



Providing Specially Adapted Homes for
Our Severely Injured Veterans
AT NO COST TO THE VETERANS WE SERVE

Thank You

As we approach Memorial Day 2008, we want to thank all our supporters for the outpouring of generosity you have shown as we work to build specially adapted homes for our most severely injured Veterans.

Because of your support, on April 5, 2008, Homes for Our Troops presented the deed to its 25th home to SGT Brian Fountaine of Plymouth, Massachusetts. It is a milestone we could only dream of even a couple short years ago, but your steadfast and enthusiastic support has made our mission a reality. Our goal is to complete at least another 100 homes in the next three years. We ask for your continued support so we can continue to provide barrier free homes to our severely injured Veterans – homes that aid them in regaining some of the freedom and independence they lost when they suffered life-altering, severe injuries while serving our country.

News

Homes for Our Troops to Build Homes at the 2008 Democratic and Republican National Conventions

The country's two main political parties may not agree on much, but they are both showing their support of our Veterans by teaming up with Homes for Our Troops and the Credit Union National Association to build a specially adapted home in each of the cities hosting this summer's presidential conventions.

The Democratic Convention is being held the last week of August in Denver, and HFOT will be building a home there for Staff Sgt. Travis Strong.

SSG Strong was in the middle of his second tour in Iraq when the Stryker armored combat vehicle he was patrolling in was hit by a roadside bomb called an explosively formed penetrator. He lost both of his legs in that explosion and has undergone months of rehabilitation, recovery and therapy to learn how to use his new prosthetics. Travis, his wife and two children will soon have a specially adapted home of their own in the Denver, Colorado area.



Travis Strong

The Republican Convention is being held the first week of September in Minneapolis/St. Paul and HFOT will be building a home there for Sgt. Marcus Kuboy.

SGT Kuboy was injured in Iraq in March 2007 when his humvee hit an IED. Along with suffering a traumatic brain injury and a broken arm, back and jaw, SGT Kuboy also sustained serious injury to both of his legs. He can walk only for short periods of time and only with assistance of a walker. The rest of the time, Marcus relies on a wheelchair.



Marcus Kuboy



Homes for Our Troops Receives "Top Rating" by the American Institute of Philanthropy!

You can be confident that your donations are managed efficiently.

Homes for Our Troops is proud to let you know that the American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP) (www.charitywatch.org), one of the country's premier charity watchdog organizations, has reviewed Homes for Our Troops' finances and they have included Homes for Our Troops in their "Top-Rated Veterans & Military Charities" listing. Only **5** of the **32** Veterans charities listed in AIP's most recent report are included in the Top-Rated Category.

AIP recently testified before Congress as part of the government's investigation into the questionable practices of some charities in how they report their results and how they spend their money. We are proud of the fact that this watchdog agency, which is in the forefront of monitoring charities, included Homes for Our Troops in its Top Rated Category.

AIP's stringent review process focuses on the percent of costs spent on Program Service Costs and the efficiency of organizations in raising funds.

AIP rates charities from A+ to F. Of the 32 charities they rated, only 5 were in the "A" category, including Homes for Our Troops.

Please contact Tom Benoit, our VP/CFO, if you want to know more about this rating or about our finances.

Running for A Cause

Boston Marathon® Team Homes for Our Troops raises over \$100,000 on Patriots Day, April 21, 2008

A total of 23 runners from across the country converged on Boston on April 21, 2008 to run in the Boston Marathon to raise funds to help us build specially adapted homes. Each of the runners reached out to family, friends and business associates to pledge money in support of their run. The 23 runners raised a total of over \$100,000.

Diverse Team of Runners Come Together for One Great Cause

Team HFOT is different than other charity teams in that this team hails from across the USA and beyond. From California to Australia, the dedicated team of 23 each paid their own way to get to Boston to run the marathon in addition to all the money they raised for Homes for Our Troops.

The team is made up, in part, by active and retired military members, Marines, Army, and Army Reserves who are proud to run on behalf of their injured comrades.

David Leary recently returned home from serving with the Army in Iraq. He started his marathon training while deployed and was looking forward to going back home to Boston to help support Homes for Our Troops. He says,



Crossing the starting line in Hopkinton, MA

*“The fact that I CAN run,
I CAN train to run a
marathon, this is something
that many of those wounded
in action will never have the
opportunity to do ever again”*

-David Leary

RUNNERS WANTED TO JOIN OUR TEAM!

Run for our cause anywhere in the USA! We have runners signed up for races and marathons around the country who are also raising funds as part of Team HFOT! As a runner for Team Homes for Our Troops, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a direct difference in the lives of our injured troops' lives. It's as easy as letting us know you want to be a part of the team!

Benefits of Joining Team HFOT

Satisfaction of running on behalf of our wounded troops and their families.

- *Team HFOT running gear
- *Free and easy fundraising web page
- *Technical help, fundraising idea packet
- *Pre-notifications on obtaining a spot in marathons such as MCM and Boston!
- *and much more!



UPCOMING TEAM HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS OFFICIAL EVENTS

MARINE CORPS MARATHONOCTOBER 26, 2008

Team Member Spotlight

Joan Gates, Simonton Window Marketing Manager Raises \$12,000+ for Homes for Our Troops

Joan Gates achieved a “once in a lifetime goal” of running in the Boston Marathon on April 21, 2008. Along the way she gained the support of her fellow Simonton workers and more than \$12,000 in contributions to support Homes for Our Troops.

Gates, a resident of Washington, West Virginia, completed the 2008 Boston Marathon in 5 hours and 23 minutes, ranking her as a 21,383 place finisher amidst the 25,000 people in the race. The marathon, started in 1896, goes for 26.1 miles through Massachusetts and concludes in downtown Boston.

“I’m so exceptionally pleased that I was able to run in this race on behalf of Homes for Our Troops,” says Gates, the marketing coordinator at Simonton Windows. “It’s always been a dream of mine to compete in this marathon. Now, to have done this, while helping raise money and awareness for the Homes for Our Troops organization, is just an incredible feeling.”

“Every person I know enjoys unlimited freedom in our country thanks to the dedicated work of our armed forces. We can never show them enough how much we appreciate their selfless efforts. These exceptional individuals motivated me during both my preparations for the Boston Marathon and for the actual run.”

SPONSOR TEAM HFOT IN THE 2008 MARINE CORPS MARATHON! CONTACT DAWN TEIXEIRA FOR DETAILS.

DAWN@HOMESFOROURTROOPS.ORG

508-823-3300 EXT 202

2nd Annual Gala - April 5, 2008

The Homes for Our Troops second annual gala was a great success!



SSG Matt Keil, and wife Tracy with CO volunteer Bret Rhibar

Homes for Our Troops 2nd Annual Gala was held on April 5, 2008. Over 500 people attended, including nine of the veterans who have or will be receiving a specially adapted home thanks to your support. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the deed to HFOT's 25th completed project to SGT Brian Fountaine.

The event's Title Sponsors were four of HFOT's long-time corporate supporters – Simonton Windows, Fypon, Hy-Lite Products and their parent company, Fortune Brands.

The VIP Reception was sponsored by Perini Building Company who worked with HFOT on the home it built for SGT Brian Fountaine.

The evening including recognizing some of the many people who supported HFOT over the past year. Here are a few of the award winners.



John Gonsalves presents Stan Swerchesky of Pernini Building Corp a citation from MA Gov. Patrick in recognition of his contribution to support our service members



The Marine Cadets of Battleship Cove performed a moving flag folding ceremony



"Road Warrior of the Year" volunteer Erik Freeman receives his award for exceptional service



Erik Freeman proudly flying his "colors"

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Victoria L. Mosier Patriot Award

Staff Sergeant Larry Gill (Ret)

Outstanding Corporate Supporter

PGA Tour Charities

Large Building Partner

Lacrosse Homes

Small Building Partner

KitCorp Homes

General Contractor of the Year

Terry Curnow

Road Warrior of the Year

Erik Freeman

Road Warrior of the Year

Matt Febbi

New Corporate Sponsor

Ply Gem Siding Group

Kids for Our Troops Appreciation

Gabrielle Civetta

Road Warrior Achievement

Elmer Bean
Sandy Johnson



Gabrielle Civetta won the Kids for Our Troops award. Gabrielle made key charm bracelets that she sold to raise funds for Homes for Our Troops. Gabrielle is shown above meeting some new friends at the VIP Reception.

Volunteer Spotlight - "Road Warriors"

Erik Freeman is our "Road Warrior of the Year" and shares his thoughts about volunteering.

I have been in the construction industry in one capacity or another since 1976. My wife, Jean and I decided to travel and work in 1998, traveling in our 34 foot 5th wheel RV. After learning about HFOT, it did not take long for us to decide that the mission would be a perfect fit for us. We could choose what part of the country we wanted to see, and time our travels with a project in that area. We have always tried to stay where the weather is mild for the winters but other than that we have tried to stay west of the Mississippi due to the treatments my wife was facing to treat her cancer. Jean recently passed away, but her contribution as a supporter of my work and the quilts that she made will live on in those that she helped.

In 2006, we volunteered in Springhill Louisiana, and then moved on to Cascade, Montana. We most recently in 2007 worked on a home in Buena Vista, Colorado and spent the most enjoyable summer you could imagine parked on the bank of the Arkansas River. We have always managed to be able to find many things to do and see at each of the projects. I have made it a practice to include monthly updates to friends and family including pictures of both the project and the fun places that we visited. I am planning on continuing this adventure because I believe it is the right thing to do as well as this involvement is great therapy for me. I now have a 38 foot motorhome and tow my work vehicle along with me.. CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - "ROAD WARRIORS" continued

It has been great being here in Bakersfield, California and getting to meet Evan Morgan and his wife Jillian ahead of the project starting. My military service in the Army during the Viet Nam era left me with a somewhat bitter feeling that America could have done more for those who have served, and come home from war. Homes for Our Troops is an outstanding organization that is now proving that we learned a valuable lesson from those times, and I feel privileged to have something to offer these wounded warriors who gave far more than any of us could imagine. I believe that most people want to give back to their community in some way. I thank John Gonsalves and all of those involved with Homes for our Troops for letting me be a part of their efforts to help show what a grateful nation really can do for those who have served with honor.

I also feel that if it were not for my faith in God and the firm hold that this gives me on living life, I would not be able to do any of this. I have been provided with everything I need to be where I am needed and this is a blessing that I am truly in awe of everyday. I hope that as we continue to build more homes for the most severely injured veterans, that more people will decide that being a road warrior for HFOT is an effort that they would like to become involved in. It certainly is a privilege for me as an American, to be involved.

Erik Freeman / Freewheeler 1

Interested in becoming a Homes for Our Troops "Road Warrior"?

Applications are now being accepted to become a "Road Warrior" for Homes for Our Troops. Travel to a home building project of your choice and help us build a home for a severely injured Veteran! You will enjoy camaraderie, sense of purpose, fun and lots of hard work!

We have limited opportunities for this volunteer program so please contact us today or visit www.homesforourtroops.org/rw to apply.



Progress on Behalf of our Injured Veterans

We recently broke ground in Colorado and Minnesota, joining our many other home building projects across the USA and held home dedication ceremonies to present the Veterans with their new homes.



SSG Strong and his family break ground at the site of his new home in Golden, CO.



Along with family members and supporters, Sgt. Kuboy digs the first shovelfuls for his new home



SSG Matt Keil and his wife Tracy take part in throwing the first shovelfuls of soil for their new home in Parker, CO



Wharton, NJ - This beautiful home was donated to Jim and Pam Benoit by Homes for Our Troops



Ross Township, PA - SPC James Fair will now live in the most technologically advanced home we have built to date



Plymouth, MA - SGT Brian Fontaine was given this home in Plymouth, MA

Please use the enclosed donation form to make a donation to Homes for Our Troops to help us assist more injured Veterans. Thank you!