



Foundations

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

A Letter from Founder & President John S. Gonsalves

DEAR SUPPORTER:

Since 2004, Homes for Our Troops supporters from all walks of life have “paid it forward” by giving the gift of freedom and independence to those who have given it to them. As we work toward accomplishing our goals for Year 6, we continue to be amazed and grateful for our ever-growing Support Communities – the key to our success.

Our ongoing HFOT Champion Spotlight column gives us a chance to offer our sincere appreciation to just a few of our supporters with each newsletter issue. Some champions however, break the mold of what it means to be a power of example —what it means to pay it forward—what it means to be a local hero. The ultimate “case in point” comes from within our HFOT Family of Veterans, which makes the example of our own SSG Robert Canine an inspiration for us all.

When SSG Robert Canine learned that he would receive a specially adapted home from Homes for Our Troops at no cost to him, his first emotion was gratitude. His second? Selflessness, which has always been Canine’s fundamental instinct: take care of my family, take care of my comrades.

Within days, Canine was sharing the story with other veteran amputees at Walter Reed Army Medical Center who he thought would benefit from a specially adapted home. Within weeks, he created a public service video to show how wider hallways, roll-in showers, and roll-under stove-tops and sinks provide the gift of freedom and independence by removing mobility restrictions. By December 2009, he had announced his goal to raise and donate \$100,000 to Homes for Our Troops to

Pay it Forward! build a specially adapted home for another severely injured veteran.

Canine’s goal for the most compelling Pay It Forward example we’ve ever seen was crystal clear: use the funds I raise for another specially adapted home, not my home. “I decided to save \$100 a month for 10 months to make a \$1000 contribution to HFOT. If I could inspire 99 other people to do the same or inspire 900 people to donate \$100, I would reach my goal of \$100,000 raised by October 1, 2010.”

And inspire he did. On June 8, 2010 – 4 months ahead of schedule – Robert reached his \$100,000 fundraising goal. Using a HFOT Personal Fundraising page, Robert’s message to friends and family was simple and uniquely heartfelt: “help me give to those who gave to us.” The result? Good old fashioned word-of-mouth inspired donations from individuals, youth organizations, schools, and corporations as well as fundraising events such as “Run for Robert” and “Coins for Caring.”

“Help me give to those who gave to us.”

Ever the selfless hero, he attributes success to others saying, “People ask me how I raised the \$100,000. I tell them I didn’t, my friends and family did. All I did was ask for their support, and they came through in a big way. Not just for me, but for an injured soldier they may never meet.” As Robert continues to applaud his Support Community for their help and successes – we at Homes for Our Troops continue to applaud him.

John S. Gonsalves



THANK YOU

to everyone who donated, raised funds for, and volunteered for SSG Canine’s home!

Title Sponsor:

Missouri Credit Union Association

Corporate Partner:

FUJIFILM Seehere.com

General Contractor:

Beacon Street Construction

SSG Robert Canine, his wife, Jennifer, and their son, Sebastian, received their new specially adapted home in Columbia, Missouri on June 26, 2010.

To see a model of success, go to SSG Canine’s fundraising page at... www.homesforourtroops.org/K9

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HFOT CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT

"Jelly Jo"

Joan Eskelinen, "Jelly Jo" as she is now known, is the passion and muscle behind Log Cabin Love. Joan has been on a jelly and jam crusade for the past 3 years and has made over 1,000 jars in this last year alone. All supplies are grown locally, the sugar is donated and she pays for the jars out of her own pocket. Her commitment to raising money for our injured soldiers is inspiring. Her fourth year of support begins in the fall, when the local grapes, strawberries, & rhubarb are ready for picking!

Born and raised at the end of Log Cabin Drive in Walled Lake, Michigan, Joan and her husband Bill still reside in the same log cabin. Joan has raised a sweet \$17,000 selling her jams and jellies and donated 100% to HFOT! *Thank you "Jelly Jo" for your support!*

Buracker Construction, LLC



Congratulations to Dave and Martha Buracker, owners of Buracker Construction in Bentonville, VA, awarded the "2010 business of the year" by the Front Royal-Warren County Chamber of Commerce. Describing their work in helping to construct a home for SSG Arthur "Bunky" Woods, Martha noted, "The Homes for Our Troops house for SSG Woods that we have volunteered to be the General Contractor for has been the single most rewarding volunteer project we have ever done. We may have spearheaded the project, but it has been the whole Front Royal/Warren County community that has come together to make this a reality."

Thank you to the Front Royal/Warren County community and Buracker Construction!

Mastic Home Exteriors on Paying It Forward:

"Our Red, White & Home promotion will donate more than \$100,000 in cash, volunteers, and product donations to Homes for Our Troops in 2010. With the support of Mastic distributors and contractors, we're paying it forward by helping to build more than 20 homes for severely injured veterans with Mastic Home Exteriors low-maintenance siding and trim. As leaders in our industry, we hope that our example encourages others to get behind an organization that provides such a vital and needed service to our severely injured veterans."



Thank you Mastic Home Exteriors!

HFOT WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK AND RECOGNIZE THE EFFORTS OF:

Gary and Karen Chaput, SGT Ryan Newell Project: Marion, KS

Jim Ward, Essex Homes, CPL Wesley Leon-Barrientos Project: Bakersfield, CA

Jeremy Skinner, CPL Joshua Lindsey Project: Cumming, GA

Stephanie McDivitt McGee, Keller Williams Realty, Sgt. Steven Kiernan Project: Fredricksburg, VA

Vicki Wallis, Elbert County Examiner, LCpl Kade L. Hinkhouse Project: Elizabeth, CO



FUJIFILM SeeHere.com launched a program to support Kids For Our Troops to encourage teens to participate in community service. Teens can develop and execute a fundraising and awareness-building campaign for a specific Homes For Our Troops build and then be eligible to win a \$5,000 scholarship from FUJIFILM. *Sign up on seehere.com!*

CALL TO ACTION

Responding to our Call to Action can be as simple as sharing this newsletter with a friend, as easy as making a donation, or as committed as signing up to be a project volunteer. Every action helps to move our projects to "Mission Accomplished."

GET INVOLVED! Go to...

www.homesforourtroops.org/howtovolunteer

• GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Each project begins with a great GC! Volunteer to lead one of our projects.

• PROFESSIONAL TRADESPEOPLE

Volunteer your time as a professional tradesperson and make a difference in the life of a severely injured veteran.

• DONATE BUILDING MATERIALS

The more building products we are able to acquire through donation, the less funds are depleted and the more veterans we can serve.

• KEY VOLUNTEERS

Join a project Event Team to help run a Build Brigade, Volunteer Day, or Key Ceremony. Join a project Street Team to create community awareness for our mission.

• ATTEND A LOCAL FUNDRAISER

See page 4 for details on events in your state and mark your calendars!

• JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Join us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to show your support online!



WE NEED RUNNERS!



RUN FOR US on 10.31.10!

We have spots available for the Marine Corps Marathon and the Marine Corps 10K.

Sign up today!
Go to...

www.homesforourtroops.org/mcm10

Our 2nd Annual Victoria L. Mosier 5-mile Memorial Run is on

11.07.10! Join us at the American Legion Hall in Raynham, MA.

Run starts at 10 a.m. Register on race day or online.

Go to...

www.homesforourtroops.org/vlm



Our Newest HFOT Veterans

Because of your continued support, we are pleased to welcome the following new members of the HFOT Family of Veterans:

SGT Jeffrey Adams Colorado SFC Sean GittensGeorgia
 SGT Latseen Benson Colorado SSG Kelly KeckKentucky
 SSG Ronell Bradley South Carolina Sgt. Kenny LyonVirginia

Go to an HFOT Veteran's web page: [www.homesfortroops.org/\(veteran's last name\)](http://www.homesfortroops.org/(veteran's last name)).

Completed Build Brigades

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

SSG Bunky Woods

Location: Browntown, Virginia
 BB Dates: May 21-23, 2010
 GC: Buracker Construction

SPC Frank Pierson

Location: Plainfield, Illinois
 BB Dates: May 21-23, 2010
 GC: DeCraene Custom Homes Inc.



Spotlight: Volunteer Day

On Volunteer Day, the Support Community cleans and landscapes a specially adapted home to perfection. To prepare for CPL Joshua Lindsey's Key Ceremony in Cumming, GA on June 26, 2010, Hilbert's Heroes demonstrated the power of a group effort! Staffed by Atlanta's Hilbert Law Firm, Hilbert's Heroes supports a charity each month and gets clients, colleagues, friends and family involved too! We join CPL Lindsey in thanking Hilbert's Heroes for coordinating landscaping materials donations for this home and rolling up their sleeves on Volunteer Day to install the results!

Hilbert's Heroes
 Team for CPL Lindsey



SPOTLIGHT:

SSG Dwayne Cole's Key Ceremony

On June 19, 2010, Homes for Our Troops and General Contractor Stephen Thomas Homes were proud to present SSG Dwayne A. Cole and his wife, Shontel, with the key to their new specially adapted home in Henrico, Virginia. The Coles can now rebuild their lives in a home that is barrier-free.

From Stephen Thomas Homes website:
 "We were looking for just this type of community project so that we could 'give back'. We proudly volunteered to be the general contractor for this home, and are grateful for this tremendous opportunity to say 'Thank You!' to someone who has made more sacrifices for his fellow men and women than most of us will ever know."



More Veterans Who Received Their Keys:

Sgt. Steven Kiernan

Location: Fredericksburg, VA
 KC Date: June 12, 2010
 General Contractor: Atlantic Builders Ltd.

SSG Robert Canine

Location: Columbia, MO
 KC Date: June 26, 2010
 Title Sponsor: Missouri Credit Union Association
 General Contractor: Beacon Street Construction

CPL Joshua Lindsey

Location: Cumming, GA
 KC Date: June 26, 2010
 General Contractor: SBG Homes

SGT Ryan Newell

Location: Marion, KS
 KC Date: June 26, 2010
 General Contractor: Hett Construction

SSG Cole's GC:



As of our press time (July 19, 2010):

Upcoming Build Brigades

SSG Christian Bagge

PARKDALE, OREGON

CPT Ferris Butler

CHESTER, MARYLAND

Upcoming Key Ceremonies

CPL Wesley Leon-Barrientos

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

SSG Heath Calhoun

CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE

Cpl Neil Frustaglio

SGT Nathan Hunt

Cpl Jose "Ivan" Perez

MARION, TEXAS

SFC Steven Holloway

WELLINGTON, FLORIDA

SSG Scot Noss

TRUSSVILLE, ALABAMA

SPC Frank Pierson

PLAINFIELD, ILLINOIS

PO2 Anthony Thompson

HOUSTON, TEXAS

SSG Bunky Woods

BROWNTOWN, VIRGINIA



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.homesfourtroops.org/ and add in the words in parenthesis below. This listing is not complete so check our website often for all the news.

MAINE

Seagars by the See ([seagars](#))
Portland, ME
Sunday, SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

MARYLAND

Basket Bingo ([chuckbingo](#))
Aberdeen, MD
Friday, AUGUST 27, 2010

MASSACHUSETTS

7th Annual Charity Softball Game ([7thsoftball](#))
Hyannis, MA
Sunday, AUGUST 8, 2010

Jennifer Kane Memorial Golf Tournament ([jenniferkane10](#))
Kingston, MA
Monday, AUGUST 23, 2010

2nd Annual Dighton Run for Heroes 5K ([runforheroes10](#))
Dighton, MA
Saturday, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

Warrior Run ([warriorrund](#))
Foxboro, MA
Saturday, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

Oak Point Homeowners Charity Golf Tournament ([oakpoint10](#))
Lakeville, MA
Thursday, SEPTEMBER 23, 2010

Mark Keilty Golf Tournament ([markkeilty10](#))
Harwich, MA
Friday, SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

Benefit Horse Show ([horsehelp](#))
Marion, MA
Sunday, OCTOBER 17, 2010

REALTORs Got Talent Show ([passtalent](#))
Middleborough, MA
Thursday, NOVEMBER 4, 2010

Weekend at Patriot Place Raffle ([maceyraffle](#))
East Longmeadow, MA
Thursday, NOVEMBER 11, 2010

Busa Wine & Spirits 50th Anniversary Celebration ([bowl2010](#))
Lexington, MA
Friday, NOVEMBER 12, 2010

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Guns & Hoses 911 Memorial Ride ([gunsandhoses10](#))

Hudson, NH
Saturday, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

NEW JERSEY

Run for Our Troops ([runfourtroops](#))
Pennsauken, NJ
Saturday, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

NJAFED 5th Annual Golf Outing ([njafed10](#))
Atlantic Heights, NJ
Monday, SEPTEMBER 13, 2010

Greenbriar Oceanaire Men's Club 6th Annual Golf Outing ([gomc10](#))
Waretown, NJ
Monday, SEPTEMBER 27, 2010

Running to Rebuild ([runningtorebuild10](#))
Freehold Boro, NJ
Saturday, OCTOBER 9, 2010

NEW YORK

Local 35 Benefit Golf Outing ([local35golf](#))
Mechanicville, NY
Saturday, AUGUST 28, 2010

NORTH CAROLINA

Fearless Women Revolution Gala ([fearlesswomen](#))
High Point, NC
Friday, SEPTEMBER 10, 2010

OREGON

Par for Patriots ([parforpatriots](#))
Salem, OR
Friday, SEPTEMBER 10, 2010

PENNSYLVANIA

Corvettes at Carlisle ([carlislecorvette](#))
Carlisle, PA
Friday, AUGUST 27, 2010

TEXAS

3rd Annual Spend a Day with a Vet BBQ & Bike Run ([withavet10](#))
Houston, TX
Saturday, AUGUST 28, 2010

2nd Annual Homes for Our Troops Bowling Fundraiser ([bowl2010](#))
Plano, TX
Saturday, SEPTEMBER 18, 2010

VIRGINIA

Charity Track Day ([charitytrack](#))
Alton, VA
Friday, AUGUST 13, 2010

PDP Charity Golf Tournament ([pdp2010](#))
Chantilly, VA
Friday, AUGUST 27, 2010



What follows is a partial list of golf events from our Corporate Partner, Birdies for the Brave:

TPC River Highlands

([riverhighlands2010](#))
Cromwell, CT
Monday, AUGUST 23, 2010

TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm

([potomac2010](#))
Potomac, MD
Monday, OCTOBER 11, 2010

TPC Eagle Trace

([eagletrace2010](#))
Coral Springs, FL
Sunday-Monday, OCTOBER 24-25, 2010

TPC Jasna Polana

([jasnapolana2010](#))
Princeton, NJ
Monday, OCTOBER 25, 2010

TPC Wakefield Plantation

([wakefieldplantation2010](#))
Raleigh, NC
Monday, NOVEMBER 1, 2010

TPC Piper Glen

([piperglen2010](#))
Charlotte, NC
Wednesday, NOVEMBER 3, 2010

Meadowbrook Farms Golf Club

([meadowbrookfarms2010](#))
Katy, TX
Saturday-Sunday, NOVEMBER 6-7, 2010

TPC Sugarloaf

([sugarloaf2010](#))
Duluth, GA
Monday, NOVEMBER 8, 2010

TPC Tampa Bay

([tpctampabay2010](#))
Lutz, FL
Saturday-Sunday,
NOVEMBER 20-21, 2010

DONATE NOW USING THE ENCLOSED SLIP AND ENVELOPE or **DONATE ONLINE** at: www.homesfourtroops.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.