



Foundations

www.homesforourtroops.org | A Newsletter from Homes for Our Troops | **VETERANS DAY 2009**

Homes for Our Troops thanks Veterans of past and present wars. For those who have served, we say, "Thank You" and "Welcome Home." We know freedom is not free and we thank those who serve today for the sacrifices they are making on our behalf. May you always know you are loved and appreciated.

SPOTLIGHT: Thanks to Our Milwaukee Firefighters



Since Memorial Day weekend 2009, Milwaukee Firefighters have sold 6,500 red t-shirts and raised approximately \$37,000 dollars on behalf of Homes for Our Troops to build homes like the one in Eagle, WI being built for SPC Jason Schulz, a HFOT Veteran who lost both his legs in Iraq in 2007 (www.homesforourtroops.org/schulz).

Red Shirt Fridays is a nationwide effort to bring attention to and show support for our Servicemen and Servicewomen. Milwaukee Firefighters sell the red t-shirts for just \$10 at 5 Milwaukee fire stations and online at www.paulconwayshields.com (go to Featured Products on the home page). Their effort speaks volumes about community support and how a small group of individuals can make a huge difference. *Homes for Our Troops thanks our Milwaukee Firefighters for their service and for inspiring others to support our troops!*

4th Annual Gala



Our 4th Annual Gala will take place on March 6, 2010 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place. Please join us for a great night of dinner, live and silent auctions, live entertainment, and lots of fun! We hope to raise enough money to take another deserving Veteran off of our waiting list. **BUY YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT www.homesforourtroops.org/gala**

Technology Corner

We want to connect with you!

Join us on the websites below and you'll get the latest news, meet people with similar interests, watch videos and network together to help injured Veterans. *Join the conversation!*

Facebook:

<http://homesforourtroops.org/Facebook>

Facebook Causes:

<http://homesforourtroops.org/Causes>

Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/HomesForOurTrps>

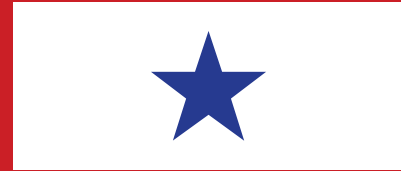
YouTube:

<http://youtube.com/homesforourtroops>

Flickr:

<http://flickr.com/hfot>

Blue Star Mothers PRESIDENTIAL PROJECT



Homes for Our Troops is chosen as the Blue Star Mothers of America President's Project!

After hearing John Gonsalves, HFOT's President and Founder, speak at the Blue Star Mothers of America National Convention in Boise, Idaho, BSMA National President, Wendy Hoffman of Grand Junction, CO made the decision to name Homes for Our Troops as her President's Project. Founded in Flint, Michigan in 1942, the Blue Star Mothers Organization now has more than 5,000 members and over 200 chapters across the country. Being chosen as the President's Project means that Homes for Our Troops will have "Mom" watching out for her children across the country as they help spread the HFOT mission, allowing more severely injured American heroes to live in barrier-free homes, thereby regaining much of their freedom and independence.

Mr. Gonsalves shared the following thoughts after speaking to those in attendance: "It was an honor and a pleasure to meet the courageous mothers of our military heroes. Their energy was palpable as they offered to volunteer to support our mission. I know with The Blue Star Mothers assistance, we will be able to ensure that each of our Veterans' projects have the care and attention they deserve. Their volunteerism and service to our military members and their families is commendable."

Homes for Our Troops is honored to be chosen for this tremendous opportunity!

Visit the national Blue Star Mothers website at www.bluestarmothers.org

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OUR 6TH ANNUAL
MOTORCYCLE RIDE
AUGUST 23, 2009



www.homesforourtroops.org



Thank you
Kirsten Sands
& the TRH Crew!



Thank you
Steve Talarico
& the H-D Crew!

OVER 500 MOTORCYCLES RALLIED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE THIS SUMMER TO SUPPORT HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS! We had a Texas-sized breakfast at Nashua Texas Roadhouse before the ride. Manchester Harley Davidson was the host for the after party where we had a Texas-sized barbeque masterfully cooked by Texas Roadhouse while we listened to the Mill City Rockers.

WE RODE IN MEMORY OF SGT MARK R. ECKER II

Thank you to all our sponsors including the Mill City Rockers, Metrowest Photo, Gate City H.O.G. Chapter #1533 and Manchester H.O.G. Chapter #1294. Thank you riders!



Thank you
WAAF
Broadcasters!



Green Building Update

Fall colors are starting to appear here in New England; however across the United States Homes for Our Troops continues to see green. Homes for Our Troops turned over another Energy Star home built by Rainey Homes in Herriman, Utah for SPC Bryant Jacobs.

We also conducted our first Green Volunteer Day where participants painted the Cpl Gonzalez home with Low VOC paint from Benjamin Moore and installing an environmentally friendly wall covering in the wet areas of the home. American Clay Earth Plaster is a practical, environmentally friendly alternative to other wall coverings. Many things in nature hold a negative charge, and humans living close to nature are accustomed to being surrounded by a negative charge in the air, or Negative Ions. These ions are proven to produce positive biochemical reactions in humans. A negative charge in a space acts on our capacity to absorb and utilize oxygen, causing us to have more energy and feel invigorated. This provides new meaning to a refreshing shower and Homes for Our Troops is happy to continue to introduce environmentally sound products that improve the health of the homes that we build.



Chris Murphy from coolgreenstuff.com applies clay.

New 2009 Employees

Homes for Our Troops has grown in leaps and bounds thanks to your continued support. Since January 2009, we have brought on board new full-time HFOT employees to help us secure support for our mission and to enable us to build as many homes as possible for our Veterans in need. Listed in order of how they appear below:

Rob O'Neill Assistant Project Manager
Tom Barclay Project Manager
David Brandon..... Land Aquisition Specialist
Ryan Gugliotta..... Assistant Project Manager
Amber Hewes Project Facilitator
Jason Earls..... Assistant Project Manager
Margaret Ruta Executive Assistant
Stephen Keohane..... Director of Development
Cara Yanosick Administrative Assistant
Christina Lewis Graphic Designer
Karen Bracchi Executive Assistant

WELCOME ABOARD HFOT EMPLOYEES!



Spotlight: HFOT Volunteers

DAN HIGGINS

Michigan Fundraiser Leader

Dan hosted the first fundraiser ever held to benefit Homes for Our Troops in 2004.

Dan, along with his wife Vicki, daughter Danni and many dedicated volunteers, has held his annual event for 6 years, raising nearly \$100,000, and through spreading the word about HFOT and representing us at events, he has inspired tens of thousands more in grants and donations made to HFOT.

He is currently rallying Michigan communities to donate labor and materials for the home we are building for SPC Alex Knapp.

It is with great admiration and respect that we thank Dan for all of his support. Thank you Dan!



KEVIN BOWNES

Kevin Bownes has been volunteering with Homes for Our Troops since March. In every community where we are building a home, Kevin has reached out in a grass roots effort to enlist Street Team members who help spread the word about Homes for Our Troops. Kevin has done a great job in helping to raise awareness for Homes for Our Troops on a national scale.

Thank you Kevin!



BUILDING HOMES, REBUILDING LIVES: COMPLETED BUILD BRIGADES

SGT CHASE MATTHEWS



EDDYVILLE, KENTUCKY
July 28, 29 & 30, 2009

SPC BRETT WOLF



WEATHERFORD, TEXAS
August 3, 4, & 5, 2009

SSG MIKE MINARD



UNION BEACH, NEW JERSEY
August 17, 18, & 19, 2009

SGT CAMERON CROUCH



MAHOMET, ILLINOIS
August 18, 19 & 20, 2009

SGT PETER ROONEY



WORTHINGTON, MA
August 19, 20 & 21, 2009

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



UPCOMING BUILD BRIGADES

SSG MAURICE CRAFT
FAYETTEVILLE, NC

SPC ALEX KNAPP
MACOMB, MI

SFC ROY MITCHELL
CARTHAGE, NY

SPC JASON M. SCHULZ
EAGLE, WI

Watch our website and sign up for updates on these projects or volunteer for a Build Brigade.

Upcoming Key Presentations

CPL VISNU GONZALEZ
HILLSDALE, NJ

CPL EVAN MORGAN
BAKERSFIELD, CA

SGT TRAVIS WOOD
CEDAR CITY, UT

SPC Brett Wolf's Key Presentation

This project start to finish was completed in a HFOT record of 60 days!



Sandlin Custom Homes led by Rob Wetli and his dedicated team of trademen and hundreds of volunteers delivered a beautiful home to SPC Brett Wolf and his wife Kelly on October 3rd. Founder John Gonsalves, said, "As we present the keys to SPC Brett Wolf this project is about service, sacrifice and community...we salute and thank Rob Wetli from Sandlin Custom Homes and all of the professional tradespeople ...and we are grateful to the community of



Weathersford, TX for their support." The Wolf home is the 4th Texas home and 44th home nationwide built by HFOT.



More Veterans Who Received Their Keys:



SPC REAS AXTELL
Lubbock, Texas (KC: August 29)



SPC BRYANT JACOBS
Salt Lake City, Utah (KC: July 18)



PFC DARRYL WALLACE
Harlem, Georgia (KC: August 7)

Spotlight: Harvey Building Products

We are happy to announce that in early 2009, Harvey Building Products became a sponsor of Homes for Our Troops. This company pledged to donate its premium Tribute windows to five homes we are building in the Harvey Building Products trading area.

The recipients of these premium windows in New Jersey are CPL VISNU GONZALES and SSG MIKE MINARD, in Massachusetts are SGT MICHAEL DOWNING and SGT PETER ROONEY, in New York is SFC ROY MITCHELL.

"We are excited to be working with Harvey Building Products this year. Our organization relies on companies like Harvey that understand the importance of giving back in their communities and we are proud to be able to provide our veterans with their high quality, locally made windows for their homes." John Gonsalves, President and Founder of Homes for Our Troops.



HARVEY
BUILDING PRODUCTS



Fisher House Update



Homes for Our Troops is proud to support the construction of a new Fisher House in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, serving a great need of temporary shelter for our injured Veterans and their families. The outside of the W. Roxbury home is just about done, the landscaping is going in, the road is being tarred and the lawn will be installed as soon as the exterior lighting goes in. The inside is about 65% complete overall. The appliances for the home will be installed during this month.

The "Grand Opening" is still scheduled for the Spring though families may be living there sooner.

www.fisherhouseboston.org



Upcoming Fundraisers & Events to Benefit Homes for Our Troops

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

ALABAMA

Remembrance Dance (*remembrancedance*)
Fultondale, AL
Saturday, NOVEMBER 14, 2009

COLORADO

All Colorado Beer Festival
First Session 12:00 - 4:30 p.m.;
Second Session 5:30 - 10:00 p.m.
Location: Mr. Briggs Event Center
(<http://www.allcoloradobeerfestival.org>)
Enter TROOPS when purchasing tickets.
Colorado Springs, CO
Saturday, NOVEMBER 7, 2009

FLORIDA

Ducks in a Row Race (*ducks*)
Deerbeach, FL
Sunday, DECEMBER 6, 2009

ILLINOIS

3rd Annual Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk
(*turkeytrot09*)
Champaign, IL
Saturday, NOVEMBER 7, 2009 (Arrive 8:30 a.m.)

KENTUCKY

Silent/Live Auction Fundraiser (*hebron*)
Hebron, KY
Friday, NOVEMBER 6, 2009

MASSACHUSETTS

HFOT 1st Annual Victoria L. Mosier
Memorial 5 Mile Run (*vlm*)
Raynham, MA
Sunday, NOVEMBER 8, 2009

TUMODA Spa for Beauty and Wellness is
offering their services with all proceeds
going to Homes for Our Troops (*tumoda*)
Worcester, MA
Monday, NOVEMBER 9, 2009

Grand Prize Raffle (*maceyaffle*)
East Longmeadow, MA
Wednesday, NOVEMBER 11, 2009

Pre-Superbowl Bash (*presuperbowlbash*)
Dorchester, MA
Saturday, JANUARY 30, 2009

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Brookstone Park and eWomen Network
Foundation will provide dinner and
entertainment for local Veterans (*thankavet*)
Derry, NH
Wednesday, NOVEMBER 11, 2009

NEW JERSEY

Join our 2009 Kids for Our Troops Award
Winner Kristin Kosch while she supports HFOT
at the Allendale Bar & Grill for an all-day event.
(*allendale*)
Allendale, NJ
Wednesday, NOVEMBER 11, 2009

TEXAS

Rally for an Injured Soldier, PO2 Anthony
Thompson (*anthonyveteransdayrally*)
Kingwood, TX
Saturday, NOVEMBER 14, 2009

3rd Annual Sporting Clays Event (*hou*)
Houston, TX
Friday and Saturday, JANUARY 29 & 30, 2010

Thank you to all our fundraisers! We are grateful & appreciate all you do to raise funds for HFOT Veterans!

DONATE NOW USING THE ENCLOSED SLIP AND ENVELOPE OR
DONATE ONLINE at: www.homesforourtroops.org/donate
Donations are tax-deductible and with our low 7 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.