



FOUNDATIONS

A NEWSLETTER FROM HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

May 2025

**Army PFC
Heather Trujillo:
A Bridge to the Future**

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



Dear HFOT Supporters,

This Memorial Day, we pay solemn tribute to the fallen patriots who served our nation, and honor the families and friends of those who gave their lives for our freedom. We remain acutely aware of the service members in uniform who continue to stand watch and risk their lives for us. And we thank you, our valued supporters, for your commitment to our post-9/11 Veterans—a mission we share as we continue to Build Homes and Rebuild Lives for the men and women severely injured in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Since our inception in 2004, we've built and donated over 405 specially adapted custom homes to post-9/11 injured Veterans and their families. These homes provide more than a safe and accessible living environment. Our HFOT homes represent a new beginning for Veterans and their families, where freedom and independence are returned, and future hopes and dreams are restored.

In this newsletter, you'll see the impact of these homes and how your support is changing lives. On page 3, Marine Corporal Shawn Seeley and his wife, Shelley, share how their future HFOT home will allow their family to invest in what they love—serving others. We'll also catch up with Army Private First Class Heather Trujillo, who shares in her own words how the HFOT home she received in 2018 gave her back more than she could have ever imagined.

The success of our mission relies on the continued support of our donors, foundations, corporate partners, and fundraisers, who continue to find new and innovative ways to champion our cause. This issue highlights a few of these supporters, including our Annual Top 10 Fundraisers.

On behalf of the HFOT family, thank you for making a difference in the lives of the brave men and women who served our country. There are still nearly 1,800 more severely injured post- 9/11 Veterans nationwide in need of adapted housing. Together, we will ensure that every Veteran who qualifies for one of our homes receives one.

Our team continues to work diligently to get more deserving Veterans into the specially adapted custom homes they need and deserve. I encourage you to attend one of our build events to see how your support is helping us advance our mission of Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives.

Sincerely,

H.T. Landwermeyer, Jr.
Brigadier General, USA Retired
President & CEO
Homes For Our Troops

MAY 2025

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A History of Excellence



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



HOME *sweet* HOME



Marine Corporal Shawn Seeley with his family.

Most days, retired Marine Corporal Shawn Seeley and his wife, Shelley, need to remind each other that the specially adapted custom HFOT home they're receiving isn't just wishful thinking. Instead, their future spot in Spring Branch, Texas, is a place they'll soon be calling home sweet home.

"Shelley and I wake up each morning having a hard time believing that such a wonderful thing is happening to us," Shawn says. "We feel blessed beyond belief."

The Seeleys, along with their children, Zoey, Liam, and Lexi, prioritize serving others, an avocation they'll have more time to invest in with the increased financial stability of a donated HFOT home. "Not having a mortgage payment will free our family up financially to give more to causes we would like to support, including HFOT and our local church," says Shawn, who's currently a member of the church's facilities team.

A desire to serve others is something that Shawn, who was severely injured in Iraq in 2005, credits to his military service. "I loved being a part of something greater than myself and working as a team to accomplish a mission. Committing myself to serving others has stuck with me since my time in the Marines," he says.

One aspect of the adapted home that Shawn looks forward to most is the increased mobility he'll experience in the single-level, barrier-free environment.

"After being injured, and then later, having my right leg amputated below the knee, I found that navigating a home with narrow hallways and doorways and stairs became a challenge. In my HFOT home, the wider hallways and lack of stairs will not only allow me to move from room to room with ease, but also prevent further injuries," he says.

For Shawn, a safe and accessible bathroom is something he no longer takes for granted. "I never thought I'd be so excited about a bathroom. I'm looking forward to not having anxiety about slipping and falling when I take a shower or a bath," he says.

Mostly, the Seeley family can't wait for the time they'll spend together in their forever home. "We've always lived on a small postage stamp of a lot, and now we'll have space to unwind and relax with friends and family. This home is changing my family's future," Shawn says.



Shawn and his wife, Shelley.



A Bridge to the Future

Army PFC Heather Trujillo and her family received the keys to their HFOT home on October 6, 2018.

Army Private First Class Heather Trujillo was only twenty-three when she suffered a spinal cord injury while serving as a surgical technician in Afghanistan, leaving her partially paralyzed from the waist down. A recipient of an HFOT home in 2018, Heather is now in the final stages of completing her autobiography. "It's a book of stories about how I found my way to a brilliantly happy life in the midst of it all—with some help, of course," she says.

In her own words, Heather shares how her specially adapted custom home gave her a bridge to her future.

"Some may say that I am surrounded by just walls and timber, but those walls and that timber gave me back a whole new world. When I found Homes For Our Troops, I was struggling to find my place in a world that I could no longer navigate easily. I spent much of my time stuck in a bed, and through a small window, I daydreamed of a life where I could be less of a spectator. When HFOT told me that they were building a home for me, I started to fight harder, in a way, I think, to earn this incredible gift that I was being given.

Intense physical therapy helped me move better, and when I overdid things, I had a safe place to heal and start again. My children were afraid to go into the world, but they have since flown the coop, comforted with the knowledge that I am safe. My daughter is married and has two beautiful children. My son is engaged and about to leave for the Army. I met and married my best friend, graduated college with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and set about making another part of the dream come true.

Outside of the physical damages I brought home were the invisible ones, namely my ability to carry children. As much as I fought through all the surgeries—36 to be exact—over almost two decades, I lost 19 pregnancies. There was no getting around the environment my body had turned into—my body was no longer safe for our precious embryos. But my HFOT home gave me a way to conquer my mountain. The degree allowed me to find a remote position, and the



Heather with her newborn daughter, Ava.

financial stability of a mortgage-free home gave us the ability to move forward with expanding our family through surrogacy. This past July, our dreams came true when we welcomed sweet Ava, our miracle baby.

There are parts of my life I can never rebuild, but amazing people like you gave me the parts I needed to build a bridge."



RACING FOR INJURED VETERANS

ABC Supply Co., Inc. will **match all donations** made to HFOT up to **\$1 million total** from Thursday, May 1 through Saturday, May 31, 2025. Your donation during the month of May can go even further to improve the lives of severely injured Veterans.



DONATE NOW
HFOTUSA.ORG
866.787.6677



Team HFOT

2024 FUNDRAISING CHAMPIONS



1st

\$4,732*
Andrew Jenkins
Berlin Marathon



2nd

\$2,542*
Jamie Pschorr
Berlin Marathon



3rd

\$2,540*
Diane Santiago
Boston Marathon



4th

\$2,459*
Monte Miller
Houston Marathon



5th

\$2,451*
Colleen Farrell
Berlin Marathon



SCAN ME



* Amount over fundraising requirement

2024 TOP 10 FUNDRAISERS

1

\$430,008

**Rosedale Country Club
Golf Tournament**

Location: FL
Years Fundraised: 12



6

\$62,000

**Honoring Our
Wounded Military
Gala & Golf**

Location: TX
Years Fundraised: 5



2

\$342,415

**International Union of
Operating Engineers
Local No. 49
Golf Tournament**

Location: MN
Years Fundraised: 3



7

\$56,078

**Kappa Sigma
Location: USA
Years Fundraised: 5**



3

\$317,620

**Teamsters Local No. 120
Picnic & Golf**

Location: MN
Years Fundraised: 9



8

\$43,090

You, Me and The RV

Location: TX
Years Fundraised: 5



4

\$80,000

**Jake Tapper &
Dave Matthews Band
T-Shirt Sales**

Location: USA
Years Fundraised: 1



9

\$36,149

**Alpha Sigma Phi
Location: USA
Years Fundraised: 8**



5

\$69,656

**Lippert Flooring & Tile
Clay Shoot &
Golf Tournament**

Location: WI
Years Fundraised: 14



10

\$33,403

**Bridgewater
Fitness Center
Location: MA
Years Fundraised: 3**



FUNDRAISING HEROES

Decades of Dedication: HFOT's Community of Heroes



Kevin Alter (left) and family.



Dan Lamoureux at his 5 Miles Home Race Event.



Brad Graft, owner of Pirates Cove Mgmt.

Fundraising is the backbone of many nonprofit and charitable organizations, and behind every successful event stands a committed community of supporters. Homes For Our Troops has numerous fundraisers who have stood by us for over a decade, helping us continue our mission of Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives.

Meet a handful of HFOT's legendary and longest-running fundraisers:

Rosedale: For over a decade, Kathi Skelton and Deb Kehoe, along with their husbands, Jim and John, have hosted the Annual Rosedale Country Club Golf Tournament and Cocktail Reception in Bradenton, FL. Their 2013 inaugural event raised \$4,660, and they've since climbed to the top as our #1 fundraiser, raising more than \$400,000 in 2024 alone. These dedicated women have raised over \$1.5 million in donations for Homes For Our Troops.

Pirates Cove: Putting For Patriots: For nearly two decades, former U.S. Marine Captain Brad Graft, owner of Pirates Cove Management, has supported HFOT through the annual Putting For Patriots event, as well as other fundraising events. Brad and his team have raised over \$826,000 for multiple Veteran charities, with \$275,000 donated directly to Homes For Our Troops.

Lippert Flooring and Tile: For nearly 15 years, Les and Cindy Lippert have been giving back to HFOT through their annual Clay Shoot and Golf Tournament. Along with the Lippert Flooring and Tile family, they've raised over \$450,000 for Homes For Our Troops.

Alter Stickball Tournament: For 14 years, USMC Major Kevin Alter, and his family have hosted an annual Stickball Tournament in Rumson, NJ. Over the years, the tournament has brought friends and family together and raised over \$170,000 for HFOT's mission.

Northeast Race Management: For the past 13 years, Dan Lamoureux, owner of Northeast Race Management, has supported HFOT through his annual '5 Miles Home' run in Raynham, MA. His dedication and efforts have helped raise funds that total nearly \$100,000 for HFOT.

Teamsters Local Union No. 120: For 10 years, the Teamsters Local Union No. 120 group from Blaine, MN, has supported and advocated for Homes For Our Troops through their annual Golf Tournament and Picnic. To date, they've raised over \$1.6 million for HFOT's mission and Veterans.

In addition to our decade-long fundraisers, Homes For Our Troops would not be where we are today without the support of all of our passionate and enthusiastic fundraisers. Your dedication, generosity, and commitment help us further our mission of Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives.

Whether you're hosting a lemonade stand, a motorcycle run, a clay shoot, or a golf tournament, you are making a difference in the lives of our severely injured Veterans and their families.



Dan and Stephanie Fougere (center) with HFOT Veterans and staff.



HFOT home recipient Army SSG Luke Murphy.



GEN (USA, Ret) Richard Cody, Dan Fougere, Army SGT Chris Short and his wife, Holly.



Marine SSgt Liam Dwyer chats with a Mission Mingle guest.

MISSION

★ ★ ★ ★ mingle



This past Veterans Day, HFOT Board Director, Dan Fougere, and his wife, Stephanie, hosted a Mission Mingle at their home to celebrate the completion of HFOT's 400th specially adapted custom home, a significant milestone achieved in the year of HFOT's 20th anniversary.

HFOT Chairman of the Board GEN Richard Cody, USA (Ret) and HFOT President/CEO Tom Landwermyer, along with HFOT Veterans and staff, joined the Fougere family and more than forty guests for the event. Speakers included Dan Fougere, GEN Cody, and 2014 HFOT home recipient Army Staff Sergeant Luke Murphy, who spoke about living in his specially adapted custom home for over a decade and the positive impact the home has had on his family's life.

Attendees enjoyed cocktails and a strolling dinner at the casual event while having the opportunity to learn more about HFOT's mission from leadership and HFOT Veterans and their families.

Dan & Stephanie Fougere are proud supporters of Homes For Our Troops as a part of their family's commitment to giving back. They continually help spread the word about HFOT to assist more severely injured Veterans. "As a Board Member, I get to work with the awe-inspiring leaders who make this great organization the best in the world at providing adapted custom homes for severely injured Veterans, and I'm honored and humbled to be a part of this noble and worthy mission," says Dan.



What is a Mission Mingle?

A Mission Mingle is an opportunity for you to share our mission with friends, colleagues, and corporate contacts who can potentially support HFOT's mission. These events are designed to spread awareness while allowing guests to interact with HFOT leadership and staff, Veterans, corporate partners, and other donors and supporters.

How does a Mission Mingle help further HFOT's mission of Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives for severely injured post-9/11 Veterans?

Mission Mingles are social gatherings that create opportunities to forge connections that can result in a partnership or other philanthropic support for HFOT.

What does the event need to provide?

A Mission Mingle is hosted at a donor's home or a venue in their community. If you would like to learn more about hosting a Mission Mingle in your community, please contact HFOT Foundations and Donor Relations Manager Jaye Olmstead at (508) 967-9725 or jolmstead@hfotusa.org



Clockwise from top:
HFOT Executive Director Bill Ivey and staff with HFOT Corporate Partners ABC Supply Co., Inc., Rev-A-Shelf, and Broan-NuTone.

This past February, Homes For Our Troops attended the International Builders' Show (IBS), the nation's largest residential housing construction trade event. The three-day event allowed HFOT to focus on strategic relationships while gaining valuable insights to help further our mission of building and donating specially adapted custom homes for severely injured Veterans and their families.

With more than a decade of participation at the annual event, HFOT invites Veterans to attend IBS to celebrate milestones with our partners and provide direct feedback in partnership meetings. HFOT staff, including home recipient Army SGT Juan Arredondo, met with several HFOT Corporate Partners and supporters, including Platinum National Partner ABC Supply Co., Gold National Partners CertainTeed and OakCraft Elegant Cabinetry, Silver National Partner Progress Lighting, and National Partners Broan-NuTone, C.H.I. Overhead Doors, MITER Brands, Cosentino, Rev-A-Shelf, Rinnai, James Hardie, and Sherwin-Williams.

Every year, leading manufacturers, suppliers, and more than 70,000 construction and design professionals attend the event, and provide HFOT with best practices, strategies, and insider tips in a rapidly evolving industry.

"The International Builders' Show provides Homes For Our Troops the opportunity to connect with many of our Corporate Partners, that are the industry's top suppliers in the residential construction industry. This annual event is essential to our mission as we continue to Build Homes and Rebuild Lives for our nation's severely injured post-9/11 Veterans," says HFOT Executive Director Bill Ivey.

MAXIMIZE Your Impact!

Giving to Homes For Our Troops can also be an act of gratitude for yourself.

.....

Our **Smart Giving Suite** explains ways to maximize your giving options by donating through giving vehicles such as these:



Donor-Advised Funds

Donate and recommend grants.



Qualified Charitable Distribution

Transfer from your IRA directly, and optimize your taxable income.



Crypto

Modernize your giving with cryptocurrencies.

These gifts offer tax benefits while also supporting our mission of Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives.

By using the Smart Giving Suite, your gift directly supports the mission, ensuring your generosity significantly impacts our Veterans and their families.

Please contact Suzanne Shaheen, Planned Giving Officer, at 508-967-9041 or sshaheen@hfotusa.org with any questions.



Air Force MSgt Christopher Aguila
Mission Accomplished September 2023



Leave a Lasting Legacy

August is National Make a Will Month, an annual reminder of the importance of estate planning and the perfect time to consider creating or updating your will.

Here are several reasons to use this month to create a will and leave a lasting legacy:

- A will is a legally binding document to ensure the smooth transition of assets. A common misconception is that wills are only for the wealthy. Regardless of the size of your estate, a will ensures that your final wishes are executed appropriately.
- A will is a comprehensive strategy for determining how your possessions will be distributed, such as beneficiary designations for your life insurance and retirement accounts and assets, including investments, properties, financial accounts, and personal property.
- A will allows you to create a legacy of impact and showcase your commitment to causes you believe in through charitable giving. A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. Consider including Homes For Our Troops as part of your estate plan.

Contact HFOT Planned Giving Officer Suzanne Shaheen at sshaheen@hfotusa.org or 508-967-9041 for more information on how to designate Homes For Our Troops as a beneficiary in your Estate Planning.

*This information is not intended as tax, legal, or financial advice. Gift results vary. Consult an estate planning attorney for information specific to your situation. *



no one left behind

HFOT Chairman of the Board GEN Richard Cody, USA (Ret) delivers essential supplies in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

One of the most important aspects of HFOT's mission is our commitment to our Veterans. Our relationship doesn't end when we hand over the keys to a specially adapted custom home. HFOT's Veteran Support Team offers lifetime assistance to Veterans and their families, remaining in close contact, celebrating successes and achievements, and providing support and assistance to those dealing with challenges.

This commitment was never more crucial this past year as destructive wildfires blazed through Southern California and catastrophic Hurricanes Helene and Milton unleashed widespread destruction across numerous communities, leaving many of our Veterans and their families in harm's way.

The HFOT Veteran Support Team spent more than 300 hours communicating with Veterans, from reaching out proactively with safety and preparation tips to connecting those in need with critical resources and recovery assistance.

Our HFOT homes are designed to meet or exceed building requirements for each region, including a whole house

generator, reinforced windows in areas prone to hurricanes and severe weather, and a safe room constructed to provide protection from deadly winds and debris associated with extreme weather events.

Through open lines of communication, the HFOT Veteran Support Team learned that all Veterans and their families remained safe and sound in their homes!

In addition to the consistent and ongoing efforts of the Veteran Support Team, HFOT Chairman of the Board GEN Richard Cody, USA (Ret) earned the Ultimate Patriot Award presented by Fox Nation for his service to his country in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. General Cody flew his own helicopter to deliver supplies to the thousands of residents in the western North Carolina mountain region who were left stranded without food or water.

HFOT extends our deepest gratitude to General Cody for answering the call to leave no one behind and for his continued service to our country.



Members of the HFOT Veteran Support Team.

Save the Date!

7th Annual

HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

Day of Giving

JULY 14, 2025

Help us reach our goal of \$500,000
to Build Homes and Rebuild Lives.

For more information:
www.hfotusa.org/day-of-giving



Army SGT Matt Watters
Mission Accomplished February 2025



FOUNDATIONS

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