



# Foundations

www.homesforourtroops.org | A Newsletter from Homes for Our Troops | FEBRUARY 2010

## Happy 6th Anniversary HFOT!

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we celebrate our 6th Anniversary I would like to personally thank you for your generosity and support. You invested in the mission to support our injured heroes and together we have grown from a startup non profit in 2004, struggling to build awareness for our mission and to build our first home, into a strong military charity that is regarded as one of the best. With your support, we have been able to expand our program and give back some of the freedom and independence to more of our injured American heroes through barrier-free homes. **Freedom and Independence.** These are American treasures that our military heroes fight to protect for all and we made the promise to help rebuild their lives when they return home severely injured and in need.

I am proud to say we have built and donated more than 50 specially adapted homes and we have committed to building an additional 30 homes nationwide at this time. As the wars rage on, we are reminded that our work is far from complete and our Veterans are still coming home with catastrophic injuries each day. In 2010, let's rededicate ourselves to our mission in service to those that have given so much for their country and have asked for so little in return with a contribution. Choose a contribution level that works for you whether it's financial, volunteer time, or helping us raises awareness, it all makes a difference.

Thank you for your continued support, together we are keeping the promise.

Best Wishes,

John Gonsalves

## Our New HFOT Veterans

*We have just completed 2 Veterans' Conferences.*

- CPT Ferris BUTLER.....Chester, MD
- SSG Robert CANINE.....Columbia, MO
- Cpl Neil FRUSTAGLIO.....San Antonio, TX
- Cpl Jose "Daniel" GASCA.....El Paso, TX
- Sgt Kenneth "Dylan" GRAY .....Wellington, NV
- LCpl Kade HINKHOUSE .....Elizabeth, CO
- SGT Nathan HUNT.....San Antonio, TX
- SSG Jason LETTERMAN.....Gaithersburg, MD
- SGT Ryan NEWELL .....Marion, KS
- Cpl Jose "Ivan" PEREZ .....San Antonio, TX
- SPC Frank PIERSON .....Plainfield, IL
- SPC Luis PUERTAS, Jr.....Florida
- SSG Juan ROLDAN .....Florida
- CPL Joshua STEIN.....San Antonio, TX
- SPC Joshua WELLS .....Summit, MS

**Go to an HFOT Veteran's web page by typing in [www.homesforourtroops.com/\(Veteran's last name\)](http://www.homesforourtroops.com/(Veteran's last name)).**

### SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT HFOT!

- Share this newsletter with a friend.
  - Forward our eNewsletter to everyone in your address book.
  - Send an eCard from our website.
  - Get to know our New HFOT Veterans
- with these projects just starting, you may find a way to **DONATE TIME or MONEY.**  
*As John said, "It all makes a difference."*

## Technology Corner

### BE A "FAN" OF HFOT...

#### Join us on Facebook today!

Homes for Our Troops has created a Facebook page and we invite you to join us and "become a fan."

This will make it even easier for those of you who use social networking to stay informed. On our Facebook page you can; Get the latest news, learn about upcoming events, view our photos and videos, and help us spread the word.



[facebook.com/homesforourtroops](http://facebook.com/homesforourtroops)

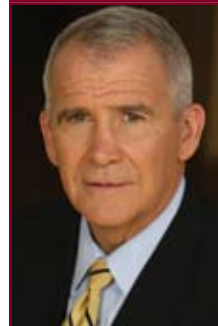
## GALA 2010 IS HERE!

**Buy your tickets online NOW...**

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

### Our Keynote Speaker:

#### OLIVER NORTH, COL (RET)



*Oliver North is a combat decorated Marine, #1 NYT best-selling author, founder of Freedom Alliance, syndicated columnist, and the host of "War Stories" on the Fox News Channel.*

*We are proud to have Col North as our Keynote Speaker as we know his efforts to tell the stories from the front lines are appreciated by so many who serve.*

### Veteran Speaker:

#### TRAVIS WOOD, SGT (RET)



*Army SGT Travis Wood was serving in Afghanistan when he sustained multiple severe injuries when a roadside bomb detonated near the truck he was driving on January 14, 2007. He has endured 84 surgeries to date as a result of his injuries, including the amputation of his right leg.*

*On November 13, 2009, HFOT presented SGT Wood and his family with a specially adapted home in Cedar City, Utah.*

### In This Issue

Happy 6th Anniversary HFOT! .....	1
Gala 2010 Speakers.....	1
New HFOT Veterans.....	1
Technology Corner .....	1
Get Ready for Gala 2010! .....	2
Green Building Update.....	2
Spotlight: HFOT Volunteers .....	2
Build Brigades and Key Ceremonies.....	3
Spotlight: MA National Guard Support .....	4
Upcoming Events.....	4

# GALA 2010 WILL BE A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

*Buy Your Tickets Online TODAY!...Be there March 6, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.*

"Our Gala is a chance for everyone to take a moment to celebrate a job well done; to have some fun and reflect on all that we have accomplished in the past year. And to rededicate ourselves to our mission in service to those that have given so much for their country and have asked for so little in return," John Gonsalves said.



At our Honorary Committee meeting, Colonel Jack Hammond, our Honorary Co-Chair, spoke about the inspiration he received from being involved in

Build Brigade this December. He expressed gratitude, on behalf of all who served today, for what we do. We are grateful for his support and leadership in our efforts to make this year's Gala the best one yet!

Joining COL Hammond as Honorary Co-Chair is Michele McPhee, Boston's 96.9 Talk

Show Host. Tune into 96.9 in the days leading up to the Gala as Michele promotes our Gala as a don't-miss event!

*Our Honorary Committee Members come from an array of military, state and corporate posts:*

Lt. Governor Timothy P. Murray  
 MG Joseph C. Carter  
*The Adjutant General of the Commonwealth*  
 Maj Gen Michael D. Akey, ANG, USAF  
 Brig Gen L. Scott Rice, ANG, USAF  
 Gary W. Keefe, Col (Ret), ANG  
 Paul Worcester, Col (Ret), ANG  
 LTC Thomas A. Devine, US Army  
 MAJ David Hencke, US Army  
 Chaplain Paul Minor, MAJ, MARNG  
 CW5 Peter C. Georgenes, US Army  
 WO1 Autumn Haskell and Nathaniel Haskell  
 Kahlil Byrd, *Founder of Sung Media Ventures*  
 Christie Coombs, *Jeffery Coombs Foundation*  
 Subrata De, *NBC News Producer*  
 Daniel F. Egan, Jr., *President MA, RI & NH CU Leagues*  
 Peter L. Graceffa, *Legal Consultant, Sun Life Financial*

Wendy Hoffman, *President of Blue Star Mothers*  
 Paul Keane, *President of The Bryan Company, Inc.*  
 Steve Kerrigan, *Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund*  
 Jim O'Connor  
 Matt Samson, *VP Marketing, Harvey Building Products*  
 Paula Solemina, *Director of Marketing, Pro-Care, Inc.*  
 Dr. Jeffrey & Dorothea Stone, *Lowell Oral Surgery*  
 Kathryn Stone, *JD Candidate, Suffolk Law School*  
 Denise and Bill Wall  
 Jay White, *Franchisee/Owner, Burger King*  
 Ned Williams, *Partner at Brook Venture Partners*



*THE FAT CITY BAND is our entertainment for the evening. If you don't know their music yet, you will want to after March 6th!*

[www.homeforourtroops.org/gala](http://www.homeforourtroops.org/gala) -- See you at the Boston Marriott Copley Place!

## Green Building Update



**Homes for Our Troops is building three more LEED-H certified homes in the upcoming months.**

Two of the homes will be built in Oregon. SPC Kevin Pannell's home will be built in Sandy, OR. SSG Christian Bagge's home will be built in Parkdale, OR. The third home will be built for LCpl Kade

Hinkhouse in Elizabeth, Colorado. Not only will these homes be barrier-free for the Veteran, but they will be energy efficient as well, keeping heating and cooling costs down by using state-of-the-art systems and materials. Indoor water use will be reduced by installing water-efficient fixtures, such as low-flow shower heads, dual flush toilets and automatic faucets. The finishes in the home, from paint to the flooring will all be environmentally friendly.

These homes will be good for our environment and they will improve the homeowners' health. Homes for Our Troops is working closely with green building professionals to maximize the homes' potential and we hope to have these homes completed by early summer 2010.

## Spotlight: HFOT Volunteers



**PATRICK GRZEGORZEWSKI VOLUNTEER**

Patrick Grzegorzewski has been volunteering at Homes for Our Troops since March 2009. Helping around the office and representing Homes for Our Troops at local events, Patrick has assisted with daily administrative duties and facility upkeep that allows our staff to concentrate their efforts on building homes.

*Thank you Patrick! We appreciate all you do and consider you part of the Taunton team.*

*SGT Matthews with wife and stepdaughter*



**RICK GILL and MARTY KATES VOLUNTEERS for SGT Chase Matthews**

From start to finish for SGT Matthews' home, Rick Gill and Marty Kates were our Key Volunteers. "You name it, they did it," says Project Facilitator, Doreen Lewis-Hout.

Rick and Marty supported the Registration Day, the Build Brigade and the Key Ceremony by supplying food, manning the registration tables and bringing in volunteer contractors. *Thank you Rick and Marty!*



**CHRIS HAUGHT VOLUNTEER for SGT Travis Wood**

Chris was a Key Volunteer who helped out in every way possible from getting tents, chairs and refreshments to putting up Thank You signs for the Key Ceremony.

*Thank you Chris!*

*It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life, that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

*Everybody talks about what's wrong in America. I get to see what's right in America.*

*Vicki Thomas, HFOT Media Rep.*

# BUILDING HOMES, REBUILDING LIVES: COMPLETED BUILD BRIGADES

**PO2 ANTHONY THOMPSON**



HOUSTON, TX  
December 7, 8 and 9, 2009  
GC: GMB Inc.

**SSG DWAYNE COLE**



FAYETTEVILLE, NC  
December 4, 5 and 6, 2009  
GC: MCD International and Regency Construction  
BB Sponsor: Dunkin Brands®

**SSG MAURICE CRAFT**



HENRICO, VA  
January 15, 16 and 17, 2010  
GC: Stephen Thomas Homes  
BB Sponsor: Dunkin Brands®

**SSG MICHAEL DOWNING**



MIDDLEBOROUGH, MA  
December 13, 14 and 15, 2009  
GC: Falconeiri Construction, Inc.  
BB Sponsor: Dunkin Brands®

Homes for Our Troops thanks our Corporate Sponsor . . .



for supporting 3 of these successful Build Brigades!

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



## SPC Alex Knapp's Key Presentation

On December 19, 2009, Homes for Our Troops, Palazzolo Brothers and Vito Anthony Homes were proud to present SPC Alex Knapp with the key to his new specially



adapted home in Macomb, Michigan as family and friends stood by. In the words of Sam Palazzolo, *We've completed homes in record time before...but doing a home for Alex Knapp and Homes for Our Troops was a little more of a challenge: winter time in Michigan, 3 days of pouring rain during our Build Brigade, almost all volunteer contractors and donated supplies...We had 2 goals in mind: 1) getting the home done for Christmas for Alex to move in. 2) And using all donated funds so more barrier free homes could be built for our injured American soldiers. I can tell you this much, every contractor and supplier was grateful to be a part of this build job and they can now testify it is better to give than receive. Southeast Michigan has been hit very hard by the housing and automotive downturn in the economy and by doing this home many builder/ contractor/ supplier associations rallied together....this was the most rewarding home I have ever been a part of building.*



### More Veterans Who Received Their Keys:

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



**SGT CAMERON CROUCH**  
Mahomet, IL (KC: January 23)  
GC: StormHawk Construction

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



**SGT CHASE MATTHEWS**  
Eddyville, KY (KC: November 23)  
GC: Keith Young Construction

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



**SSG MIKE MINARD**  
Union Beach, NJ (KC: Dec. 21)  
GC: Paul Atwell

As of our press time (February 12, 2010):

### UPCOMING BUILD BRIGADES

**SFC STEVEN HOLLOWAY**  
WELLINGTON, FLORIDA

**JOSHUA LINDSEY**  
CUMMING, GEORGIA

**SSG SCOT NOSS**  
TRUSSVILLE, ALABAMA

**SSG BUNKY WOODS**  
BROWNTOWN, VIRGINIA

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

### Upcoming Key Presentations

**SFC ROY MITCHELL**  
CARTHAGE, NEW YORK

**SGT PETER ROONEY**  
WORTHINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

**SPC JASON M. SCHULZ**  
EAGLE, WISCONSIN

## Spotlight: National Guard Support at SSG Michael Downing's Build Brigade

It began with a call for participation from Colonel Jack Hammond and full support from Massachusetts National Guard Headquarters ensued. For Massachusetts National Guardsmen, it was time to come to the aid of one of their own, SSG Michael Downing.

On December 11, 2009, on the first day of SSG Downing's Build Brigade, our Homes for Our Troops staff registered nearly 100 National Guardsmen on the build site in Middleborough, MA. These soldiers made up half the total volunteers that day; about 200 total volunteers showed up in just the first day, setting an HFOT record.

They came in their combat uniforms with all the cold weather gear they could muster up and they happily wore the Build Brigade t-shirt on top of it all. So many thanked us for what we do though we owe them a debt of gratitude for protecting our freedoms every day. December 11th is a day we will not soon forget. It was a day for the HFOT staff to work side by side with so many of our American heroes. It was a day that truly honored SSG Michael Downing and his honorable service to our country.



## Upcoming Fundraisers & Events to Benefit HFOT

Check out our website for all these events! Search on the event name and you will find all the info you need! You can also type in the URL starting with [www.homesforourtroops.org/](http://www.homesforourtroops.org/) and add in the words in parenthesis above. This listing is not complete so check our website often for all the news.

### COLORADO

Spend Wisely Give Wildly and Spring forward for Homes for Our Troops (*springforward*)

Colorado Springs, CO  
Saturday APRIL 17, 2010, 6 - 10 PM

Fundraising Dinner for LCpl Kade Hinkhouse (*goldendinner*)

Golden VFW, Golden, CO  
Saturday APRIL 17, 2010, 5-8 PM

### FLORIDA

Homes for Our Troops Raffle (*pbraffle*)

West Palm Beach, FL  
Tuesday, APRIL 13, 2010 at 8 PM

Grand Prize: *The Allman Brothers Band VIP Concert Package for 2 with Backstage Meet & Greet Summer 2010 in Boston, MA, airfare and accommodations included.*

### ILLINOIS

Building Homes for Disabled Veterans One

Laugh at a Time (*onelaugh*)

Chicago, IL  
Every Monday in MARCH 2010 at 8 PM

### MASSACHUSETTS

HFOT 4th Annual Gala (*gala*)

Boston Marriott Copley Place, MA

Saturday, MARCH 6, 2010 at 6:30 PM  
*Sponsorships and tickets available online.*

Boston Marathon Raffle/Auction (*whitman*)

Whitman VFW  
Whitman, MA  
Saturday, MARCH 6, 2010 at 6 PM

Boston Bruins Alumni vs. the Natick Patriots

Hockey Game (*bruinsalumni*)  
William L. Chase Arena  
Natick, MA  
Sunday, APRIL 18, 2010 at 1 PM

Dream Dinners (*dreamdinners*)

Plainville, MA  
Thursday, APRIL 1, 2010 (*25% sales go to HFOT*)  
APRIL 15 - MAY 15, 2010 (*10% sales go to HFOT*)

Friends of Woody Harbor Cruise

(*friendsofwoody*)  
Boston Harbor  
Saturday, JUNE 12, 2010

Warrior Run (*warriorrun*)

Foxboro, MA  
Saturday, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010  
Registration 9 - 10:30 AM

*Motorcycle ride that begins and ends at Rodman Ford, across from Gillette Stadium.*

### MICHIGAN

Michigan 7th Annual Fundraiser at the American Polish Cultural Center (*7thmichigan*)

Troy, MI  
Saturday, MAY 22, 2010 at 5:30-11 PM

### NEW JERSEY

Mid Atlantic Resource Group Foundation Gala Dinner Dance and Casino Night (*casinonight*)

Wall, NJ  
Saturday, MARCH 27, 2010 starting at 7 PM

Run for Our Troops (*runfortroops*)

Cooper River Stadium, Pennsauken, NJ  
Saturday, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010 at 8:30 AM  
*5K Run/Walk along with Kids for Our Troops Dash provided by BLSJ Charitable Foundation.*

### OHIO

Ride to Restore (*ridetorestore*)

Canal Winchester, OH  
Saturday, JULY 10, 2010  
Registration begins at 7:30 AM  
*Motorcycle ride that begins and ends at Campbell DKI - 100 mile loop.*

★ **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.