



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

The Sierra Club Foundation joins with Homes for Our Troops to build green homes for injured veterans

The Sierra Club Foundation and Homes for Our Troops announced a new partnership to incorporate a higher level of green building materials and processes into the homes built for severely injured veterans across the country and to highlight the long-term health and financial benefits of green building.

"We're thrilled to be able to give back to families that have given so much to our country," said Peter Martin, Director of The Sierra Club Foundation. "We hope this project will demonstrate how easy it is to save energy at home. We can lower our energy bills, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and create jobs in the green building sector at the same time."



"We are excited about this opportunity to increase the green building we incorporate into the homes we build for the severely injured veterans we assist," said John Gonsalves, Homes for Our Troops' President and Founder. "This grant will allow us to incorporate state of the art building techniques and materials such as geothermal heating system and photovoltaic solar panels to give our veterans the long-term economic and environmental benefits of green building. It will also allow us to educate the public about our

experiences with green building so we can be part of expanding this nationwide effort."

Homes for Our Troops will receive a grant of up to \$1,000,000 over the next three years from The Sierra Club Foundation. The grant will be used to explore new technologies and products designed with environmental and energy conservation concerns in mind, include a higher degree of green building into its homes, and fully participate in the Energy Star Program and the LEED Program that was recently established by the US Green Building Council. These energy efficient homes will provide long-term economic and environmental benefits to these veterans and their families.

Equally significant, the grant provides funds for Homes for Our Troops to engage in outreach to both the home construction industry and the general public on the benefits and importance of green building, in the hope of promoting a greater understanding of the many benefits of the nationwide green building movement.

More Information



To find more in-depth information on the new products and technologies we are using in our homes, visit each Veteran's project page on our website and click on this icon.



Green Building

As a member of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), we are doing our part to conserve energy and protect the environment. We are proud to participate in projects that will achieve LEED certification.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a building rating system developed by USGBC.

Buildings designed and constructed according to this nationally-recognized criteria have positive impacts in five areas that benefit both the environment and the homeowner:

1. Sustainable site development
2. Water savings
3. Energy savings and renewable power
4. Material and resource conservation
5. Indoor environmental quality



Build Brigade Success for Sgt. Travis Strong

Hundreds of volunteers work through the weekend to build a home for injured veteran



Army Staff Sgt. Travis Strong has been in San Diego military housing undergoing rehab since a bomb cut through his Stryker armored vehicle and took off both his legs in Baghdad in 2006.

Travis's home is one of the two being built by Homes for Our Troops as part of the two national presidential conventions. This home is part of the Democratic National Convention.

During the three day "Build Brigade", Travis and his family caught a glimpse of their new living arrangements as four volunteers lifted Travis up in his wheelchair and into the wooden frame being erected for his new home in Golden, Colorado. Saws, hammers and reporters buzzed around Travis, age 30, as he sat inside what will be a 2,068- square-foot house with four bedrooms and two bathrooms.

"It kind of makes it more real," said the California native who visited Golden for the first time in April. Travis's wife, Misty, said the home brought "peace of mind." "There's so many unknowns when a soldier is injured," she said. "This is the biggest blessing we can have." The Strong's were accompanied by their two children: Brianna, 9, and Sean, 6 who watched as local volunteers built their new home.

The home is being tailored for Travis with 36-inch-wide doorways (rather than the more standard 30-32 inches) so his wheelchair can easily fit. Other adaptations include a roll-in shower, ADA compliant appliances, barrier-free cabinetry and an elevator will allow him to get to the basement.

"Most people won't notice those and other modifications, but it means a lot to Travis," said John Gonsalves. Travis himself noted the effort that went into building the home. "People told us about people who help build homes," he said, "but it seemed too good to be true."

The home will also be the beginning of a new life for Travis. He has already become an enthusiastic monoskier in the Colorado mountains and may attend college, possibly to study computer science.

Volunteers were on hand from the Credit Union Associations of Colorado and Wyoming, National Journal Group media company, the Colorado Building and Construction Council, and the Democratic National Convention Committee.

Up to 300 volunteers in total worked through the weekend to complete the framing for the Golden house. Ground was broken in April and the Strong's will move in around the time of the Democratic National Convention in Denver at the end of August.

Credit unions across the country are involved in a fundraising drive to help this project and a similar one in Minneapolis-St. Paul connected to the Republican National Convention.

Visit Travis's project page on our website for more pictures, videos and information. www.homesforourtroops.org

***"There's so many unknowns when a soldier is injured, this is the biggest blessing we can have."
-Misty Strong***



Projects Across the Country

We have over two dozen projects going on across the USA! Please get involved today!

***Donate professional labor or services to a project** ***Donate building materials**
***Join the "Street Team" to help us raise awareness** ***Host a fundraiser**

Visit our website to learn more! www.homesforourtroops.org and click on "GET INVOLVED"



Amry Sgt Jeffery Guerin
New York



Marine Cpl. Joshua Hoffman
Michigan



Marine SSGt. Andrew Robinson
New Jersey



Army Spc. Brett Wolf
Texas



Marine Sgt. Greg Edwards
Alabama



Army Sgt. Peter Rooney
Massachusetts



Army Sgt. Darryl Wallace
Georgia



Army Spc. David Battle
Maryland

Top Rated Charity

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. Tom Benoit can be reached at 508-823-3300 ext 203 or via email at tombenoit@homesforourtroops.org



Volunteer Spotlight

Spencer Padgett and Aaron Drummond of Arrisbrook Builders in Ellicott City, MD are heading up the effort for Army Specialist David Battle



Aaron Drummond and Spencer Padgett

As soon as Spencer and Aaron of Arrisbrook Builders heard about Homes for Our Troops they immediately wanted to be part of the mission. After a meeting at the International Builders' Show in Orlando this year, Spencer and Aaron knew they had to be involved. Both men are Naval Academy graduates and served for 7 years in the Marine Corps before becoming homebuilders in Maryland. In the spirit of giving back to the Marine Corps and all of the Armed Services, they have partnered with Homes for Our Troops on this project and they are raising money for our organization as part of the HFOT Marine Corps Marathon team. Arrisbrook Builders will act as the volunteer General Contractor to build a specially adapted home for Spc. David Battle and his family in Maryland.

Army Specialist David Battle was severely injured in December 2007 while serving in Iraq with the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment out of Fort Stewart, GA. An IED blast left him a triple amputee. He is currently recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center while his wife and four children live in post housing. Once the home is complete, David and his family will have a home that will accommodate his needs, give him back some of his independence and enable him and his family to concentrate on recovery and their future.



Spc. David Battle with his family

Please visit <http://www.arrisbrook.com/> to learn more about Arrisbrook Builders

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