



Foundations

A Newsletter from Homes For Our Troops | www.hfotusa.org | January 2021

A Promising Future



YOUR SUPPORT ENABLES VETERANS TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES

A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear HFOT Supporters,

I hope the New Year finds you well and in good health. This past year emphasized the importance of having a safe and secure home, regardless of where you live. As one of our dedicated supporters, you certainly understand how critical it is for severely injured post-9/11 Veterans to have specially adapted custom homes, and I cannot express my appreciation for your generosity enough. In addition to the pandemic, Americans also had to deal with economic hardships and a number of natural disasters in 2020. I commend you for keeping our cause close to your heart throughout these challenging times. Your support enabled us to continue Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives, providing our Veterans with secure and accessible homes where they can safeguard their families. While maintaining our 4-star rating, we ended the fiscal year with 25 homes completed and 25 lots purchased for deserving Veterans nationwide.

Last spring, we conducted our second By the Numbers survey of our home recipients, and the results clearly demonstrate the impact you are making. In this issue, we highlight several key areas, and I encourage you to visit our website to see the entire survey. In the following pages you will also find stories that demonstrate the resilience and tenacity of our Veterans, as well as stories recognizing HFOT supporters, and the long awaited announcement of our Top 10 Fundraisers of 2020.

As we move into the new year, the HFOT staff is working diligently to get more Veterans into their forever homes. Your dedication to our mission is what keeps us forging ahead. Together we can transform these Veterans' lives, and assist them as they pursue their goals and dreams.

Wishing you all good health, happiness, and success as we leave 2020 behind, and look to new accomplishments in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Bill

Bill Ivey
Executive Director
Homes For Our Troops



January 2021

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ON THE COVER: Army SGT Joshua Cope and his family received their HFOT home in Florida on Nov. 7, 2020.



A History of Excellence

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



When Navy Hospital Corpsman Joel Booth returned home after stepping on an IED in Afghanistan in 2011, he immediately realized his living environment was not suitable. At the time, Joel was using crutches and a wheelchair, making it difficult for him to navigate the stairs leading up to the front door. Joel feared he would always be dependent on someone within his own home. *"It was a logistical nightmare. My main concern was being a burden on my family,"* he says.

After enduring months of pain with little progress in his recovery, doctors amputated Joel's right leg. He now uses a prosthetic and can camp, hike, and explore Colorado's vast outdoors with his wife Tasha and their young daughter, Adyline. Joel feels fortunate he can still do these activities with the support of a prosthetic; he developed a desire to ensure all amputees have access to prosthetics, enabling them to continue doing the things they love. He learned about the Range of Motion Project (ROMP), a nonprofit that provides high-quality prosthetic care in underserved populations, and knew he wanted to volunteer with the organization. He has gone on a mission trip to South America with ROMP, and was planning a trip last year, but it was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. *"I have the luxury of not only using my prosthetic for work, but climbing mountains and hiking as well. ROMP is giving prosthetics to people so they can do simple tasks, like going to work,"* he says.



Navy HN Joel Booth and his family are looking forward to receiving their specially adapted custom home in Colorado soon.

Though Joel uses a prosthetic during the day, he prefers to rest his leg and use his wheelchair at home, but his current home is not accessible. The hallways are too narrow, making it difficult for him to navigate in his wheelchair, which presents challenges in reaching his daughter's bedroom when she needs him. Receiving a specially adapted custom Homes For Our Troops home will mitigate these issues for Joel. *"It's comforting to know I will be much more independent and have a safer environment,"* he says.



The independence and financial freedom of a donated HFOT home will give Joel more time and energy to dedicate to his involvement with ROMP, and grow his company, Unilateral Solutions, which provides logistics and supply chain applications for companies.

Homes For Our Troops will kick off the building of Joel's home in Colorado this year. *"We're honored to be a part of the HFOT family. It will be worth the wait, especially when the outcome will last a lifetime,"* he says.

Community Involvement and Volunteering* - VETERANS PAYING IT FORWARD

BEFORE RECEIVING HFOT HOME

17%

AFTER RECEIVING HFOT HOME

74%

Follow the progress of Joel's build at : www.hfotusa.org/booth

*Results are based on a 2020 survey of Veteran home recipients and their caregivers; response rate was 65%.



From the Battlefield to the Classroom

Over the past year, parents and students have developed a renewed appreciation for teachers. Whether it's transitioning their curriculum online for remote instruction or navigating in-person teaching within social distancing guidelines, teachers across the country have risen to the occasion to maintain students' academics while keeping them safe. HFOT home recipient Army Sergeant Travis Wood is one of them.

Travis is a biology and chemistry teacher at Cedar High School in Cedar City, Utah. His district has maintained in-person learning during the pandemic for its students with social distancing guidelines and personal protective equipment. *"It's one of the toughest things I have ever done, but I am truly grateful to be around such a great group of kids. I see so much good in them,"* he says.

Travis became inspired to teach while mentoring troubled youth after losing his right leg from injuries he sustained while serving in Iraq in 2007. He felt teaching would be the perfect profession to continue making a difference in the lives of young adults. He earned his degrees in the most challenging subjects he could think of, biology and chemistry. *"I fell in love with it, and I've been a teacher ever since,"* he says.

The comfort and stability of a specially adapted custom Homes For Our Troops home have served as the ideal environment for Travis to pursue his education and raise his children with his wife, Stephanie. Before receiving his HFOT home in 2009, Travis had a hard time navigating the stairs and often became frustrated that he could not do many things on his own. Regaining independence within his HFOT home gave him the motivation to continue his education. *"While I was going to school, it was nice to go home to a place of solitude and safety where I did not have to worry about anything else but my education,"* he says.

Travis says the novelty of his HFOT home has not diminished, even after a decade. *"I was at a loss for words when I received my home. It is everything we could have hoped for, even 10 years later,"* he says. *"No matter what chaos is going on in life, no matter what we're doing or what's happening in the world, we always know we have a place to come home to."*



Ten years after receiving their HFOT home, Army SGT Travis Wood and his family say their HFOT home is "everything we could have hoped for".



Army SGT Travis Wood with his classroom in 2018.

Education*

Obtained/Pursuing a degree or trade certification

BEFORE RECEIVING HFOT HOME

15%

Veterans

AFTER RECEIVING HFOT HOME

71%

14%

Spouse/Caregiver

80%



OVER 95%

of Veterans have seen a

Reduction in Household Stress*

*Results are based on a 2020 survey of Veteran home recipients and their caregivers; response rate was 65%.

Learn more about the impact of our homes at: www.hfotusa.org

The *newest* members of the HFOT Family

The HFOT Family continues to grow! The freedom of a specially adapted custom home gives Veterans the ideal environment to raise their children and expand their families. In 2020, there were **17 babies born to HFOT Families**. Here are a couple of the newest additions.



On July 14, 2020, Marine Cpl Carlos Garcia and his wife Jacki welcomed their third child, Zoey Michelle.



On Aug. 26, 2020, Army Sergeant Alejandro "Alex" Seguritan, Jr. and his wife Val welcomed their third child, Kaelani Na'ea.



On Nov. 5, 2020, Army Sergeant Aaron Boyle and his wife Lynn welcomed their fourth child, Riven Edward.



*Results are based on a 2020 survey of Veteran home recipients and their caregivers; response rate was 65%.

Family*

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

BEFORE RECEIVING HFOT HOME

57%

Married

AFTER RECEIVING HFOT HOME

78%

Average American household size is unchanged at 2.6 from 2005-2019 - U.S. Census

HFOT FAMILIES **2.7 to 3.6**

Over **209** Babies have been born to HFOT families since 2010!

In Memory of:

Navy LTJG Fred Murphy

Lieutenant Junior Grade Fred Murphy served in the Navy during Vietnam and suffered multiple illnesses later in life related to his service. For this reason, he wanted to make it his legacy to support severely injured Veterans. His wife, Barbara, has kept this promise and the memory of her husband alive by making a donation to Homes For Our Troops on his birthday in November every year since his passing in 2016.

Barbara and Fred learned about HFOT when researching Veterans' charities online. They were impressed with the organization's mission of building and donating specially adapted custom homes for severely injured post-9/11 Veterans, enabling them to rebuild their lives. "We loved the idea of the private sector providing support for Veterans' needs," she says.

Fred was a senior at Assumption College in Worcester, Mass., when he enlisted in the Navy in 1969. He went to Officer Candidate School before deploying to Vietnam. "Fred was proud of his service to Vietnam and never regretted it," says Barbara.

After being discharged from the military, Fred became an anesthesiologist in Boston. Barbara, who was a nurse anesthetist, says philanthropy became a priority to them when they retired. In addition to Barbara's annual tribute gift in honor of Fred, they have named HFOT as part of their estate planning efforts to create a lasting impact with their legacy.



Navy LTJG Fred Murphy

Board Member *Spotlight*

MATTHEW F. ANDRESEN
DIRECTOR



Matthew Andresen and his wife Teri held a Mission Mingle event at their home in 2019. Left, Matt speaks with HFOT Veteran Marine Sgt Joshua Sweeney. Right, Matthew and Teri with HFOT Veterans and staff.

Matthew F. Andresen is CEO of Headlands Technologies, LLC, a global quantitative proprietary trading firm headquartered in Chicago, with offices in San Francisco and London. Headlands Technologies is one of the largest trading firms in the world, ranking in the top five of market activity on many of the world's largest markets.

Matthew became a member of the Homes For Our Troops Board of Directors in August, 2018. He has been a strong advocate for the mission since then. His foundation, The Andresen Family Foundation, provided a match for HFOT's Giving Tuesday campaigns two years in a row, which helped HFOT raise over \$600,000 this past year and over \$400,000 the previous year.

Why is HFOT's mission important to you? I feel strongly about HFOT's mission. As Americans, we have a solemn obligation to help injured Veterans who put themselves in harm's way to protect our country. The US military is entirely a volunteer force; every person who has served in our post-9/11 conflicts did so by choice. That choice is the most selfless and heroic act I can imagine. The very least we can do is be there for them when they have sacrificed so much for us.

How did you find out about the organization? I first heard about HFOT many years ago, in a Wall Street Journal editorial suggesting ways to help Veterans. I was intrigued by the impact one could have by supporting the building of a specially adapted custom home for a severely injured Veteran. I gave money for several years, and was amazed to see the growth and ambition of the organization. Seeing HFOT complete so many homes motivated me to get more involved. It is unique, in my experience, to be able to help people so deserving in such a dramatic, life-altering way. HFOT Veterans aren't a random cohort of people with challenges; they are heroes that volunteered to serve our country and ended up paying with severe injuries and mental trauma. That makes the work we do additionally meaningful to me.

What motivated you to become a member of the organization's Board of Directors? The inspiration for everything we do at HFOT is the Veterans and their families. It is humbling to see the everyday effort required by the Veterans' loved ones to provide care. HFOT provides a home specifically designed to increase the Veterans' self-sufficiency. These are proud men and women, and they deserve to have their independence back. The Board of Directors has been a rewarding way to increase my involvement in meeting that mission.

What would you say to encourage others to get involved with HFOT's mission? We have delivered on our promise to over 300 Veterans, but there are many more who need our help. I can't do this cause justice with my words, so when I am encouraging others to get involved, I typically will point them to the HFOT Video Gallery (<https://www.hfotusa.org/video>) and dare them to spend 10 minutes watching short videos about our Veterans. They are the best ambassadors for our mission – 10 minutes will be more than enough to inspire you to help.

What has been your most memorable moment with the organization? In the summer of 2019, my family and I hosted an HFOT event at our home. We had a big crowd of people attend, eager to meet and hear directly from the four Veterans (Marine Sgt Joshua Sweeney, Army SGT Steven Curry, Army SGT Nathan Shumaker, and Army SPC Steven Baskis) who attended. The highpoint of a great evening was when we simply handed a microphone to them and had them share what HFOT has meant to them and their families. No dry eyes in the house.



What's the biggest challenge for HFOT- and what steps is the Board taking to meet/accomplish the organization's mission despite that challenge? Two things stand out to me as challenges for us going forward. First, the pandemic has upended everyone's lives. The HFOT staff has done a wonderful job navigating the COVID world, but it is very difficult for us not to be able to hit the road for build events, fundraising, and our Veterans conferences as usual. There's no way you can operate at 100% efficiency without taking the world on in person, and we are looking forward to when we can. Second, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are no longer the top story on every newscast. As a country, our attention leaps to the news of the day, whether it be a pandemic, an election, or even Tiger King. Yet the needs of these Veterans don't change, even as the spotlight moves on. It is our mission to keep the spotlight where it belongs – on our nation's heroes.

Matt Andresen's wife, Teri, speaks with HFOT Veteran Army SPC Steven Baskis at the Mission Mingle in 2019.

SAVE THE DATE June 14, 2021



CAMARADERIE CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

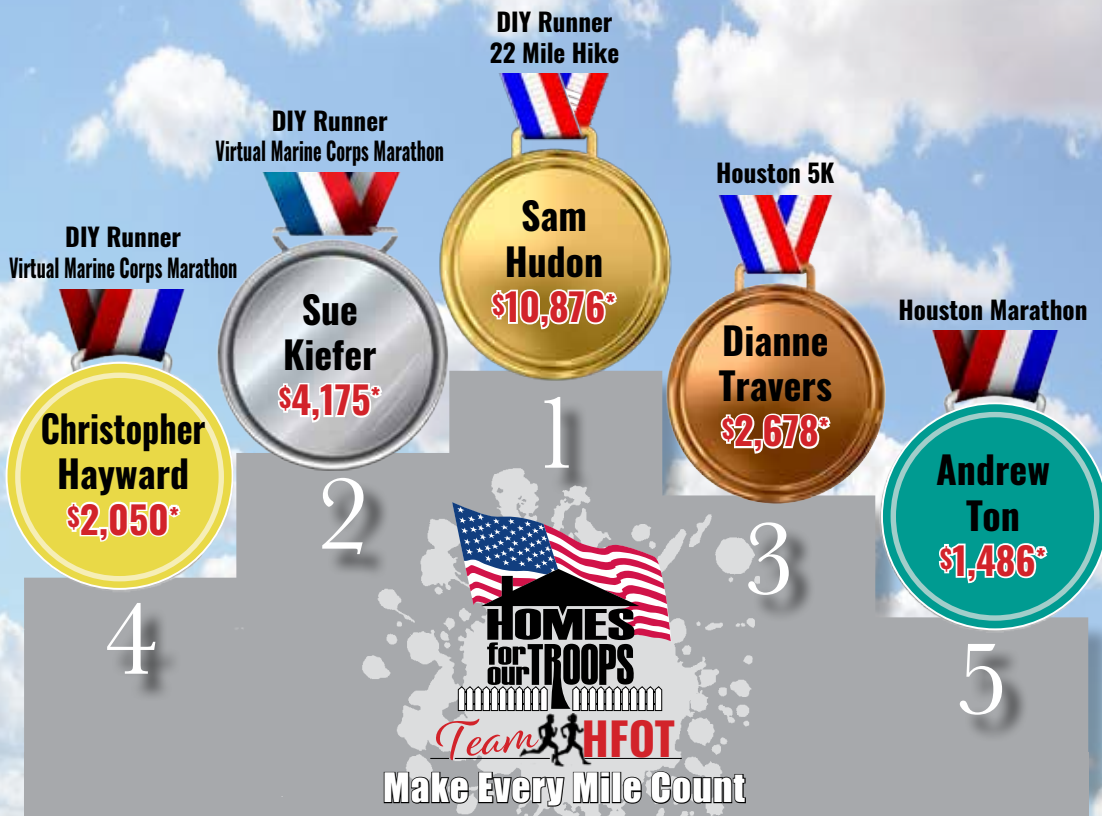
SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS TOGETHER

ARMY NAVY COUNTRY CLUB



HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

2020 Team HFOT Fundraising Champions!



*amount over fundraising requirement

Sherwin-Williams adds personalized touches to HFOT homes



In the photo left to right: Air Force SSgt Calvin Kerrison, Army CPT Charles Matlach, Army SGT Patrick Wickens, Army SPC Jeffrey Fender and Lead Operating Technician Mixer Marine Cpl William Sauer, EHS Manager.

Since 2015, HFOT families have been able to transform the look and feel of their homes with the help of HFOT National Partner and official paint supplier, Sherwin-Williams. Whether it is exuberant pink for a young girl's bedroom, or steely gray for the main living space, Sherwin-Williams has been committed to helping our families truly feel like they are walking into *their* home at the Key Ceremony.



While the pandemic prevents traditional face-to-face consultations, Sherwin-Williams' custom color pallets have enabled HFOT Veterans and their families to easily select colors that will flow throughout their home. Sherman-Williams has also continued to raise funds and awareness for the HFOT mission, most recently donating \$5,000 on Veterans Day. The company generously donated the money on behalf of the Veterans currently employed with Sherwin-Williams. Army Sergeant Patrick Wickens (Home Recipient January 2020), joined the Orlando Sherwin-Williams team for a check presentation and luncheon with the Sherwin-Williams Veteran employees.

HFOT Welcomes Broan-NuTone



Homes For Our Troops is proud to welcome Broan-NuTone as our new Official Supplier of air quality and home solution products for the Homes For Our Troops mission of Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives. They will be donating an Energy Recovery Ventilator, an ADA Range Hood Vent that can be controlled by a remote control, a moisture sensing bath fan for each of the two bathrooms, and two video doorbells to each HFOT home.

"We're proud to partner with Homes For Our Troops. We believe strongly in their mission and are thrilled to provide the ventilation needed to fill these homes with fresh, healthy air," says Edwin Bender, VP of Marketing, Broan-NuTone. *"We're also honored to be part of improving the quality of life for these admirable Veterans and their families."*



TOP 10 Fundraisers of 2020

Not all Heroes wear capes.



Hockey Night For Veterans
Years Fundraised: 3



Envision Optometry Gives Back
Years Fundraised: 1



PECO Week of Motion
Years Fundraised: 1



Game of Thrones Birthday Bash
Years Fundraised: 1



Huntsville Golf Classic
Years Fundraised: 2



Isaac & Grace's Read-A-Thon
Years Fundraised: 1



1

Teamsters Local 120 Picnic & Golf Tournament

\$235,116

Location: MN
Years Fundraised: 5



2

Rosedale Country Club Golf Tournament

\$161,496

Location: FL
Years Fundraised: 8



3

Mulligans For Military Golf

\$35,704

Location: CO
Years Fundraised: 10



4

Lippert Annual Charitable Golf Outing

\$34,390

Location: WI
Years Fundraised: 10



5

Run For The Troops 5K

\$32,211

Location: MA
Years Fundraised: 10



6

Veterans Golf

\$29,000

Location: MA
Years Fundraised: 11



7

Kyocera Senco Annual Charity Golf Outing

\$27,226

Location: OH
Years Fundraised: 1



8

You, Me, & the RV

\$27,077

Location: U.S.
Years Fundraised: 1



9

Second Life

\$20,718

Location: Virtual
Years Fundraised: 6



10

Alpha Sigma Phi

\$20,410

Location: U.S.
Years Fundraised: 7

Though we have fun creating our Annual Top Ten Fundraisers List (left), we felt it appropriate to honor and celebrate all our fundraisers this past year. This feature isn't only about the names on these two pages; it is dedicated to every single fundraiser who has worked tirelessly to hold an event to enable HFOT to build more homes for deserving Veterans. Over the years, our fundraisers have shown their dedication to HFOT, our Veterans, and our mission – and 2020 is no exception. We are grateful for the support, old and new, that we received from fundraisers all over the country. Every event was significant and special to us, and most of our fundraisers had to adjust and think out of the box once COVID-19 restrictions began in March. The new rules and regulations for each state didn't stop our determined fundraisers from organizing and completing their incredible events.

We are still in awe of the creative and extraordinary ways people have raised money for our mission of Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives this past year.

Here are some creative ways our supporters fundraised this year:

- ITSC Secure Solutions decided to make their Huntsville Classic Golf Tournament virtual.
- Stacy & Phil Farley, Veterans themselves, took our message on the road with them as they traveled the country in their RV.
- Our friends in Michigan, Jacquie & Scott Brink, knew winter was coming, and hosted a Game of Thrones party in January.
- HFOT's own GC Procurement Specialist, Justin Silvia, and his hockey team took on the Boston Bruins Alumni to benefit HFOT.
- PECO Pallett challenged their staff to get outside for a week of motion.
- Dr. Jaclyn Garlich, currently serving in the Massachusetts Air National Guard, donated a portion of her optometry practice's proceeds.
- Richard Head, along with other HFOT supporters in Second Life, took innovation to a whole new level with the virtual world they helped create by holding virtual concerts and events.

We couldn't bring more deserving Veterans into their specially adapted homes every year without fundraisers like our annual golf tournaments and road races. In 2020, many went above and beyond to ensure their participants and volunteers followed newly required safety protocols or went virtual.

This year truly demonstrated that fundraising is for all ages, and we are proud of the students and young people across the country who support HFOT. The brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi have continuously honored our Veterans with their dedication and fun events. Two of our newest and youngest fundraisers, Grace (5) and Isaac (8) Amoedo, stole our hearts and inspired us with their Read-A-Thon. Caleb Gilbreth (11) ended the year with his Christmas Tree Pickup fundraiser in Needham, Mass.

These events paint a small picture of the remarkable people who fundraise for HFOT. "Hero" is one small word with immense, global meaning. We toast every one of you, our Heroes, and we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Cheers to a new year, new beginnings, and placing more Veterans in new homes. Happy 2021!

*Please note, some photos were taken from events held prior to March 2020.