



# Foundations

A Newsletter from Homes For Our Troops | [www.hfotusa.org](http://www.hfotusa.org) | NOVEMBER 2022

## *A New Life!*



YOUR SUPPORT ENABLES VETERANS TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES

## A Letter from the Chairman of the Board



Dear HFOT Supporters,

After service members are injured, they must re-learn to navigate the world around them on prosthetics, in a wheelchair, or without their sight. Some Veterans were injured nearly 20 years ago, right after the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan began, and have been coping with their injuries ever since. Based on Department of Veterans Affairs numbers, HFOT estimates there are still over 1,000 in need of adaptive housing. This is the reason our mission is still critical today.

In this newsletter, you will meet one of our Veterans who was injured early in the conflicts, Army Sergeant Justin Callahan, who lost his left leg while serving in Afghanistan in 2004. Many Veterans like Justin stayed under the radar since organizations like ours were in their infancy or did not exist yet. Several Veterans delayed applying to our program right after being injured; some wanted to focus on their recovery, and others were not ready to accept help. Many thought they could manage without an adapted home, but now find it increasingly difficult to do so as they age. With your continued commitment to our mission, I am confident we will provide a home for every Veteran who qualifies for one.

We also highlight Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rebecca Mann in this issue. She has already made a name for herself as an adapted sled hockey player, and is vice president of a Service Dog organization. I cannot wait to see what else she will accomplish when she receives her specially adapted home in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts next year.

In addition to our patriotic individual donors, we are fortunate to have the support of many outstanding corporate partners and fundraisers. In this issue, we spotlight ABC Supply and the matching campaign they held for our mission surrounding the Indy500. We also feature Local 49's golf tournament they held this year for the first time, and it was a huge success.

As we approach Veterans Day, I want to thank you for giving these Veterans the precious gift of living in a barrier-free home, where they can continue rebuilding their lives. I look forward to what we can accomplish together in the future.

Sincerely,

*Rich Cody*

General Richard A. Cody, USA (Ret.)  
Chairman, Homes For Our Troops

November 2022

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### Stories that Inspire

- 3 Room to Grow
- 4 Adapting to the Circumstances
- 5 Corporate Partner Spotlight: ABC Supply supports HFOT during the Indy 500!
- 6 Fundraising Spotlight: Local 49
- 6 Save the Date: Join us for Giving Tuesday, Nov. 29!
- 7 Creating a Lifelong Legacy
- 8 Thank you to our Corporate Partners!
- 8 Charitable Giving through your IRA / Giving Stock



**ON THE COVER:**

Army SGT Justin Callahan with his family. Read his story on page 3.



## A History of Excellence

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



Army SGT Justin Callahan and his family received their HFOT home in Florida earlier this year.

Katie Callahan loves admiring the signatures of HFOT supporters who attended their build events on boards hanging in their garage. To her, it is a reminder of all the love and appreciation that went into building their specially adapted custom home. *"The home eases my mind and heart of the pain I have seen my husband carry for many years."*

On Jan. 15, 2004, Army SGT Justin Callahan lost his left leg in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast while serving in Afghanistan. For almost two decades following his injury, Justin lived in a non-accessible home and could not use his wheelchair. Though he has a prosthetic leg, there are many times he is unable to wear it because of skin breakdowns, infections, and daily pain. Justin often became frustrated that he had to rely on Katie for support, and could not help as much around the home. Now that he lives in a fully accessible environment, Justin can accomplish daily tasks from his wheelchair, giving him more energy and less pain. *"Being able to have the option to use my wheelchair inside and around my home has been a huge game changer,"* he says.

Most importantly, the home enables Justin to be fully present with Katie and their children. *"Watching my three young children playing inside and outside the home, especially when the kids run along the side of the home waving at me when I leave for work, are precious moments I'll always remember,"* he says.

Katie loves seeing her husband thrive in a barrier-free environment. *"The home makes my job as a caregiver quite a bit easier, especially with three little children. They have room to play, and dad can still cruise around in his wheelchair,"* she says. *"They are so proud of their dad, and this home will leave a lasting impression on them for many years to come."*

After living in the home for nearly a year, Justin still says it is surreal, and he finds the support from HFOT's donors and supporters humbling. *"This is something I never thought I deserved. Living in this amazing home built in a prime location, I feel like what we did in Afghanistan was worth it,"* he says. *"I was severely injured during the beginning of the War on Terror, and, like many, I slipped through the cracks during my transition from active military duty. Having HFOT circle back to me 19 years later and gifting me this home is a great blessing. Knowing that so many people have supported HFOT, whether monetarily, through partnerships, or volunteering, reminds me that there are some really good people in this world."*

# Adapting to the Circumstances

While recovering from having both legs amputated from injuries she sustained while serving in Afghanistan, Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rebecca Mann initially had no interest in adaptive sports. At the insistence of friends, Rebecca decided to give adaptive sled hockey a shot. She signed up for a clinic through Spaulding Rehab Hospital in Boston and was immediately hooked.

Rebecca finds being on the ice beneficial for her body and mind. *"The best thing about sled hockey is my disability doesn't matter. I leave my prosthetic legs at the door and feel whole again. I can be competitive, be a part of a team, and get an awesome workout,"* she says.

Rebecca is now on the USA Women's National Sled Hockey Development Team. Soon after starting sled hockey, she discovered adaptive mountain biking, and most recently tried mono-skiing. *"Adaptive sports in general, specifically sled hockey, have been a huge recovery tool for me physically and mentally,"* she says.

Though Rebecca conquers the ice and other adaptive sports, she still experiences challenges within her living space. Training at home is difficult because her personal gym is in her basement, and she must descend steep stairs on her prosthetics to access it. Additionally, she often becomes frustrated that she cannot reach many shelves in her kitchen from her wheelchair. *"This can often become a safety issue when I have to kneel on my wheelchair to reach higher items,"* she says.

Receiving a single-level specially adapted custom Homes For Our Troops home with lower countertops and pull-down shelves will mitigate many of Rebecca's current obstacles. *"Easier access to my gym and an accessible kitchen will enable me to obtain better nutrition and have a more regimented workout schedule,"* she says.

Additionally, the new home will enable Rebecca to focus on her role as Vice President of Mission Working Dogs, a nonprofit, service dog organization. The cause is close to Rebecca's heart as she has her own service dog, Sully. *"I will be able to dedicate more time to the nonprofit as basic household tasks will not be as arduous as they currently are,"* she says. *"Paying it forward by helping others in need receive well-trained service dogs is incredibly important to me."*

Rebecca says that "thank you" to HFOT's donors and supporters will never be enough. *"The home will provide peace of mind for myself and my family, who will no longer have to worry about my safety."*



Army CW2 Rebecca Mann has established herself as a sled hockey player since being injured. Receiving an HFOT home will enable her to focus on her training and future goals.

ABC Supply hosted HFOT Veterans and staff at the Indy500 in May.



## Corporate Partner Spotlight:

ABC Supply supports HFOT during the Indy 500!



ABC Supply Co. Inc., the nation's largest distributor of roofing, siding, and other select exterior and interior products, has been a part of our HFOT family as a Homes For Our Troops' Platinum Partner, our highest level of partnership, since 2020.

While ABC Supply is in the business of being "the biggest, best, and easiest" service company distributing select exterior and interior building products, they are also dedicated to giving back. Their core values state they "understand success comes with the responsibility to give back and invest in the communities, institutions, and people that have touched our lives."

ABC Supply recently helped HFOT raise over \$2 million by matching \$1 million of all donations received during nine days in May, and spotlighted our organization during the 106th Indianapolis 500. They donated the design of their No. 11 AJ Foyt Racing Chevrolet to help bring awareness of HFOT to a national platform. The car's stars and stripes design celebrated American pride, and prominently featured the HFOT mission of Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives.

"We are blown away by the generosity of those who supported HFOT throughout our matching donation campaign," says Mike Jost, Chief Operating Officer at ABC Supply. "The excitement of the race provided an excellent backdrop to spread the word about the great work HFOT is doing."

Not only did ABC Supply afford us an incredible opportunity to showcase what we do on a national stage, they made some of our Veterans' dreams come true by bringing them to the Indy 500. HFOT home recipient, Liam Dwyer, is still talking about it, and has this to say about his experience, "AJ Foyt is one of my childhood racing heroes, and I can't believe they gave me the opportunity to sit next to him during dinner. I will always be a fan of his and ABC Supply. Thank you for your partnership with Homes For Our Troops."

The leadership and generosity of ABC Supply are helping change the lives of our Nation's most deserving Veterans, along with their families. Their commitment and service to others is evident in everything they do, and we are proud to continue working alongside them. "Grateful doesn't begin to cover how we feel about ABC Supply's sponsorship and support," says HFOT President and CEO Tom Landwermeyer. "The IndyCar donation gave us incredible visibility during one of the largest single-day sporting events in the world, and it means so much to have a whole new audience aware of our mission."



HFOT Veteran Marine SSgt Liam Dwyer, ABC Supply Chairman of the Board and Founder Diane Hendricks, and HFOT Veteran Army SGT Jereme Sawyer.

We are constantly reminded of the importance of people and the extraordinary things we can accomplish when we work together. If you or someone you know would like to become a Corporate Partner, please contact us at: [partnership@hfotusa.org](mailto:partnership@hfotusa.org).



From left: Jason George, HFOT Veteran Marcus Kuboy, Nick Fabel, and Joe Kramer.

## *Fundraising Spotlight:* — Local 49 —

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49 held their first golf tournament fundraiser benefiting Homes For Our Troops in July. The morning began at the Midland Hills Country Club in Roseville, Minn., where over 100 golfers teed off for a fun filled day on the green in the "Land of 10,000 Lakes". Golfers were met with custom bags, a presentation of the Colors, the National Anthem, and a welcome from Minnesota Governor, Tim Walz.

Not only does Local 49 stand with HFOT's mission of Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives, but they also generously covered costs of the tournament to ensure all funds were donated directly to HFOT. The time and effort that Local 49 put into this fundraiser really showed by raising over \$265k!

*"The tournament was a huge success, and we couldn't have asked for a better first year. A big thanks go to all the sponsors and partners who made it possible. Local 49 is honored to work with Homes For Our Troops, to support the men and women who gave so much for us. We can never fully repay them, but this is one way to say thank you. We look forward to next year,"* says Local 49 Office Manager Darrin Babcock.

Jason George, the Business Manager and Financial Secretary for the Union, added that he is proud to continue supporting HFOT and is committed to hosting this tournament for the next three years.

Veteran home recipient Army SGT Marcus Kuboy attended the event and enjoyed the round of golf. *"I had such an awesome time, and I can't wait to come back next year,"* says Marcus, who received his HFOT home in Woodbury, Minn., in 2008.

Local 49's continued support will help put many of our Veterans into specially adapted custom homes, helping them to rebuild their lives. This tournament truly was a "Hole In One"!

*If you are interested in hosting a fundraiser, please reach out to the Independent Fundraising Team at [ifundraising@hfotusa.org](mailto:ifundraising@hfotusa.org)*

Help us reach our goal of \$1,000,000 to BUILD HOMES AND REBUILD LIVES.



## *Creating a Lifelong Legacy*

Working with HFOT donors is always a special privilege, and even more so when you find donors who are totally committed to improving the lives of others. Originally from New York City, HFOT supporters David and Sharon Leiman embody that true spirit of philanthropy, giving back to their community in large and small ways. In fact, David and Sharon seem to create community wherever they go with their warm and welcoming personalities and spirit.



In addition to their generous support of our mission, Sharon and David share their time, talent, and treasure in many ways. In New York, while David and Sharon enjoyed access to the incredible arts and culture available, David served (and still serves) on several charity boards. When they came to the small mountain town of Flat Rock, N.C., they carried that passion forward, serving on the Boards of the Veterans Healing Farm, The Flat Rock Park Foundation, and The Flat Rock Playhouse (The State Theater of North Carolina). There they created a Garden of Remembrance to remember the Leiman Family and millions of others who perished at the hands of Nazi Germany. The Leimans remain passionate about educating children and all others about the Holocaust and other genocides to help ensure that those after us will have the knowledge to remember, reflect and never forget.

Sharon and David learned about HFOT in late 2021, when they were looking for a reputable Veteran charity, and quickly became avid supporters of our mission through their giving and their participation in the Key Ceremony for Justin and Katie Callahan in February 2022 (featured on page 3).

David had this to say: *"It is our duty, as citizens of the world, to never forget the Holocaust and be ever so thankful to our Brave Troops who step forward to ensure genocide does not arrive on the shores of these beautiful United States of America. A small article about HFOT in a local Flat Rock paper; a phone call to find out more; a rapid response from the heart, was all we needed to be involved. We looked at the opportunity to greatly expand our longtime habit of offering a coffee, a donut, some dessert, or sharing a pizza or beer with anyone in uniform. Thank you, Homes For Our Troops, for expanding and enhancing our feel-good moments, allowing us to help more military families like Justin and Katie, and their smiling children."*

The Leimans primarily give through their Individual Retirement Account, or IRA. This option for giving is one that many donors are not familiar with, and is a beneficial and fairly simple way to create a donor's very own legacy of philanthropy. You will see, firsthand, the impact of your gift during your lifetime. HFOT is thankful for the Leimans' tremendous support, and we encourage you to consult your own financial advisor to see if an IRA gift to HFOT (a 501(c)(3) organization) is the right option for you.



*The Leimans created a garden of remembrance to honor those who perished at the hands of Nazi Germany.*

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 PARTNERS



GOLD NATIONAL PARTNERS



SILVER NATIONAL PARTNERS



NATIONAL PARTNERS



MISSION PARTNERS



Learn more about our Corporate Partners at: [www.hfotusa.org/partner](http://www.hfotusa.org/partner)



## Charitable Giving through an IRA

Consider donating to Homes For Our Troops through your IRA. The process is easy! This is a great way to support our severely injured Veterans by Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives.

- You must be 70½ years or older and, if required to take a required minimum distribution (RMD), the Qualified Charitable Distribution counts against the RMD.
- Distributions can only be made from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).
- The maximum donation that can be excluded from taxable income in any year is \$100k.
- Distribution must be made directly to Homes For Our Troops. That keeps it out of your taxable income.
- Instruct your IRA Administrator to distribute up to \$100K or a designated amount as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to HFOT. By directing your IRA distribution to HFOT, you don't have to report the QCD as taxable income, and won't owe any taxes on the QCD.
- Contact your Plan Administrator directly to begin the process.

For more information, contact Suzanne Shaheen, *Planned Giving Officer* at 508-967-9041 or [sshaheen@hfotusa.org](mailto:sshaheen@hfotusa.org)

\*HFOT recommends you seek the guidance of a professional advisor, to assist you on making an informed decision. Any information provided by Homes For Our Troops is not meant as a substitute for legal or financial advice\*



Did you know that you can donate stocks or other securities?

This is a great way to support Homes For Our Troops and the Veterans we serve, with the added bonus of potential tax savings!\*

For more information about donating stock, please contact Suzanne Shaheen at: 508-823-3300 ext. 241 or [sshaheen@hfotusa.org](mailto:sshaheen@hfotusa.org)

\*HFOT recommends you seek the guidance of a professional advisor, to assist you on making an informed decision. Any information provided by Homes For Our Troops is not meant as a substitute for financial advice.\*