



# Foundations

A Newsletter from Homes For Our Troops | [www.hfotusa.org](http://www.hfotusa.org) | July 2019



## Home of the Brave

YOUR SUPPORT ENABLES VETERANS TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES

## A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,  
For the past 15 years, you have been providing severely injured post-9/11 Veterans with the life changing gift of a specially adapted custom home. This issue illustrates how far your support goes: not only the Veterans, but for their spouses, caregivers, and children.

While they were not at the frontlines of combat, caregivers and spouses face their own battles as the backbone of their families, with quiet resilience and strength. They uphold the Veteran's spirits and health, and often feel the challenges of living in a home not adapted to their loved one's injuries. We open this newsletter with Tesa Stinson's eloquent account of how her husband's, Marine Sergeant Zachary Stinson, and their children's lives have improved with the gift of an HFOT home. Because of your generosity, the Stinson family has enjoyed every moment living barrier-free for the past six years.

The freedom and independence these Veterans regain affects their professional lives as well. With the challenges of daily living mitigated, these great Americans can return to their careers and hobbies. On page 3, we highlight Alex Jauregui and the beehive business he started, Fury Bees.

While it's important to note the accomplishments you have helped us achieve, we continue to work diligently to provide homes for the 80 Veterans with land searches and homes in progress. Liam Dwyer is one of these extraordinary individuals who is already making a name for himself in the racecar driving world. We look forward to seeing what else he will accomplish with a specially adapted custom home, as we start construction on his project later this year.

The companies, organizations, and individuals dedicated to raising funds and awareness for our cause are key to the success of our mission. In this issue we introduce you to two new Corporate Partners on page 5, AirMedCare Network and Wyffels Hybrids, and highlight the work of longtime fundraiser Kappa Delta Phi on page 6.

On behalf of all of us in the HFOT Family, thank you for your continued support that enables these brave men and women to rebuild their lives. I look forward to seeing you at a build event soon.

Sincerely,

William D. Ivey  
Executive Director  
Homes For Our Troops

JULY 2019

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## FIND & FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Keep up-to-date on all things HFOT by following us for the latest information, photos, videos, events, e-store specials and more!



## A History of Excellence

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



Find out more about the impact  
you are making at  
[www.hfotusa.org/impact](http://www.hfotusa.org/impact)

## A Special Thank You!

"Your time and donations, regardless of how big or small, put a direct handprint on our hearts, on our children's lives, our extended family, and our friends. These homes are as precious as seeing an infant crawl or walk for the first time. To see a person gain the independence of navigating their own home, their bathroom, their backyard, mailbox, or kitchen, is an experience above the rest. You are helping a Veteran feel more like a man or woman who is equal and not limited. You are helping a wife or husband feel less stressed, less like a caregiver and more like a spouse. You are helping a child experience love and laughter in a more stress-free home, enabling a family to rebuild their lives, and feel comfortable in their own home. Extended families know their child/brother/sister/cousin and his or her family is living safely, happily, comfortably without limitations.

I encourage you to read and listen to our stories to see where we have come since moving into our homes, there is no better proof than to see the obvious through our daily lives. HFOT continues to check in on us, they remind us of checkups on appliances, and they check in to make sure we are doing okay. HFOT is more than a nonprofit to their Veterans, we are family. Any money and time you donate goes to the Veteran and their family, and you can see that this is true."

– Tesa Stinson, wife of Marine Sergeant Zachary Stinson,  
2013 HFOT home recipient

## A BUZZIN' BUSINESS

Alex Jauregui is creating a buzz among the farming community in Northern California. Shortly after receiving his specially adapted custom HFOT home in March 2015, Alex wanted to do something useful with the five acres of land on his property. Initially he planned on planting an almond orchard, but it was too expensive. Instead, he started his own bee farm called Fury Bees due to the high demand for honeybees in the area.

Over the past four years, Alex has grown his business from 75 hives to 800. He hopes to have 4,000 beehives and expand his honey company. Alex credits his HFOT home for helping him launch his business. Having a home adapted to his injuries enables him to rest after a long day of farming, and he has ample space. *"The lot the home is on provided me with the land I needed to begin the business of a commercial beekeeper,"* he says.

Earlier this year, Alex was recognized for his efforts in his community after he received assistance from the Farmer Veteran Coalition.



HFOT home recipient Alex Jauregui was able to start his own beehive business on the land of his HFOT home.



Alex hopes to grow his business and honey company over the next few years.



Learn more about Alex's story at  
[www.hfotusa.org/jauregui](http://www.hfotusa.org/jauregui)

# ACCELERATING A NEW MISSION

Racing cars gave Marine Staff Sergeant Liam Dwyer the drive to overcome adversity. Losing his left leg and sustaining severe damage to his remaining limbs while serving in Afghanistan in 2011, Liam initially found the recovery process to be physically and mentally draining. Learning how to do simple tasks, such as walking on a prosthetic, took up so much of his energy, doing something as adventurous as driving over 100 miles per hour on a racetrack professionally was unimaginable.

Liam's outlook began to change while undergoing treatment at Walter Reed Medical Center, watching the progress of other amputees who were injured before him. Their positive attitudes and motivation inspired him to move forward and go after his dreams. A lifelong car enthusiast, Liam and his friends met Mazda executives at a race in 2012. The Mazda executives were impressed with Liam's ability to race cars without adaptations and two years later, he began racing for Mazda professionally. *"Racing has been my biggest form of therapy. Without it, I don't know where I would be,"* he says.

When he's behind the wheel, Liam feels content and at ease. *"Racing is about being smart and aggressive at the same time. Something about that relaxes me,"* he says.

Though Liam finds comfort driving on a speedway, he is constantly frustrated with the barriers he faces within his own home. He and his wife Meghan currently live in an older home, which is not accessible for Liam's wheelchair. Liam recently underwent osseointegration surgery, a procedure that inserts a titanium rod into the femur, allowing it to directly connect with the prosthetic with minimal pain. Recovering from this surgery has been challenging in their current home because Liam must keep his leg fully extended, and needs assistance transferring from different rooms. Meghan constantly fears Liam will harm himself in their current environment. She and Liam cannot wait until Homes For Our Troops builds their specially adapted forever home. *"To have a home that is accessible and enables Liam to have independence to complete daily living tasks, and promote functional mobility that supports his rehabilitation to gain strength is a dream come true,"* Meghan says. *"This home means much more than a roof over our heads. Instead of just existing, we will be able to live our best lives possible."*

Liam and Meghan are thrilled Homes For Our Troops will soon begin construction on their home in Lake Worth, Fla., and are grateful to the generosity of HFOT supporters who will make this possible. *"The stress relief and the dreams you will enable us to achieve have no way to be measured,"* Liam says. *"Please know we will always have an open door for you to see first-hand what your kindness and charity have helped us to achieve."*



Future HFOT home recipient Liam Dwyer has been racing for Mazda since 2014.

Below Liam Dwyer speaks to the HFOT staff about his osseointegration surgery during his visit to the HFOT headquarters in Massachusetts earlier this year.



# HFOT WELCOMES TWO NEW PARTNERS INTO THE HFOT FAMILY



Homes For Our Troops is proud to announce its partnership with AirMedCare Network (AMCN), the largest Air Ambulance Membership Network in the United States. AMCN's mission is to provide people with the life-saving emergency care they need, when they need it. The company is dedicated to sharing HFOT's mission with their 3 million network members, and plans to donate \$2 for every membership.



We are excited to welcome Wyffels Hybrids as a Regional Partner for Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota. Headquartered in Geneseo, Ill., Wyffels is one of the nation's largest independent seed corn companies. Focusing strictly on developing and marketing elite corn hybrids, the company provides corn growers in the Midwest with exceptional products and the latest agronomic information.

To learn more about Corporate Partnerships, please visit [www.hfotusa.org/partner](http://www.hfotusa.org/partner)

## DON'T MISS OUT JOIN TEAM HFOT

by securing your spot today at:  
[www.hfotusa.org/TeamHFOT](http://www.hfotusa.org/TeamHFOT)

### Falmouth Road Race\* **SOLD OUT**

(7.1 Miles) Falmouth, MA – August 18, 2019

### Bank of America Chicago Marathon\* **SOLD OUT**

Chicago, IL – October 13, 2019

### TCS New York City Marathon\* **SOLD OUT**

NYC, NY – November 3, 2019

### Philadelphia Marathon Weekend

(8K, Half Marathon & Marathon) Philadelphia, PA  
November 23-24, 2019

### Houston Marathon Weekend

(5K, Half Marathon & Marathon) Houston, TX  
January 18-19, 2020



Make Every Mile Count



Army CPT Robert "Bobby" Withers  
HFOT Home Recipient

**\*OWN ENTRY  
AVAILABLE**

## PARTICIPATING IN A RACE THAT ISN'T LISTED?

You can still support HFOT by joining DIY Runners, Call **508-967-9029!**



## SHOUT OUT!

Shout out to future HFOT home recipient Marine Corporal Kionte Storey for running the American Ninja Warrior course! We will be building a home for Kionte in California.

Learn more about his story and how to get involved with his project at [www.hfotusa.org/storey](http://www.hfotusa.org/storey)

# THE SPIRIT OF KAPPA DELTA PHI SUPPORTS HFOT VETERANS

The leadership of Kappa Delta Phi knows first-hand the importance of the partnership between Homes For Our Troops and their organization. Executive Director Jon Kadel is an Army Veteran himself, having served from 1995-2004. *“You didn’t really see issues with Veterans back then,”* Jon says. *“Now, they come back injured and we want to help them live, function, and lead as normal lives as possible. HFOT’s adapted homes make it easier for them to do this, and start or expand their own families.”*

Kappa Delta Phi is a predominantly New England based national fraternity, with a number of chapters scattered throughout the Northeast. The fraternity, which started in 1900 at Bridgewater (Mass) State College, currently has 11 active chapters and one brand new colony. Their goal is to develop men to become professional members of society with positive attitudes, and bridge what they learn from their fraternity days as fundraisers and leaders to become influencers in our country and the world.

Their active members and alumni have created a lifelong brotherhood, and they continue to work together to assist Homes For Our Troops in making a life-changing impact for severely injured post-9/11 Veterans. We are proud of the work the men of Kappa Delta Phi have done on our behalf, as both current and emerging leaders in their communities. They play an integral role in the HFOT family.



Kappa Delta Phi’s philosophy of “May The Spirit Never Die,” translates to our organization with their generous support through fundraising efforts and raising awareness of our mission. They have raised approximately \$120,000 for Homes For Our Troops in their first six years, and they are aiming to grow that number moving forward. Kappa Delta Phi’s spirit lives on in our Veterans and their families with every laugh heard, every hug given, every meal prepared, every kiss good night, and every memory created in an HFOT home.

Do you belong to an organization that would be interested in fundraising for Homes For Our Troops?  
Find out more by contacting our Fundraising Team at [fundraising@hfotusa.org](mailto:fundraising@hfotusa.org)

## THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS



To learn more about Corporate Partnerships, please visit [www.hfotusa.org/partners](http://www.hfotusa.org/partners)