



Foundations

A Newsletter from Homes For Our Troops | www.hfotusa.org | MARCH 2023

Home Sweet Home



YOUR SUPPORT ENABLES VETERANS TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES

A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear HFOT Supporters,

As spring begins, I marvel at the continued generosity of donors and supporters like you. You all recognize the need to provide specially adapted custom homes to our nation's severely injured post-9/11 Veterans, and have consistently stepped up to help us meet the challenges and rising costs of the last few years. Together, we have continued bringing these brave men and women into the homes they deserve.

This newsletter contains several stories that highlight the life-changing impact you are making. We update you on Army Sergeant Christopher Gordon, who has been able to expand his family and recover comfortably from additional surgeries since receiving his home. We also introduce you to future home recipient Marine Lance Corporal Erik Galvan, who will receive his home later this year. Erik is looking forward to better supporting his family and caring for his son without barriers.

On page 6, is our highly competitive Annual Top 10 Fundraisers listing. I am pleased to report this year's Top 10 raised the most money of any Top 10 to date.

As you probably know, every one of our staff members believes in the mission, and many are donors as well. On page 10, several HFOT employees share their reasons for supporting the cause.

As always, our team is working diligently raising revenue, securing land, building homes, and assisting Veterans to rebuild their lives. We anticipate filling 2023 with kickoffs, volunteer days, and key ceremonies. I hope to see you at a build event soon.

Sincerely,

Bill

Bill Ivey

Executive Director

Homes For Our Troops



March 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Stories that Inspire

- 3 Priceless Memories - Army SGT Christopher Gordon
- 4 Building Others Up! Marine LCpl Erik Galvan
- 5 Board of Directors Spotlight:
CSM (USA, Retired) Marvin L. Hill
- 6-7 Top 10 FUNdraisers of 2022
- 8 *Save The Date!* HFOT Golf Classic
2022 Team HFOT Fundraising Champions
- 9 Corporate Partner Spotlight
- 10 Donor Spotlight: HFOT Staff
- 11 Estate Giving Information
Thank You to Our Corporate Partners
- 12 HFOT Contact Information



ON THE COVER: Army SSG Timothy Kramer's Key Ceremony event on March 4, 2023.



A History of Excellence

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

Priceless Memories



Army SGT Chris Gordon recently got married to his wife Amy.

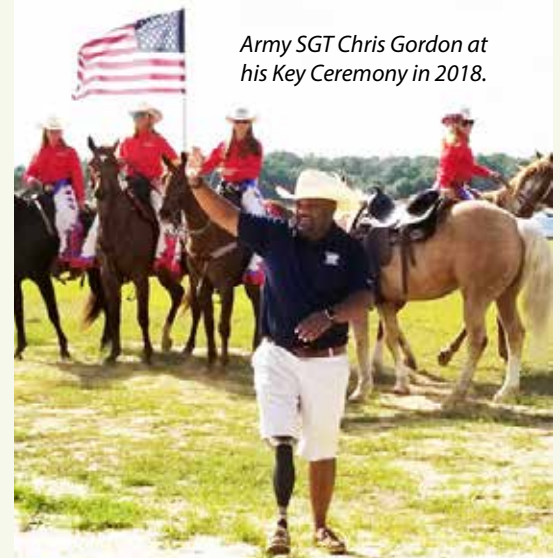
One of Army Sergeant Christopher Gordon's favorite activities to do in his specially adapted Homes For Our Troops home is racing his youngest son Tristian on the 360 paved walkway outside. His son rides his trike, and Chris uses his electric wheelchair while taking laps around the home. These priceless memories Chris is making would not be possible if he did not have an adapted home. *"I know for a fact that I wouldn't have been able to do this before receiving my HFOT home,"* he says.

After losing his right leg while serving in Iraq, Chris spent over a decade coping with the challenges of living in a non-accessible home. While he wears his prosthetic most of the time, it often becomes painful at the end of the day, and he prefers to use his wheelchair. Chris' previous home could not accommodate his wheelchair, limiting what he could do within his home.

Chris received the keys to his HFOT home in Florida on April 7, 2018. Since then, he has accomplished more than he ever thought possible. The financial freedom of the home enabled him to help his oldest son Justin advance his education and attend college in New York City. He also had the time and resources to assist his sister in completing her nursing degree and licensing. Most importantly, he was able to travel to the Philippines, where he met his now wife Amy. *"If I didn't have my HFOT home, I imagine that I would not have had the financial and physical flexibility to reach these achievements. I may still have been coping with some of the physical ailments I had in my previous living environment,"* he says. *"I can accomplish any task as a husband and father in my home. I am not limited in domestic or recreational activities. I can do anything for my spouse and children, and that is priceless."*

Another important aspect of the home is it enables Chris to recover from continued surgeries and ailments related to his injury. Recently, he had a recurrence of severe infection in his residual limb and could not use his prosthetic for several months. *"Because my HFOT home is so accommodating, I did not miss a beat in my daily essentials and tasks. Thankfully, I was able to have surgery, and have not dealt with the infection since."*

Chris wants HFOT's donors and supporters to know he is a prime example of Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives. *"I could never fully express how grateful I am for this life-changing gift, I truly feel blessed."*



Army SGT Chris Gordon at his Key Ceremony in 2018.

Building Others Up!

Everyone has their own way of coping with challenges. Some find solace in sports; others channel their energy through art and music. For future HFOT home recipient Marine Lance Corporal Erik Galvan, helping others is what guided him through his recovery.

After losing both legs and his right arm while serving in Afghanistan in 2011, Erik struggled as he grappled with the realities of being a triple amputee while adjusting to civilian life. When he started volunteering with Wishes for Warriors, an organization that enhances the well-being of combat wounded Veterans through outdoor adventures, he realized helping others was vital to improving his own mental health. This experience inspired him to pursue a career in social work. *"I wanted to help the next Veteran not experience the same hurdles and hardships that I had with my transition."*



Marine LCpl Erik Galvan and his wife Kaitlyn.

After earning his master's degree in social work from the University of Southern California in 2019, Erik was a college counselor and briefly worked at a children's hospital. While Erik enjoyed his career, the arrival of his son Logan in 2021 changed the course of his plans. He resigned from his job to be a stay-at-home dad and support his wife, Kaitlyn, in her career as a NICU nurse. *"At the time, both my wife and son needed me more than I needed work,"* he says.

Erik plans to return to the workforce when his son is older, but family is his priority now. While Erik is thrilled to have the opportunity to spend time with his son, no part of his current home is wheelchair accessible. He can only get around and perform household tasks while on prosthetics, which causes sores and his skin to break down. Erik often becomes discouraged when his prosthetics are too painful, and he cannot help around the home. Receiving a specially adapted custom Homes For Our Troops home will change everything. With an open floor plan, wide doorways, and an accessible kitchen, Erik will be able to easily retrieve his son from his bedroom and prepare meals for Kaitlyn. Most importantly, the home will give Erik more quality time with his loved ones.

"I will be able to heal and rest when needed, allowing me to be more engaged with my family."

Kaitlyn cannot wait for the day her husband can rest and recover safely in his own home. *"I will take comfort in knowing he will be able to access everything in our home while I'm away,"* she says.

Erik wants HFOT's donors and supporters to know that their support goes far beyond regaining their independence within their homes. *"Many HFOT home recipients are rebuilding their lives and thriving, thanks to YOU!"*



Erik with his son Logan.

Top 10 FUNdraisers of 2022

*Congratulations on raising over **ONE MILLION DOLLARS!***



1

**International Union of
Operating Engineers
Local 49 Golf Tournament**

\$292,047

Location: MN
Years Fundraised: 1



6

**Cody Pool's 11th Annual
CodyShack Golf
Tournament:**

\$108,045

Location: TX
Years Fundraised: 1



2

**Teamsters Local 120
Picnic & Golf**

\$269,591

Location: MN
Years Fundraised: 7



7

**Haselden Construction
Clay Shoot:**

\$103,438

Location: CO
Years Fundraised: 8



3

**Rosedale Country Club
Golf Tournament**

\$181,668

Location: FL
Years Fundraised: 10



8

**Honoring Our
Wounded Military
Gala & Golf
Tournament**

\$84,600

Location: TX
Years Fundraised: 3



4

**Fraternal Order of
the Eagles Annual
State Presidents
Charity**

\$136,971

Location: VA
Years Fundraised: 1



9

Veterans Golf:

\$70,900

Location: MA
Years Fundraised: 13



5

**Rado's Annual
Charity Event**

\$118,347

Location: CT
Years Fundraised: 7



10

**Senco Industrial Tools
Golf Tournament**

\$61,422

Location: OH
Years Fundraised: 3

Driving for Dollars

Our Annual Top Ten Fundraisers list is always a fun time to look back and highlight some of the powerful moments made possible by our supporters. Our list this year not only includes first-time fundraisers, but we also celebrate our highest amount raised in our Top Ten List. Together, our Top Ten Fundraisers brought in over \$1.4 million. **Talk about a Hole in One!**

One of our new and first-time fundraisers to join the HFOT family this past year is the Texas-based company Cody Pools, Inc. Since its inception in 1994, Cody Pools has built more than 30,000 pools in Austin, San Antonio, Georgetown, Houston, Tampa, and Phoenix, for both residential and commercial customers. Their commitment to excellence and family business style are some of the reasons they fit right in at HFOT.

Cody Pools started its annual charity golf tournament as an employee appreciation event, but quickly changed to a way to give back to different nonprofit organizations each year. Priding themselves as a family, the team at Cody Pools comes together to select a cause that will benefit one of their employees or employee's family. Just a month before the tournament, Amanda Folmar, the executive assistant at Cody Pools, found out the exciting news that Homes For Our Troops would be building her and her husband, Army Sergeant Jordan Folmar, a specially adapted custom home. Amanda was moved when she was told the tournament would go toward the building of their future home. *"I almost cried. That is something I would never ask for, especially since I have been here for so long and know we are all a part of it together. I was blown away and very grateful."*

On July 6, 2012, during his second deployment, Jordan was on a dismounted patrol in Zhari District, Afghanistan, when he stepped on an improvised explosive device (IED). He lost both legs above the knee and sustained ruptured blown-out eardrums in the blast.

This year's tournament was Cody Pools' greatest year yet. It was held on Oct. 14, 2022, in Hutto, Texas, and brought in over \$108,000. Mike Church, the President & CEO of Cody Pools, and his wife Kelley say the support from vendors, sponsors, and employees made the tournament a success. *"It was the largest tournament we have ever had. We ended up outgrowing the course and are now looking at an alternative plan for next year."*

The day was filled with rounds of golf, a helicopter golf ball drop, raffles and wrapped up with a dinner and award ceremony. HFOT President/CEO Brigadier General (USA, Retired) Tom Landwermyer was also in attendance.

"It was awesome seeing everyone come together to support HFOT's mission and it was such a great turn out. Tom's speech was one of my favorite moments. His words are moving, and his background is impressive. With him being from Texas and most of the attendees being from the area, it really hit home for us," says Amanda.

When asked what they were most excited for when receiving their new specially adapted custom home, Jordan and Amanda both agreed it is overall accessibility. *"The freedom of movement and getting around in my wheelchair is huge. I will be able to play with my girls outside,"* Jordan says.

For Amanda, not having to worry about Jordan's accessibility and safety in and around the home is a huge relief. *"To say we are grateful for HFOT and the tournament attendees is an understatement. We are overall just so thankful for all the support from the vendors and colleagues for helping HFOT's mission and the building of our future home."*



First Picture - Left to Right: Reese Ellen Folmar (daughter), Jordan Folmar, Amanda Folmar and Anna Belle Folmar (daughter)
Second Picture - Jordan and Amanda Folmar • **Third Picture** - Left Side: Cody Pools CEO & President Mike Church

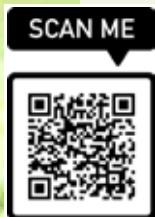
If you are interested in hosting a fundraiser on our behalf, please reach out to the Independent Fundraising team at: ifundraising@hfotusa.org
 Learn more about Jordan's story and follow his project at: www.hfotusa.org/folmar



SAVE THE DATE!



— 12th Annual HFOT — *Golf Classic*



MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023

NEW LOCATION

Franklin Country Club
672 E Central Street, Franklin, MA 02038



HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

2022 Team HFOT Fundraising Champions!

Bank of America Chicago Marathon

BMW Berlin Marathon

DIY Runner Ironman 70.3

BMW Berlin Marathon

Steffen Panzone
\$9,422*

Kevin Blanchard**
\$4,267*

BMW Berlin Marathon

Paul LaRosa
\$3,737*

Shaun Olsen
\$6,146*

Timothy O'Connor
\$2,125*

HOMES for TROOPS
Team HFOT
Make Every Mile Count



* Amount over fundraising requirement
** 2017 HFOT Home Recipient

Corporate Partner *Spotlight!*

As winter winds down, and spring is in the air, our team has sights on the 12th Annual HFOT Golf Classic, which takes place on Monday, Aug. 7, 2023. This is our signature event, and we are excited to bring our golf tournament to a new location at the Franklin Country Club in Franklin, Massachusetts.

This annual event is not only a time to raise money, but also to come together as a family with our Veterans, sponsors, and Corporate Partners. These corporations are a distinct group of committed and involved business supporters who have aligned with us to improve the lives of our Veterans through philanthropic investments, matching employee donations, event sponsorships, volunteerism, and employee engagement. They provide various levels of monetary and gift-in-kind donations, and some of them go beyond their annual commitment by sponsoring our Golf Classic.

We would like to recognize the following Corporate Partners for their help with our tournament:



- **OakCraft Elegant Cabinetry– Gold National Partner: *Hero Sponsor***
- **Saint-Gobain/CertainTeed – Gold National Partner: *Hero Sponsor***
- **HARDI/API – Silver National Partner: *Tee Sponsor***
- **MI Windows and Doors – National Partner: *Dinner and Photo Sponsor***
- **Whirlpool – National Partner: *Hero Sponsor***
- **Leonardo DRS – Mission Partner: *Award Sponsor***
- **Harvey Building Products – Mission Partner: *Cart Sponsor***

OakCraft CEO, Charles Waiser, on why they choose to sponsor the HFOT Golf Classic: *“OakCraft is determined to be the best partner we can be for HFOT and their incredible mission. This event not only raises dollars and awareness for HFOT, but also allows the local residents and the OakCraft family the opportunity to share some time with these incredible Veterans and the HFOT team. We love sharing the day with everyone and learning about their lives, and sharing stories on a more personal level of what HFOT means to them and us.”*

Without the generosity of our Corporate Partners, we would not have been able to complete more than 350 specially adapted homes to assist our Veterans with rebuilding their lives. It takes the help of countless people to complete our mission and put our nation’s most deserving Veterans into their forever homes.

If you or someone you know would like to become a Corporate Partner or sponsor our golf classic, please reach out to our team at:
partnership@hfotusa.org



Donor Spotlight: HFOT Staff

Homes For Our Troops employs more than 65 staff members, most of whom are based out of HFOT's headquarters in Taunton, Massachusetts. Ask any one of these employees why they chose to work for HFOT, and they will cite the mission as their motivating factor. This dedication to Veterans and the essential work HFOT does goes beyond the workload; many of our staff members choose to give financially to HFOT in addition to their work.

Here, a few members of the staff express why giving to HFOT is important to them:

"My wife and I both contribute money to HFOT from our paycheck every two weeks. I deployed into combat zones multiple times during my career in the Marines. I spent far too many days at the scene of improvised explosive device (IED) attacks and saw firsthand the injuries and loss of life caused. There is nothing in this world I would rather be doing with my life today than supporting this organization! Words cannot possibly express what it does for me to know that I am having some small impact on the recovery and life of the Veterans we serve."

Jeremy Lowe, *Construction Manager*

"I love my job and I love the mission. My son is a Veteran and I fervently believe in supporting our Veterans. When I give my money to HFOT, I know it is being used as intended—HFOT is a good steward of the donations it is given."

Bethany Pinard, *Veteran Support Specialist*

"I donate and work at HFOT because I did not serve in our military, and this is a way for me to honor the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much. I came to HFOT for our mission, and I have stayed because of the people.....the Veterans, our team, and the thousands of supporters I have met over the years. We are a family, and collectively we help bring a little more love and light into this world. I have worked here for five years, and I still get excited to log on every day. I am thankful to call HFOT home, and I am privileged to help our organization Build Homes and Rebuild Lives."

Victoria L. Weston, *Corporate Partner Manager*

"As a retired SSG from the US Army, it gives me great pleasure to serve those Veterans that have given so much to our country. Being part of this great nonprofit organization, whose mission is to build specially adapted homes to enable Veterans to rebuild their lives, there is nothing more rewarding."

Ismael Cruz, *IT Manager*

"I am honored to work for HFOT knowing I am helping to pay it forward for so many who sacrificed for our country. I love being part of an organization whose employees are driven by mission and passion for program excellence. My husband and I chose to invest in HFOT for a few reasons. First and foremost, we've seen the impact the homes have on the lives of our Veterans. Additionally, HFOT is a 4-star charity with Charity Navigator, and the operations of the organization are efficient, transparent and extremely diligent with donor dollars."

Jamie Crossman, *Philanthropy Advisor*

As of March 2023, HFOT has built and donated over 350 specially adapted custom homes nationwide. Please help us build more.



Estate Giving

TYPES OF GIFTS

- Wills & Trusts
- Life Insurance
- Retirement Account/401k
- IRAs
- Stocks & Securities

<https://hfortgiving.org/>

Email: estategiving@hfortusa.org

Thank you to our Corporate Partners that continue to help restore freedom and independence to our nation's most severely injured post-9/11 Veterans.

PLATINUM NATIONAL PARTNER



GOLD NATIONAL PARTNERS



SILVER NATIONAL PARTNERS



NATIONAL PARTNERS



MISSION PARTNERS



If you or someone you know would like to become a Corporate Partner, learn more here at: partnership@hfortusa.org



Help us restore freedom and independence to our nation's most severely injured post-9/11 Veterans.

Welcome our Veterans:

Help connect the Veterans and their families to people and resources in the community.

Raise awareness:

Tell a friend... or 10! Share our social media pages or pass along this email to someone who might be interested in our cause.

Operation Lasting Support (OLS):

For a minimum of \$15 per month, you can provide ongoing support to ensure that our nation's most severely injured Veterans are provided with the specially adapted homes they need.

Hold a fundraiser:

Visit hfotusa.org/fundraise to get started with planning your fundraiser.

Lace up your sneakers:

Visit hfotusa.org/run to join Team HFOT at its next race.

Double your impact:

Visit hfotusa.org/matching_gifts to see if your employer will match your donation.

Are we building near you?:

Visit www.hfotusa.org/map

DONATE AT:

WWW.HFOTUSA.ORG/DONATE



OUR MISSION: To build and donate specially adapted custom homes nationwide for severely injured post-9/11 Veterans, to enable them to rebuild their lives.



Homes For Our Troops has been evaluated as one of America's Top Rated Veterans and Military Charities.

www.hfotusa.org