



Foundations

A Newsletter from Homes for Our Troops | www.homesforourtroops.org | WINTER 2012

Homes for the Holidays



ARMY SGT KENNETH HARKER
AND WIFE HEATHER HARKER
GET A FIRST GLANCE AT THEIR
NEW SPECIALLY ADAPTED
HOME DURING HFOT'S
"HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS"
CAMPAIGN ON DECEMBER 20,
2012

Dear Friends,

Thank you all for your kind and generous support for our severely injured veterans and their families we so proudly serve at Homes for Our Troops. Your contributions are making a significant difference in the lives of so many.

It is truly a privilege and honor to serve as president of this compassionate and dedicated organization. I am inspired daily by the team here in Massachusetts as well as by our veterans and their families, whose positive attitudes and courage are nothing short of uplifting.

As many of you know, Ken Preston recently stepped down as president following an outstanding year leading this great organization. Ken was respected and admired by all as he led by personal example, always taking the time to teach, coach, and mentor the team while setting the conditions for a positive workplace. Countless individuals were touched as Ken traveled the country advancing the mission of building **100 More...Homes for Our Troops** for truly deserving American patriots. Thanks, Ken for a job well done.

Our mission continues... that is to provide high-quality, specially adapted homes for our severely injured veterans. Last year we completed 20 new homes in 17 states and this year we are aggressively aiming for 41 new homes in 20 states. We could not do this without the help of thousands of supporters willing to step forward and make a commitment.

Thank you to all our volunteers, donors, and sponsors who unselfishly give their time, talent, and treasure and make a commitment to ensure our mission is successful. You are the foundation that enables us to continue to provide freedom and independence to our veterans and their families through the gift of a specially adapted home. Thank you for welcoming them into your communities with open arms and extending your heart and hands in friendship.

We are proud to share with you news of our new "Home Award Program," started last year. While currently in its infancy, we are working closely with JP Morgan Chase Bank and Bank of America, which are offering foreclosed properties free-of-charge to Homes for Our Troops. This has enabled us to reach a broader population of medically retired veterans who also served post-9/11 and to Gold Star families of service members who died in support of these operations. We are excited about this new program and look forward to working with the banks in providing more homes in 2013 and beyond.

"Building Homes, Rebuilding Lives"... It is more than just our motto... It is our commitment to those who have sacrificed so much to preserve our nation's freedom and independence. We want to return that favor. We see this as our obligation.

I am humbled and thankful for the privilege and honor to be part of this great team that serves our nation's finest. We have a lot more work ahead of us. We are up to the task!

Thank you for your support!

Timothy P. McHale
President, Homes for Our Troops



"Building Homes, Rebuilding Lives."

A portion of the production costs for Foundations were generously underwritten by Universal Wilde Printing Corporation. This publication is also available online. As stewards of the funds donated to advance the Homes for Our Troops mission – and in our continuing effort to keep administrative costs as minimal as possible – if you would prefer to receive this newsletter in electronic format, please contact us at info@homesforourtroops.org



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.



#12525

Showering Freedom and Independence

In 2007 while overseeing witnesses and detainees in Iraq, Army Sergeant Cameron Crouch plummeted nearly 70 feet after the building's rooftop suddenly collapsed. The injuries he sustained from the fall eventually required the amputation of both of Crouch's legs below the knee. Like hundreds of other veterans recovering from life-altering injuries, Crouch soon found his living spaces confining; he also became increasingly frustrated and overwhelmed trying to readjust to the tasks of everyday living. One of the biggest encumbrances during his recovery, Crouch recalls, was taking a shower: "In order to take a shower, I would have to bring in the clothes I was going to change into and try and set them far enough away so they wouldn't get wet. But that didn't always work out according to plan-I have walked out after my shower with wet clothes on more than once. Then, I would start to get undressed. I had to sit on the shower chair to take off my prosthetic legs, and then try to balance myself so I didn't fall off the shower chair. Next, I would take my shower and then try to dry off all while sitting down.

After that, I would try and change the pants on my legs while balancing on the shower chair, and then put on my fresh clothes, which weren't always dry. Then I would put my legs back on, stand up and go."

It probably took you all of a minute to read that. It used to take Crouch 90 minutes to do it.

That was before 2010 when Homes for Our Troops gave him a new specially adapted home-one equipped with his own handicapped accessible "dream" master bathroom. Now when he showers, says Crouch, "I've cut the time in half and I don't have nearly the same level of difficulty that I did when I couldn't use my wheelchair."

And because of the bathroom's spacious design, which includes a roll-in shower, he's able to wheel in and out easily and safely. But Crouch's freedom and accessibility isn't limited to the bathroom. "The living room, kitchen and dining room are all right together and just flow into one another so I don't have to fight around corners or go through small doorways," he says. That means just about every inch of the home is excuse proof, which works out great when wife Christy needs help with household chores. Jokes Crouch, "The lowered countertops in the kitchen allow me to burn a few meals now and then when Christy is swamped with work and needs me to cook dinner, or help with doing dishes or whatever." The pull-down cabinets there have been a huge plus as well since he doesn't ever have to strain to reach for kitchen item.

"This house has been a blessing in so many ways and has made life so much easier," says Crouch. "We are very thankful and appreciative and just so happy to be a part of the HFOT family."



Best and Brightest

Josh Bouchard of Granby, Massachusetts, received the keys to his specially adapted home on January 12. Like Cameron, Josh is grateful for the adaptations in his master bathroom. Newer homes include fixtures generously provided by Kohler, a national sponsor now in the second of a three year commitment to Homes for Our Troops.



In 2003, Army Sergeant Peter Damon lost his left wrist and his right arm above the elbow in an accident while performing maintenance on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in Iraq. In the months following his recovery, Damon, originally right-handed, eventually taught himself to paint using his left prosthesis with some incredible results. We talked to him about his journey as an injured veteran and the role his artwork has played in his healing.

When did you first become involved in painting?

I've always had an interest in art. I would draw a lot as a child. I guess I was pretty good at drawing, but my artwork lacked depth. I learned the basics from art-instruction books and from studying the paintings of other artists that I admire. As I got older, my interest in drawing waned and I became more interested in music (playing guitar and writing songs, etc) as a creative outlet. I became interested again in drawing and teaching myself to draw better when I deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in 2003. I needed an activity to keep my mind occupied during down time, something to ward off home-sickness. I had my wife mail me art supplies from back home and I even had built myself a little drafting table to draw on and brought it back to my hooch. I was getting a lot better at it and I even started entertaining the idea of becoming a tattoo ("flash") artist when I got home.

GETTING TO THE ART OF THE MATTER

SGT Peter Damon

How did you develop your talent after your injury?

While recovering at Walter Reed, the thought occurred to me that I might still be able to draw and though my first attempts were shaky, there was definitely potential. I would visit art museums in the DC area. I also started to become more interested in fine art rather than the graphic style tattoo flash I was doing. I immersed myself in it and started to become more interested in painting. When I finally returned home from Walter Reed I taught myself to paint with watercolor, pastel, and eventually, oils. I've also taken workshops from local artists that I like.

"I am motivated by a desire to be a good artist, not just the guy who paints with no arms."

-Former SGT Peter Damon

How has your art helped you in the healing process?

After losing my arms in Iraq, I obviously had a lot of things to be concerned about, work, making a living, and getting around in general. However, I was also very down about losing my re-found passion for drawing. Art became a major source of therapy for me. It had a great effect on my self-esteem to have a skill that not all able-bodied people have.

What motivates you to begin a painting? To finish a painting?

I am motivated by a desire to be a good artist, not just the guy who paints with no arms. I try to paint on a regular basis-it doesn't have anything to do with whatever mood I'm in.

Are you often a perfectionist with your painting?

I don't think I'm a perfectionist. Art is subjective. My idea of perfection may not be someone else's version of perfection. My tastes in art may differ from others. So what's the point in being perfect? What's important to me is to make some sort of emotional connection with a viewer. Not all viewers, just a viewer.

We all have our own ideas of what makes good art and they differ vastly. For example, some people admire a very detailed photo-realistic style of painting. I don't particularly care for that style. I prefer to see a more loose, expressive, spontaneous style. Some people admire Picasso. They say he's a genius. I myself don't particularly care for Picasso's cubist style.

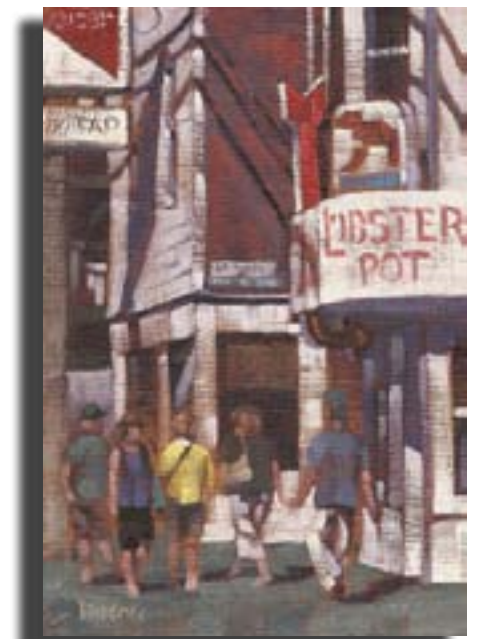
How often do you scratch a project?

There are times, usually in the beginning stages, when a painting doesn't seem to have the right "flow" or "harmony" that I like to see. And during those times I may scrap the idea and start anew. But my main goal is not purely a realistic representation of subject matter. Sometimes, often most of the time, the main goal in my painting is to create a mood or feeling through a representation of many things- light, shadow, color, the relationship of shapes, etc. To me, a painting should be expressive. It should not look like a photograph. We have cameras for that.



In October 2005, SGT Peter Damon received the keys to a mortgage-free and specially adapted home in Middleboro, Mass., becoming Homes for Our Troop's very first home recipient. He is one of over 120 severely injured veterans helped by HFOT who "pay it forward" by helping and inspiring others in their communities every day. He is married and has two children.

To see more of SGT Damon's Art, check out <http://sgtdamonsart.blogspot.com>



CLASS C T



Preschool Classroom Honors Injured Veteran, Donates over \$2,500 to HFOT

Submitted by Christine Baca, Lake Elsinore California

Every year, we give our students the opportunity to give thanks for the many blessings they have in their lives and to pay that forward by giving back to our community. For the 2012 holiday season, we chose to focus our efforts on Wallace Fanene, a former Army E6 Staff Sergeant who lost both his arm and leg in Kirkuk, Iraq, on September 8, 2007. He is also one of the dads at our preschool.

Our small class of 12 three and four-year old children chose to raise money to help Homes for Our Troops build a specially adapted home to accommodate Wallace's physical needs. We received personal donations from each of our classroom families and some of the kids went a step further and hosted bake sales, a coin drive, and challenged members of their extended families and the community to match the monetary donations they received. We even received a donation from the Police Association of Fontana.

At our preschool's annual feast on November 21, we were able to present the Fanene family with a total of \$2,620.77! The classroom also sang songs to honor Wallace and his service to our country. After the four-year-olds finished I made an announcement letting Wallace and wife Scarlet know that this was a feast in dedication to him and a fundraiser that was done secretly because of our love and admiration for what he has done for our country.

Of course we were all emotional and Wallace and Scarlet were speechless. Then the three-year-olds in the classroom, including the Fanene's son Lokepa, took the stage and performed "My Country 'Tis of Thee" using hand movements. At the end of their performance, the children all got up along with the parents to give him a standing ovation while waiving their flags. It was an amazing day.



GET INVOLVED!

You're never too young to help Homes for Our Troops! From bake sales and car washes to galas and golf tournaments, there are plenty of ways to raise funds and awareness for our mission. Visit homesforourtroops.org/Fundraiser to find out how your school, sports team, church, or civic organization can hold an independent fundraiser and make a difference in the lives of our nation's most severely injured veterans.

Our Independent Fundraisers Make It Possible

With only one office based in Taunton, Mass., Homes for Our Troops relies on the efforts of individuals and teams around the country to organize fundraising events and activities to increase HFOT's donations. In 2012, our top independent fundraisers, listed below, collectively raised nearly \$1 million for Homes for Our Troops. On behalf of the severely injured veterans we serve, we'd like to thank these supporters for making a difference and advancing our cause.

Houston Sporting Clays Tournament & Executive Dinner

The fifth annual Houston Sporting Clays Tournament featured an Executive Dinner and Shoot, two days of clay shooting, raffles, prizes, and festivities, including a flag retirement ceremony and the chance to ride in a Huey Helicopter.
Total Raised: \$397,646



WSMC Wine Tasting & Auction

Hosted by CMG Foundation, the event kicked off a three-day industry conference for mortgage banking professionals. Proceeds from sponsorships, ticket sales, and auction bids were donated to build projects for Sgt Josh Sweeney and SSG Wallace Fanene.
Total Raised: \$100,000



Swings for Soldiers Golf Classic

NFL player Jacob Tamme and his wife Allison hosted their third annual golf classic to help raise funds for SGT Kenneth Harker's specially adapted home in Indiana.
Total Raised: \$95,611.10



Texas Roadhouse Bike Run

Texas Roadhouse hosted over 800 motorcycles at the ninth annual bike run, simultaneously held in New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Texas Roadhouse locations across New England raised funds through in-store promotions and by selling raffle tickets for a Harley-Davidson FLHX Street Glide.
Total Raised: \$70,088.22



Dallas Fort Worth Sporting Clays Event

The Dallas Fort Worth Volunteer Network hosted its third annual sporting clays event to help raise funds and awareness for the Homes for Our Troops' mission.
Total Raised: \$58,887.22



Wargaming.net's World of Thanks Fundraiser

Wargaming.net recognized National Military Appreciation Month by donating a portion of the proceeds from their May sales to four veterans' organizations, including Homes for Our Troops.
Total Raised: \$51,442.33

Spartan Race

Spartan Race organizers continued their support of Homes for Our Troops by donating a portion of the proceeds from registration fees for their infamously zany race course events held across the country.
Total Raised: \$34,538.50

Red, White & USABlueBook Promotion

USABlueBook has helped raise awareness for Homes for Our Troops by sharing our mission with their customers and donating a portion of their proceeds from their July Red, White & USABlueBook promotion. Total Raised: \$33,768

Run for the Troops 5K

Past Team HFOT member Bill Pennington coordinated his third annual Run for the Troops in Andover, Mass. A dinner and auction were held the night before the race and nearly 1,300 racers helped raise funds for Sgt. Joshua Bouchard's new specially adapted home in Granby, Mass.
Total Raised: \$28,013

Douglas County Colorado Kids for Our Troops & Douglas County Sheriff's Office

Some of their activities included holding bake sales, selling bracelets, and collecting donations in exchange for wearing jeans to work or a hat to school for a day. Efforts supported CPL Nick Orchowski's home in Colorado.
Total Raised: \$27,234.82

Artisan Group's Counters for a Cause

Artisan Group hosted their second annual Counters for a Cause event, and donated a portion of the proceeds from their national yard sale to Homes for Our Troops.
Total Raised: \$26,739.88

Orlando Nam Knights Fundraiser

This annual fundraiser for Homes for Our Troops raised funds for GySgt John Hayes' home. The event featured a delicious three-course meal, live music, and an auction, as well as an appearance by Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, SFC Sammy L. Davis.
Total Raised: \$25,150

TEAM HFOT Gets It Done!

Last October, several HFOT staff members went the extra mile and participated in the following events to raise funds for our severely injured veterans:

Army Ten-Miler: 24 team members, including seven HFOT employees raised \$22,328.

Marine Corps Marathon: 78 team members, including three HFOT employees raised \$75,625.

Inspired to help Homes for Our Troops in 2013? No fundraiser is too small! From lemonade stands to yard sales, we welcome your school, group, club to get involved and help our mission. Contact our Independent Fundraising Department at ifundraising@homesforourtroops.org or call 508-823-3300.

Homes for the Holidays

Between December 15 and December 22, Homes for Our Troops delivered new specially adapted homes to seven veterans in six states, marking its Homes for the Holidays celebration. Upward of 2000 attendees, including military dignitaries, congressmen, and other distinguished representatives came to witness the joyous occasion of HFOT presenting keys to these seven respective home recipients:

LCpl MICHAEL MARTINEZ
United States Marine Corps
12/15 PURCELLVILLE, VA



Cpt. PATRICK GLAVEY
United States Marine Corps
12/16 BRIGHTON, CO



LCpl PAUL SCHAUS
United States Marine Corps
12/18 NO. TONAWANDA, NY



SSG BRIAN SCHAR
United States Army
12/15 ELIZABETH, CO



SGT KENNETH HARKER
United States Army
12/20 EVANSVILLE, IN



Cpl JUSTIN MCLLOUD
United States Marine Corps
12/22 FESTUS, MO



SSG EARL GRANVILLE
United States Army
12/22 SCOTT TOWNSHIP, PA



Welcome home to all of our veterans and their families; may these homes bring you comfort and joy for a lifetime.

To read more about these heroes and the Homes for the Holiday celebration, visit homesforourtroops.org/homesholiday.

SPONSORS & SUPPORT

Through the generosity of businesses ranging from family-owned local enterprises to some of the world's largest corporations, Homes for Our Troops is able to secure funding to build specially adapted homes for severely injured veterans throughout the country. We are proud to have financial support from the following corporate partners to assist us in restoring freedom and independence to our nation's most deserving heroes.

BAE Systems is a global defense and security company with approximately 100,000 employees worldwide. The company delivers a full range of products and services for air, land, and forces, as well as advanced electronics, security, information technology solutions, and support services. BAE has committed to support Homes for Our Troops through its 100 MORE . . . Homes for Our Troops campaign.



L-3 Communications is proud to support Homes for Our Troops as a National Sponsor. As a top ten defense contractor in the world, the company's products and services play a critical role in the protection and defense of freedoms worldwide. L-3 has pledged \$1million dollars over the next three years to support the HFOT Mission.

In 2012, Veterans United Foundation entered into a \$500,000 three-year commitment with Homes for Our Troops to help build 100 homes nationwide. Veterans United Foundation is committed to enhancing the lives of veterans and military families nationwide by supporting nonprofit organizations that strengthen local communities and honor the sacrifices of those who served. The company and its employees have pledged and donated more than \$3.5 million since Veterans United Foundation's creation in November 2011. The partnership with Homes for Our Troops allows Veterans United Home Loans to do what it does best, help those who serve find a place to call home. Learn more at VeteransUnited.com.



Kohler and Sterling has made a commitment to our 100 MORE campaign, and their ADA compliant, Universal Design product lines will be installed in all Homes for Our Troops homes through 2014.



Mastic Home Exteriors and its network of distributors and trade professionals are proud to support Home For Our Troops with its "Red, White & Home" campaign. In 2013, they will make financial and product donations to provide low-maintenance, premium vinyl siding, soffit and trim. Their support for Homes For Our Troops began in 2007.



Partner with Us!



Volvo Rents, the worldwide provider of small-to-medium sized construction equipment, has partnered with Homes for Our Troops with their "Color for a Cause" campaign to aid in the construction of our homes across the country. Volvo Rents will provide construction equipment and financial support to many of the home build locations.



Volvo Rents

Armstrong Flooring, as the exclusive flooring supplier to HFOT, will donate floors for approximately 30 homes to be built across the country in 2013. A portion of the sales from the company's new American Scrape collection will be dedicated to supporting this effort. American Scrape features richly textured hardwood floors, inspired by the beauty of the American landscape, and each floor is made in the USA.

For more information on how you can align your company with Homes for Our Troops to build awareness for your brand while supporting HFOT's mission, contact

www.homesforourtroops.org Annemarie Amoedo, Corporate Sponsorship Manager at Homes for Our Troops at (508) 823-3300 EXT 219.

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Running for a Reason

Team HFOT is running in the Marine Corps Historic Half (May 19) and Marine Corps Marathon (October 27) this year! We are currently accepting registrations for runners to participate in these events!

All runners must commit to raising at least \$500 to help support our mission of building specially adapted homes for our severely injured veterans. Please visit www.homesfortroops.org/historichalf2013 or www.homesfortroops.org/MCM13 to register now!

Members of the Homes for Our Troops Marine Corps Marathon team cruise through their 26.2 mile trek.

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