" as there will only be 200 ornaments sold this year. It comes with a gold hanging cord, a blue box lined with red and a gold stamp of the ornament on the outside of the box. It's so beautiful, you don't need to wrap it!

**Only \$20 plus shipping! Order while supplies last!**

### Our GIVING CARD PROGRAM continues!

For a minimum donation of \$20, we will send a card to someone on your list.

[www.homesforourtroops.org/shop](http://www.homesforourtroops.org/shop)



## 4th Annual Gala



**SAVE THE DATE!** Our 4th Annual Gala will be March 6, 2010 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place. Please join us for a great night of dinner, live and silent auctions, live entertainment, and lots of fun! We hope to raise enough money to take another deserving Veteran off of our waiting list. **BUY YOUR TICKETS ONLINE** at [www.homesforourtroops.org/gala](http://www.homesforourtroops.org/gala)

## Technology Corner

### HOLD A FUNDRAISER to benefit Homes for Our Troops!

On our website we provide you with the tools and support necessary to run your own event, raffle, or fundraiser. Our "Steps Toward Home" personal fundraising section gives you the ability to easily create a webpage for a fundraising event of your choice; whether it's a marathon, walk, bike run, bake sale, party, or something completely different, you will be able to personalize it for your needs!

Our website gives you the ability to upload photos, track donations, email friends and family, and create a custom URL.

Start a fundraiser today!

[www.homesforourtroops.org/fundraising](http://www.homesforourtroops.org/fundraising)

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Her legacy is in the love and support she gave to the sons and daughters of our military.

**ON 11.08.09...WE RAN**



## 1st Annual VICTORIA L. MOSIER MEMORIAL RUN

Thank You to Our Major Sponsors:



Amazing weather, high spirits and enthusiasm from all involved...what more could we ask for?

One of our 162 registered runners, Mike Proto, sent us his thoughts:

"There were a number of my friends that race every weekend at your event yesterday, and they all agreed with me -everything about your race was 100% first class and top notch...My friends and I will definitely be back next year, and we'll be telling many of our fellow runners about your race."

In our special e-newsletter, we will name all winners and all our sponsors. Here are our top 6 runners:



Joe Navas  
26:26

Michelle Sarney  
29:45

Kent Taylor  
28:54

Joann Matthews  
31:05

Brendan Loftus  
29:34

Katie Churchill  
31:24

Please join us next year for our 2nd Annual VLM Memorial Run!

## Green Building Update



Homes for Our Troops was proud to turn over the keys to our first LEED-H certified home to Marine Cpl Visnu Gonzalez. The home was a capstone project for the first year of our Green Building Program funded by The Sierra Club Foundation. We received 95 points in all LEED categories assuring that the home will use very little energy for heating, cooling and lighting, provide superior air quality, and use less water than a traditional residence. Aside from the benefits it will provide for Visnu and family, this home has been a great learning experience for the contractors involved and members of the community that have taken part in the project. Most projects provide a sense of community and an opportunity to give something back to those who sacrifice so much. *For the folks in Hillsdale and the surrounding community they will also have a greater sense of the impact of the built environment, green building processes and methodology, and the future of green building.*

## Spotlight: HFOT Supporters

On 11.08.09, we were excited to see so much community spirit close to home.

From Dartmouth, MA, high school student Bud Barry who took it upon himself to run for our cause as a participant of World Run Day ([www.runday.com](http://www.runday.com)) and as part of his community service...to the many individuals who gave us envelopes of collected money from family and friends...to a presentation from Shaws Supermarkets giving us a \$10,000 check towards the renovation of our headquarters office...we are so grateful for all these gifts above and beyond what we asked for on the day of our VLM Run. **THANK YOU!**



Bud Barry shakes hands with John.



Karen Pierce gives John the \$10,000 check from Shaws.

## Spotlight: HFOT Volunteers

### MATT FEBBI

#### HFOT ROAD WARRIOR

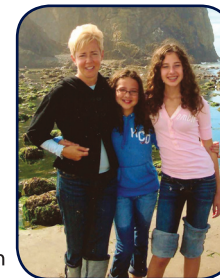
Matt Febbi became a Road Warrior shortly after his son Rich Febbi (US Marine and Army Cav Scout) was killed in a car accident. He has dedicated his retirement years to Homes for Our Troops in an effort to make his son as proud of his father as he was of him. There have been many folks asking how Matt is doing after a recent stay at the local Veterans Hospital in East Orange NJ. We are happy to report that he is scheduled to leave the hospital before Thanksgiving. **Matt, we wish you a speedy recovery! Thank you for all you do in making the HFOT Mission your own!**



### SUSAN BEATINI

#### HFOT VOLUNTEER

Since the loss of her husband on 9/11, Susan says, "I simply feel that 'community' is what keeps us all alive." Susan was instrumental in bringing her community of 25 women to Cpl Gonzalez's home to clean it from top to bottom for his Key Ceremony. **Thank you Susan!**





# BUILDING HOMES, REBUILDING LIVES: COMPLETED BUILD BRIGADES

**SPC ALEX KNAPP**

**SFC ROY MITCHELL**

**SPC JASON M. SCHULZ**



MACOMB, MICHIGAN  
October 30, 31 and November 1, 2009  
GC: Palazzolo Brothers, Vito Anthony Homes



CARTHAGE, NEW YORK  
October 21, 22 and 23, 2009  
GC: Olley's General Contractors, LLC



EAGLE, WISCONSIN  
October 21, 22, and 23, 2009  
GC: Kain Construction, LLC

**HFOT thanks the General Contractor and the many skilled/unskilled Volunteers on every one of these projects!**



## SGT Travis Wood's Key Presentation

On November 13, 2009, we were proud to hand over the key to SGT Travis Wood,



PHOTO CREDITS: KAY LYNN REILLY

his wife Stephanie and their daughter Maddy for their new specially adapted home in Cedar City, Utah.

SGT Wood told reporter Nur Kausar from The Spectrum back in February of this year, "My biggest fear wasn't my own welfare - it was for my family. Where would they go if something did happen?" Wood said. "That biggest scare - where is my family going to live - is gone."

For this build, we were honored to have Brian Nichols as our General Contractor. In Brian's words:

"The Travis Wood home was a success in every meaningful way--the quality, the level of donor generosity, and teamwork. We are so happy to have been a part of it."

**Thank you Brian Nichols and the crew at Nichols Building. Thank you to the many Volunteers who helped build SGT Wood a home and the means to a brighter future!**



**NICHOLS**  
BUILDING LLC



## More Veterans Who Received Their Keys:



**CPL VISNU GONZALEZ**  
Hillsdale, NJ (KC: November 10)  
GC: Godsil Construction

TRACY JEFFERY



**CPL EVAN MORGAN**  
Bakersfield, CA (KC: November 14)  
GC: Dave Packer Custom Homes

ERIC FREEMAN

As of our press time (November 16, 2009):

### UPCOMING BUILD BRIGADES

**SSG MAURICE CRAFT**  
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

**SSG DWAYNE A. COLE**  
HENRICO, VA

**SSG MICHAEL DOWNING**  
MIDDLEBORO, MA

**PO2 ANTHONY THOMPSON**  
HOUSTON, TX

Watch our website and sign up for updates on these projects or volunteer for a Build Brigade.

### Upcoming Key Presentations

**SGT CHASE MATTHEWS**  
EDDYVILLE, KY

**SSG MIKE MINARD**  
UNION BEACH, NJ

**SGT PETER ROONEY**  
WORTHINGTON, MA



## Spotlight: SeeHere.com from FujiFilm

We are happy to announce a new partnership. SeeHere.com, the photo sharing website from FUJIFILM has begun a campaign on our behalf. SeeHere.com is offering a steel travel mug, a hooded sweatshirt and a tote bag online. For each item ordered, SeeHere.com from FUJIFILM will donate \$2.00 to Homes for Our Troops.

**Go to [www.seehere.com/homesforourtroops](http://www.seehere.com/homesforourtroops) to order yours today!**

FUJIFILM is also committed to supporting our mission through support of Kids for Our Troops, a division of Homes for Our Troops. We know kids of all ages want to get involved in the effort to help and support our American Heroes. Homes for Our Troops created the Kids for Our Troops website to help parents, children, teachers, students, club leaders and civic organizations find out how they can get involved in our effort to provide specially adapted homes for our most severely injured soldiers.

**We are thrilled that FUJIFILM also sees the importance in nurturing our future leaders.**



SeeHere.com

FUJIFILM

## END-OF-YEAR GIVING



SPC Reas Axtell - Lubbock, Texas  
HFOT Home Completed in August 2009

**"When I returned home with this severe disability, our home became a prison, I was trapped inside.**

**This new (specially adapted) home will give me back my freedom and enable our whole family to heal and look toward the future"**

**HELP US ease their pain. Give back FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE to our severely injured Veterans; these Veterans were injured preserving our freedom and independence.**

**Please make your YEAR END, TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION to Homes for Our Troops postmarked by December 31, 2009. Thank you.**

## Upcoming Fundraisers & Events to Benefit HFOT

For all in parenthesis, type in the URL starting with [www.homesforourtroops.org/](http://www.homesforourtroops.org/) and add in the words shown in parenthesis.

### ARIZONA

Birdies for the Brave Golf Tournament and Gala, TPC Scottsdale

Go to [www.tpc.com/scottsdale/charity/birdies-for-the-brave.html](http://www.tpc.com/scottsdale/charity/birdies-for-the-brave.html) for more info.

Scottsdale, AZ

Saturday to Sunday DECEMBER 12-13, 2009

### FLORIDA

Ducks in a Row Toy Duck Race

[www.duckracesforaccessiblespaces.com](http://www.duckracesforaccessiblespaces.com)

Deerbeach, FL

Sunday, DECEMBER 6, 2009

### MASSACHUSETTS

The Downing Build Brigade Comedy Show (laughter) Middleboro, MA

Saturday, DECEMBER 12, 2009

The Downing Build Brigade - Chili Cook-off and Holiday Extravaganza (holidayfun)

Middleboro, MA

Sunday, DECEMBER 13, 2009

Pre-Superbowl Bash (presuperbowlbash)

Dorchester, MA

Saturday, JANUARY 30, 2010

HFOT 4th Annual Gala (gala)

Boston Marriott Copley Place, MA

Saturday, MARCH 6, 2010

### NEW JERSEY

Home for the Holidays (homefortheholidays)

Pemberton, NJ

November 28, 2009 thru JANUARY 10, 2010

### NEW YORK

Bake for Our Troops

[www.bakeboutiqueinc.com](http://www.bakeboutiqueinc.com)

Send cookies to soldiers & donate to HFOT!

### TEXAS

3rd Annual Sporting Clays Event (hou)

Houston, TX

JANUARY 29 & 30, 2010

### WISCONSIN

Red Shirt Fridays T-Shirt Sales

([www.paulconwayshields.com](http://www.paulconwayshields.com))

On sale at 5 Milwaukee fire stations & online.

Red Shirt Fridays T-Shirt Sales

(Email [ttheisen@nmfire.org](mailto:ttheisen@nmfire.org))

Neenah-Menasha Fire Department

**DONATE NOW** USING THE ENCLOSED SLIP AND ENVELOPE OR  
**DONATE ONLINE** at: [www.homesforourtroops.org/donate](http://www.homesforourtroops.org/donate)  
 Donations are tax-deductible and with our low 8 percent overhead, you know your money is going a long way and making a big difference.



Charity Navigator, one of the premiere charity rating agencies in the country, has awarded Homes for Our Troops with its highest rating of 4 stars.



Homes for Our Troops is a Top-Rated Military & Veteran Charity by the American Institute of Philanthropy.