

# Serving America's Military Families

Annual Report 2016



# **Trusted and Respected**



"It (Operation Homefront's Critical Assistance Program) helped us through a really rough patch, ... when we thought we were going to have to move out of our house, ... So the long term impact was huge because it came at the right time when we couldn't really see a way out of our situation." - The Plaza Family



# **Impact Since Program Inception**

### RELIEF



Provided more than **\$20 million** in critical financial assistance, fulfilling over 35,000 requests from more than 14,000 military families across the U.S.

Most common forms of assistance requested by military families



Provided more than **4,300 months** of rent-free housing to military families

Utilities

Food

**Rent/Mortgage** 

Housed nearly 500 families in transitional housing, saving them **\$4.7 million** in rent and utilities

**45 apartment units** in three OH Villages: San Diego, CA; San Antonio, TX; and Gaithersburg, MD

### **RECURRING FAMILY SUPPORT**



Distributed over **250,000** backpacks filled with school supplies to military children

Served nearly 70,000 military families, impacting over **300,000** military family members with holiday meals





Honored nearly **8,000** military spouses at Homefront Celebrations

Celebrated and supported nearly **16,000** new and expectant parents at Star-Spangled Baby showers



#### RESILIENCY

Placed nearly 600 families in mortgage-free homes

Provided more than **\$48 million** in deeded value to military families





Helped over **3,200** Hearts of Valor caregivers through more than **60** support groups across the country "Anything that you're in need of – physically, emotionally – Operation Homefront is there for you. Don't be afraid to ask for help when it's needed. ...To have such a good nonprofit helping us out, that is so amazing." -The Weber Family

# **Letters from Leadership**



Since our founding in 2002, Operation Homefront has worked to serve America's military families in their time of need because they have worked tirelessly to serve all of us in our nation's time of need. It takes a total team effort, and we rely on our family of partners, donors and volunteers to help us deliver **Relief** through our critical financial assistance and temporary housing programs, **Resiliency** through our permanent housing and caregiver programs, and **Recurring Support** through a variety

of seasonally focused and specialty family programs.

I'm extremely proud of what our extended family has done to meet the ongoing needs of military families, and to help ensure that their short-term financial struggles do not become a series of chronic issues that derails their hopes for a brighter future. Looking back over many years, our Critical Assistance Program has provided over \$20 million in financial aid, fulfilling more than 35,000 requests; our Transitional Housing program has provided rent-free temporary housing to nearly 500 families of wounded service members, saving them \$4.7 million in rent and utilities; our Homes on the Homefront program has matched nearly 600 military families with mortgage-free homes, and provided well over \$48 million in deeded value; our Back-to-School Brigade has delivered over a quarter million backpacks to military kids; and our Holiday Meals for Military program has served nearly 70,000 military families impacting over 300,000 individual family members.

We are fortunate to know, as our survey results clearly show, we are changing lives and this knowledge allows us to remain totally focused on serving our military families. They have given us their very best and we remain committed to doing our very best to help them thrive in the communities — our communities — they have worked so hard to protect.

With gratitude,

\$ 9R\$

John I. Pray, Jr., President & Chief Executive Officer, Operation Homefront



On behalf of our board of directors, I am very proud of all the Operation Homefront family has been able to do to serve America's military families this past year, as we seek to help this very special and deserving group of our fellow citizens do so much more than struggle to get by in the communities they have worked so hard to protect. In 2016, we fulfilled over 6,000 requests for financial help and

provided over \$3.7 million in support — an average of \$617 per request. We placed 85 families in mortgage-free homes and deeded another 121 homes, which provided these families with over \$17 million in home equity. We helped over 100 military families through our rent-free transitional housing, saving them nearly \$700,000 in rent and utilities.

In my role as board chair for the past two years, I've been honored to be able to serve our military families in their time of need and to thank them for serving all of us in our nation's time of need. I am thrilled to be turning the chairmanship over to retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold, who has done so much personally to serve our country. In closing, I would like to recognize my fellow directors and the entire Operation Homefront team for their continued exceptional work on behalf of our military families.

Sincerely,

Catherine Blades, Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications, AFLAC, Inc.



Operation Homefront began as an informal network of military spouses providing mutual support during the deployments following the tragedy we all know as "9/11." Fifteen years later, that spirit is carried forward by a dedicated team of talented staff members and caring volunteers who join together to serve those who have done so much to serve all of us.

I believe that providing the stability our military families need and so richly deserve is as important today as it has ever been. There will be new caregivers who will join our Hearts of Valor program, families who unexpectedly need our critical financial assistance, those who'll use our transitional or permanent housing opportunities as they prepare to transition back to their civilian communities, and military kids who need the right school supplies to further their success in school. They will continue to turn to us and I'm proud to say we'll be there for them.

As the incoming board chair, I'm especially honored to be part of an organization consistently recognized for superior performance by leading independent charity rating services. As trusted stewards of a limited donor dollar, the Operation Homefront team continues to explore new ways to accomplish our mission to build strong, stable, and secure military families. By working together toward this common goal, we will further the legacy Catherine Blades established during her tenure and continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our troops and their families.

Many Thanks, B- Cult

Lt Gen Brian A. Arnold, USAF, Ret.

# Who We Are

**History** • Operation Homefront, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was formed in February 2002 to support the families of deployed service members immediately following 9/11. Headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, and in Arlington, Virginia, Operation Homefront currently provides supportive programs and services to military families across the nation with 21 locations serving all 50 states.

**Mission** ■ Build strong, stable, and secure military families so they can thrive – not simply struggle to get by – in the communities they have worked so hard to protect.

**Vision** Through widespread public support and a collaborative team of exceptional staff and volunteers, we aspire to become the **provider of choice** for military families needing short-term relief, long-term resiliency and recurring family support programs and services.

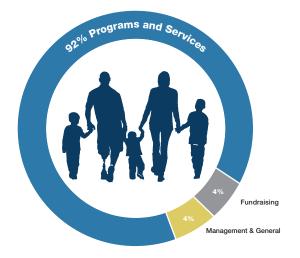
**Core Values** • Our core values serve as fundamental principles that govern our behavior and guide our decision making.

- Do What's Right Our actions are in the best interest of the military families we seek to serve
- Respect Others Provide a collaborative, trust-based environment that values dignity and every individual's contribution to our collective success
- Perform With Excellence Our troops and their families give their very best in their service to our country and have earned our very best in return
- Gratitude We appreciate those who serve <u>and</u> all who support our critical work

**Programs & Services** • Operation Homefront helps military families through difficult periods by providing a variety of programs designed to ensure that short-term needs don't turn into chronic long-term struggles. Our programs focus on:

- Relief through financial assistance and transitional housing programs
- Resiliency through permanent housing and caregiver support programs
- ▶ Recurring Family Support during important periods throughout the year

**Program Efficiency** • 92 percent of Operation Homefront's expenditures go toward delivering our programs and services.



# **Board of Directors**

Catherine Blades (Chair) Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications Aflac Incorporated

#### Lt Gen Brian A. Arnold, USAF, Ret. (Vice Chair)

Colonel Marty Hauser, USAF, Ret. (Secretary) President Otero

Michael Carnuccio (Treasurer) President & Founder JTK Group

Steve Adkinson Senior Vice President & Senior Advisor Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

Lara Ashmore, Ph.D. Technology Director Center for Brain Health The University of Texas at Dallas

Major General Lee Baxter, USA, Ret. President Signal Mountain Associates, Inc.

**Ed Delgado** President & CEO Five Star Institute

Mark Foster President Martin Aviation

Laura Fredricks Founder and CEO The Ask

Laurie Gallo Executive Vice President Booz Allen Hamilton

Robert Giannetta Partner CTS Advisory, LLC

Angelo Lombardi Customer Experience Consultant Medalia, Inc.

Colonel Steven G. Mahon, USA, Ret. Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary SAIC

Bob McGowan Airgas (retired)

**Brig Gen Linda Medler, USAF, Ret.** Director, IT Security & Chief Information Security Officer Raytheon Tony Moraco\* CEO SAIC

Frank Paras Divisional Director The Home Depot

Brig Gen John I. Pray, Jr., USAF, Ret. President & CEO Operation Homefront

Ken Slater Principal Tremont Partners

Colonel Tyrone "Woody" Woodyard, USAF, Ret. Vice President, Communications Sikorsky Aircraft

Jaime Zapata\* Partner GMMB



\* Transitioned off the board in 2016

## **Financial Report 2016**

### Operation Homefront Inc. Statement of Activities for the Year Ending

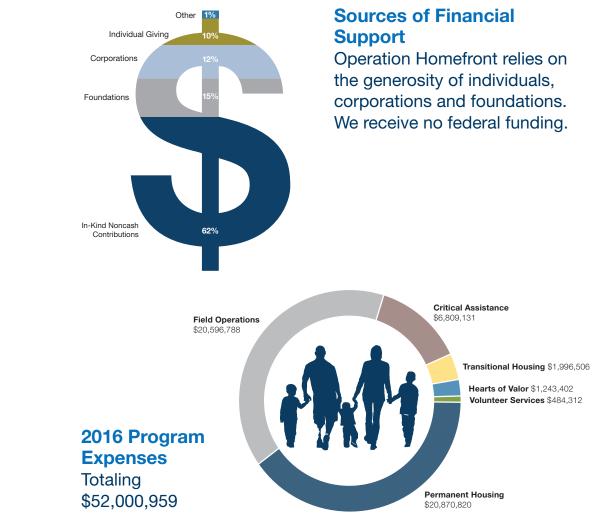
on December 31, 2016

(with summarized financial information for the year ending on December 31, 2015)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2016 Totals	2015 Totals
Revenue, Support, and Other:				
Contributed houses	\$136,990	\$10,390,964	\$10,527,954	\$13,593,778
In-kind contributions	\$17,389,673	\$413,774	\$17,803,447	\$20,242,379
Contributions	\$9,664,037	\$7,249,260	\$16,913,297	\$16,257,008
Special events, net	\$158,203	\$155,000	\$313,203	\$289,936
Investment income	\$68,511	_	\$68,511	\$54,008
Miscellaneous	\$35,736	\$8,583	\$44,319	\$17,101
Net assets released from restrictions	-	-	-	—
Total Revenue, Support, and Other	\$27,453,150	\$18,217,581	\$45,670,731	\$50,454,210
Expenses:				
Program services	\$52,000,959	_	\$52,000,959	\$48,867,936
Management and general	\$2,551,872	_	\$2,551,872	\$2,331,088
Membership and fundraising	\$2,251,408	_	\$2,251,408	\$1,908,176
Total Expenses	\$56,804,239	_	\$56,804,239	\$53,107,200
Change in net assets	(\$29,351,089)	\$18,217,581	(\$11,133,508)	(\$2,652,990)
Net assets released from restriction	\$26,784,286	(\$26,784,286)	_	
Net assets at beginning of year	\$5,594,542	\$45,560,785	\$51,155,327	\$53,808,317
Net Assets at End of Year	\$3,027,739	\$36,994,080	\$40,021,819	\$51,155,327

#### Operation Homefront Inc. Statements of Financial Position December 31, 2015 and 2016

Assets	2016	2015
Current Assets:		
Cash and equivalents	\$2,626,098	\$2,953,277
Restricted Cash	\$713,087	\$882,746
Investments	\$3,293,937	\$3,268,075
Receivables:		
Trade	_	\$2,760
Unconditional promises to give	\$1,184,140	\$1,687,653
Accrued interest receivable	_	\$6,301
Contributed houses inventory	\$32,054,642	\$40,289,588
In-kind goods inventory	\$1,285,260	\$1,369,153
Other inventory	\$5,170	\$31,831
Prepaid expenses	\$248,006	\$316,139
Other current assets	\$949	_
Property and equipment, net	\$161,960	\$391,176
Real estate held for sale, net	\$60,000	\$1,897,728
Total Assets	\$41,633,249	\$53,096,427
Liabilities and Net Assets	2016	2015
Current Liabilities:		
Current Liabilities: Accounts payable	\$289,538	\$612,499
	\$289,538 \$608,805	\$612,499 \$295,855
Accounts payable	. ,	
Accounts payable Accrued liabilities	\$608,805	\$295,855
Accounts payable Accrued liabilities Accrued escrow accounts	\$608,805	\$295,855 \$882,746
Accounts payable Accrued liabilities Accrued escrow accounts Deferred revenue	\$608,805 \$713,087 —	\$295,855 \$882,746 \$150,000
Accounts payable Accrued liabilities Accrued escrow accounts Deferred revenue Total Liabilities	\$608,805 \$713,087 	\$295,855 \$882,746 \$150,000 <b>\$1,941,100</b>
Accounts payable Accrued liabilities Accrued escrow accounts Deferred revenue Total Liabilities Net Assets:	\$608,805 \$713,087 —	\$295,855 \$882,746 \$150,000
Accounts payable Accrued liabilities Accrued escrow accounts Deferred revenue Total Liabilities Net Assets: Unrestricted	\$608,805 \$713,087 	\$295,855 \$882,746 \$150,000 <b>\$1,941,100</b> \$5,594,542



### Financial Responsibility

We believe in a commitment to ethics, responsible partnerships, and transparency. Financial information, including audited financial statements and the most recent IRS tax filing (Form 990), is available at www.OperationHomefront.org

## **Our Impact In 2016**

### RELIEF

**CRITICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** provided

more than \$3.7 million in assistance to families struggling to pay for rent, home repairs, utilities, food and more. **OUTCOME:** 88% of survey respondents agreed that the Critical Assistance Program helped them feel strong, stable, and secure.

"I really appreciate that Operation Homefront was able to help get my engine repaired. ... I don't know what we would have done without your help. My family was stranded without a vehicle, and we have other medical issues in the family. besides mine, and many medical appointments." -The Hofmann Family

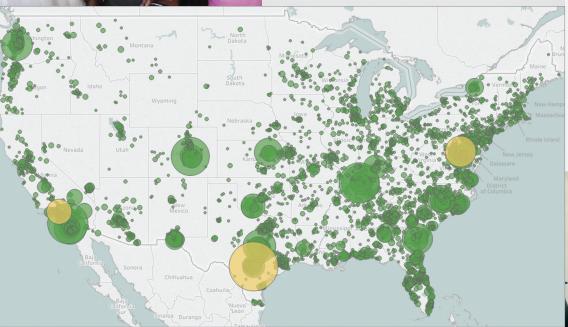




TRANSITIONAL HOUSING VILLAGES

provided nearly 500 months of rent-free housing to 108 families. OUTCOME: 97% of Village residents surveyed agreed that their stay helped them feel strong, stable, and secure.

"My greatest achievements while at the Village were to pay off my car loan, buy a home, and to have peace of mind through it all. ... My family and I would like to thank everyone involved in making this Operation Homefront program available not just for warriors in transition but also veterans in need." – The Wanjie Family



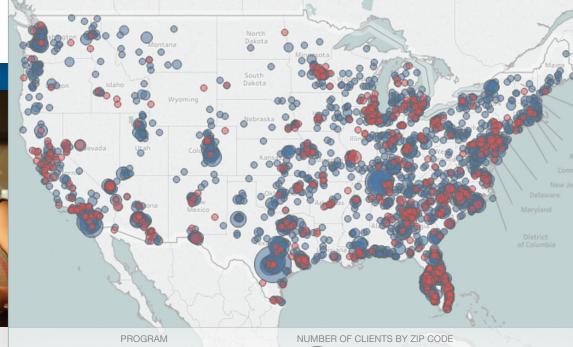
PROGRAM

Transitional Housing Villages

Critical Assistance Program

NUMBER OF CLIENTS ASSISTED SINCE PROGRAM INCEPTION

1.057



RESILIENCY

Homes on the Homefront Hearts of Valor

HOMES ON THE HOMEFRONT

families, providing them with over \$17

97% of survey participants said they

agreed that the program made them

"From the point of hearing we were

selected for the home, many things changed for us. I would be able to tell my children that we would have a place to call home. You gave me peace of mind knowing that no matter how sick I got, that my family would have a safe environment ... a more relaxed environment to continue to heal and grow as a family." - The Dowling Family

feel strong, stable, and secure.

million in home equity. **OUTCOME:** 

deeded 121 homes to military



HEARTS OF VALOR offered assistance and support nationwide to more than 3,200 caregivers. OUTCOME: 90% of survey respondents agreed that the Hearts of Valor program helps them feel strong, stable, and secure.

"Mv heart is full and what I took from this retreat is invaluable. I learned that it is okay to take care of me, and to share with others the load I carry because I am not alone. ... What a blessing to be able to join such a wonderful, supportive group of people." – The Castille Family

#### **RECURRING FAMILY SUPPORT**



MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR Operation Homefront held its eighth Military Child of the Year® Award Gala in 2016. The seven award winners were: (from left) COAST GUARD | Keegan Fike INNOVATION AWARD | Elizabeth O'Brien ARMY | Lorelei McIntyre-Brewer MARINE CORPS | Christian Fagala NAVY | Jeffrey Burds AIR FORCE | Madeleine Morlino NATIONAL GUARD | John "Trip" Landon

**HOLIDAY MEALS FOR MILITARY** provided nearly 57,000 military family members with a special holiday meal. **OUTCOME:** 98% of Holiday Meals for Military survey participants agreed the program helped them feel strong, stable, and secure.

"I just wanted to take a moment and thank you guys again for the holiday meal program today. Our family has come down on extremely hard times the last few months. We couldn't afford to have a big Thanksgiving dinner this year, which made me sad. ... I had to quickly leave today because I just wanted to burst into tears of happiness. I know it may not seem like that big of a deal to a lot of people, but it meant the world to our family!" –Attendee in Augusta, GA





**BACK-TO-SCHOOL BRIGADE** provided nearly 32,000 military children with backpacks and school supplies to help them succeed in school. **OUTCOME:** 90% of survey respondents agreed that the Back-to-School Brigade makes them feel strong, stable, and secure.

"This was such a big help for our family with my husband out on the boat during this back-to-school season. It was a lot of stress taken off of me mentally and financially." –Attendee in Southern California

**HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE** gave over 43,000 toys to children and helped brighten the holidays for many military families. **OUTCOME:** 98% of families surveyed agreed or strongly agreed the toy drive helped them feel strong, stable, and secure.

"I wanted to take a moment to express just how grateful we are for your partnership with soldiers ... the impact you have had on my family and me is immeasurable." –The Rose Family





**STAR-SPANGLED BABIES** helped nearly 1,700 new military moms welcome their babies into the world by providing them with essential baby items and community support. **OUTCOME:** 94% of participants agreed or strongly agreed the program helped them feel strong, stable, and secure. *"The classes had useful information and the prizes and gifts will help financially."* –The Peppersack Family

### 2016 Highlights RELIEF



### **RECURRING FAMILY SUPPORT**



with school supplies to military kids

# Top Donors 2016 For Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2016

Donors are listed by recognition category based on donations received in 2016, not inclusive of pledges or cumulative gifts.

CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE | \$1,000,000 or more

### 🕷 DOLLAR TREE. JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.



HOME TELLS MORTGAGE



#### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE | \$500.000-\$999.999





MeritageHomes.

NATIONAL FOUR STAR PARTNER \$250,000-\$499,999



VEHICLES Walmart 🔀 VETERANS

#### NATIONAL THREE STAR PARTNER \$100,000-\$249,999

Airgas

American Honda Financial Corporation Auction.com, a Ten-X Company Beam Suntory The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. Booz Allen Hamilton Inc. Brick House Tavern + Tap **CVS Health** 

Feed the Children, Inc. Fred Meyer Stores **Genentech Foundation** Johnstone Supply Kahlert Foundation Local Independent Charities of America Lockheed Martin MFA Oil Company Murphy-Goode Winery **Oak Foundation** Office Depot PGA TOUR Charities, Inc. Quicken Loans SAIC The Slater Family Foundation Southern New Hampshire University **United Technologies Corporation** USAA WJH LLC

#### NATIONAL TWO STAR PARTNER \$50,000-\$99,999

American Airlines American Military Encouragement Network/ A.M.E.N. **BAE Systems** California Ballet Association **Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company** Family Dollar Stores of Massachusetts, Inc Girl Scouts Of Southeast Florida The Guill Family Foundation Joe's Crab Shack Lewis Myers, Jr. Caregivers Fund - The Denver Foundation Monroe Partnership LTD Pabst Brewing Company Round It Up America SAS Global Corporation The Stewart J. Rahr Foundation

#### NATIONAL ONE STAR PARTNER | \$25,000-\$49,999

Babies"R"Us Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. Berkson, Michael **BL** Restaurant Operations, LLC **Clark Charitable Foundation** Cohen, Isaac **Discover Financial Services** Era Helicopters, LLC The Keiper Living Trust The Klarman Family Foundation La Quinta Inns & Suites Lend Lease US Community Fund ME DEVCO NC LTD, dba Message Envy North Carolina Motorola Solutions Foundation Navy Federal Credit Union Love Family Affiliated Fund **Omni Air International** Pasha Trucking LLC Royal Oaks Country Club Sephora, USA Singhal, Vineet Stadnick, Michael P. Sternberg, Mary A. Valero Energy Foundation Wells Fargo Foundation Zander Insurance Group

#### REGIONAL FOUR STAR PARTNER \$15,000-\$24,999

Bank of America Charitable Foundation The Bean Team Racing, Inc. Bussan, Paul Christel DeHaan Family Foundation Inc. Colonel D. Lyle Hohnstine Memorial Foundation Delta Children's Products Depcom Power Diamond Sports Co. Inc. **DRS** Technologies **ELKAY Manufacturing Company** The Grainger Foundation HEB Grocery Company, LP Hoehner, Kathy The John and Polly Sparks Foundation The Keiser Foundation Kendra Scott, LLC Masson, Richard Maverick Capital Foundation Micro Matic USA, Inc. MillerCoors, LLC Mornell, Sascha **Neupert Family Foundation** Northrop Grumman Foundation **Orange County Post Society of American** Military Engineers Pace, Inc. PayPal, Inc. **Raytheon Company** Red Rock Golf Classic **Republic National Distributing Company** Rudy's West Bar-B-Q, LLC San Antonio Area Foundation Sikorsky Aircraft Smile Generation Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, Inc. Sunshine Division SWS Charitable Foundation. Inc. **TisBest Philanthropy** Trust of Kenneth A. Munson The William J. Martin Foundation, Inc. The Ziegenfelder Company, Inc.

#### REGIONAL THREE STAR PARTNER I \$10,000-\$14,999

Ackerman Foundation American Beverage, LLC Baxter, Leo J. BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc. Blue Beacon International, Inc. Brown, Harry C. **Bubble Run** CDW Direct, LLC Central VA Chapter 27-3 of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chevron Matching Employee Fund Christian Fellowship Church, Inc. Church Mutual Insurance Company **Clark-Janis Foundation** Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Community Foundation of Sarasota County Costco Wholesale Corporation Eastern Athletic Clubs LLC Elliott, David **Express Scripts Foundation** Ferrari of Newport Beach **Fidelity Charitable Fund** Financial Planning Association-Austin Fleet Reserve Association of San Antonio Foxhole Technology, Inc. Fred & Jean Allegretti Foundation, Inc. Golkin, Perry Gordon, Stuart Greater San Diego Association of Realtors Group Five, Inc. Harding, Michael J. Harvey, Kenneth M. Independent Hardee's Franchise Association Infinity Systems

**Innovative Employee Solutions** Jack Buncher Foundation JB Industries. Inc. Justino, Nikki Kan, Kelly Kane, Morton Kellogg's Company Fund King, Glyn Kochan, Rosemarie T. Estate of Dennis M. Koney Leatherman Tool Group Leslie Peter Foundation Lewey, Barbara Lincoln Military Housing Lipari Foods Moda, LLC Moser, Samuel Pharmavite, LLC Protel Services, Inc. Ray and Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust RetailMeNot, Inc. San Diego Padres Scott, Murphy & Daniel Seaboard Foods, LLC Silicon Valley Community Foundation Slootman Family Fund Sutter Health The BBQ Guru, Inc. The Hughes Family Foundation The Immanuel Charitable Foundation The Kim and Harold Louie Family Foundation The Kowalski Sausage Charitable Trust The Wawa Foundation. Inc. Toys"R"Us United Way Usher, Thomas J. Verizon Werner, Peter William Grant & Sons, Inc. Worth & Company, Inc. Yenser, Adam Z & Z Supply Co., Inc.

#### REGIONAL TWO STAR PARTNER \$1,000-\$9,999

21st Amendment Brewery Cafe, LLC A&B Photography, LLC Abbott, Robert Abecassis, Audrey Abitz, Bill Abramson, Richard Acosta, Leticia Action Karate Active Network, LLC Adams, Gregory Adjusters Give Back, Inc. Adkins, Sam Adkinson, Steven Advanced Performance Fitness, LLC Ahlers, Linda Aizer, Ronald and Marguerite Kirst Alexander, Debrav Alexander, Robert Altria Group Distribution Co Altshuler. David Alvarez, Andrea Amazon Wish List America's Charities American Cooling Technology, Inc. American Express Charitable Fund / Employee **Giving Program** American Financial Services Association (AFSA) American Legion Auxiliary- Joseph J. Jacubic Unit 572

American Legion Post 28 American Legion Ashburn Post American Loan Masters. Inc. Ameristar Casino Hotel Kansas City Ammon, Timothy Amuny, Clay AMVETS Ladies Aux Post 17 Anadarko Petroleum Anderson, Harry Anderson, Jerie Andresen, Jerry Andrews, Harold Andrews, Jason Apache Casino Hotel APO3, LLC- 21FSQ, LLC Appleton's Harley Davidson Ardiente Veterans Association Ardrey Kell High School Armstrong, Arthur Armstrong, Earl Arnold, Brian Arnold, Robert Arntz, Stephen Ashe Consultants Assoc. of the U.S. Army/Lawton -Fort Sill Chapter Association of Bragg Spouses Association of the United States Army-**TobyHanna Chapter** Atkins, Mikel Atkinson, John Audi San Diego Avra, Ronald Avers. Michael Bader, Kathleen Baler, Allen Balishin, Ronald Ball. James H. Bally's Gaming Bandini, Fred Bank of America Baratt, Cyrus Barclay Brand Corporation Barger, Cynthia Barnett, James **Barton Malow Foundation** Beach Realty & Construction Beauty 21 Cosmetics, Inc. Beebe, Jonathan Beers, James Behrends, Heather Bell. David Belliotti, Lynn Bellomo Fuel & Service, Inc. Bellury, Phil BeMiller, David Benami, Leora Beneville, Stacey Benner. Steve Bennett, Reid Benyo, Brian Betts, Stacey Betz, Calvin Bewtra, Manju Big O Tires Binder, Barry Bjers, Thomas Blake Landscapes. Inc. Blind Men Driving? Blistex. Inc. Block, Mark Blossom, Priscilla Blumenthal, David **BNY Mellon Community Partnership** 

Bodoh, Ed Boettcher, Gary Boggs, Jamie Bollinger, Frank Bond, Jake Bonnell, Tami Bontrager, Joseph Boots Across America Borner, Michael Bott, Stacy Boulder Bay Boulder Bay Realty Boutiki Gift Shop Bowles, Robert Boyd Jr., Elbert Boyd, David Boykin, Cindy BP Foundation, Inc. Bradshaw, Robert Bratton, Robert Braud, Bruce Brendle, Mark **Bressler & Company** Brewster Procurement Group Briar Woods High School Bright Funds Foundation Brockman, Jeffrey Brown, Carolyn Brown, Margaret Brown, Pam Brown, Paul Brown, Scott Brown, Seana Brown, Stephen Bryan, Carlene Bryant, Denny Bryant, Gordon Buhl, Gregory **Burch Ranch** Burchianti, Edward Burgess, Charles Burkart, Lynne Burke, Brynn Burke, Michael Burtch, Glenn Busby, Gene Bush, Bruce Butler, Stephen Buxton, Winslow Caesars Enterprise Services, LLC Calabash Covenant Presbyterian Church Caldes, Rachel California Moving and Storage Association Calvary Assembly of God Camp Lejeune Officers Spouses Club Campbell, G. Ann Cantalupo, Karen Cantor, Rachel Capital Group Co. Charitable Foundation Capps, W. Lee Card, Robby Carle, Jerry Carroll, Martha **Carrying On Project** Cathcart, Mary Ann Catto & Catto Caturano, Rita CentiMark Central Bucks H.S. East - OEG Cesarz, Matt Chai, Stephen Chang, Ken **Charity Gift Certificates** Chart Inc.

Chenet, Kyle Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District Childers, James Childress, Johnathon Choate, Arthur Choe, Stephen Christensen, Timothy Chryssostomides Financial Services Cincinnati Incorporated Charitable Foundation City National Bank Clark, Elloine **Clarksville Amatuer Sports** Clay, George Clendineng, Robert Cline, Kellye Club Corp USA Coach, Edward Cobb, Johnny Cohen, Caryn Coke, James Cole, Harry Colton's, Inc. **Communities Foundation of Texas** Community Spouses Club of Fort Benning Connor, Robert Conrad. Steven Contractor's Inc. Conway, Dan Corey, Heather Corona, Oscar Cowles, C. Cox, Anne Craddock, James Craig, J. Scott Crossen, James Croy, Jeff & Denise Croy, Jeffrey Crum, Larry Cunningham, Peter Cursons, Barbara Dahl, Alan Dahlhaus, Sharon Dalbey, Melvin Dale Buchanan & Associates Danckwerth, Kevin Daniel, Ben & Helen Das, Kaushik Daughters of the American Revolution Dauphin, Linda S Davenport, Amelia Davenport, Mark David C. Copley Foundation Davis, Craig Davis, Glen Davis, Jane Hon Day, June De Kock, Nathaniel De Werd, Daniel Deely, Donna Dell Employee Engagement Fund Dennis, Robert DeNotto, Gerald **DeVries**, Stephen **Diagnostic Imaging Services** DiDonato, John Dietrich, Vivian DiNicola, Carl **Discount Tires Co.** DiStassio, Dianne & Brian Dixon, Dale Doehling, Robert Dogas, Robin Doherty, Kathryn & Daniel

Dominick, Dawn **Dominion Enterprises** Donahue, Craig **DonateWell** Donohoe, Kan Donovan, Michael DoTopia Dotson, Karen Drake, James Drew, Christopher Due West United Methodist Church Dugan, Michael Dunn, Richard Duralswamy, Shanker Duval, Nina Dykhuizen, Candice Dykstra, Aundria Eagle Mountain Casino EANGI Earle, Gina Eastep, Roger Eaton, Bryant Eden Charitable Foundation Edgar, Randall Edge, Hannah Edward Jones Investments Egg Harbor Cafe Egoscue, Pete Eide, Langley Einstein Bros. Bagels Elliott. John Ellis, Gregory Ellis, James Elseth, Paul EM & FE Everett Charitable Trust Emerson, Scott Emrick, Robert Encana Cares (USA) Foundation Englehart, Paul Entergy Louisiana, LLC **Enterprise Holdings Foundation** Ernster, John A. Eskin-Smith, Jill Evans, David Ewalt, Steve Exelon Matching Gifts Program Extra Space Storage Fair, John Fallbrook Blanket Project Family of Grace Church Farb. Daniel Faris, Douglas Farrell, John Faust, Marcella Fay, Carlyle Fay, Doug FCA Foundation Fecteau, William Feld Entertainment, Inc. Feliciano, Mary Ferega, Mike and Liz Ferguson, Gregory Fernands, Anastasia Ferrell, John Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC FINRA Fire Protection Service, Inc. First American Title Insurance Company First Hawaiian Bank First State Orthopaedics, P.A. FirstGivina Fisher, Toni Fisher, William

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**DOLLAR TREE** ► In 10 years of partnership, Dollar Tree and their caring customers have donated more than \$95.6 million in cash and in-kind giving. In 2016, customers contributed \$4.5 million in school supplies toward our Back-to-School Brigade, and \$8.6 million in gifts for our Holiday Toy Drive.





CARNIVAL CRUISE LINE ► Carnival partnered with Operation Homefront in 2016 to launch its "Honor. Family. Fun." campaign, enlisting seven-time Grammy Award-winning superstar Carrie Underwood in a year-long campaign to highlight the service of our military families and to give them a chance to have fun. Carnival and Carrie Underwood highlighted our mission and our families at 10 concerts, culminating with a concert and weekend getaway for 700 military families on its newest ship, the Carnival Vista, in November. Carnival's generous support exceeded \$800,000.

CRACKER BARREL ► In 2016, Cracker Barrel Old Country Store announced Operation Homefront as its new flagship nonprofit partner allowing Cracker Barrel to bring together its commitment to military families with Operation Homefront's mission of building strong, stable, and secure military families. The partnership was kicked off with "Operation Rocker: Cracker Barrel's Summer Salute to Military Families," which provided over 700 Cracker Barrel iconic rocking chairs to military families as part of Operation Homefront's Homes on the Homefront program. Cracker Barrel continued its support of military families and the mission of Operation Homefront during Cracker Barrel's Veterans Day and Holiday 2016 giving campaigns across the brand's more than 640 stores nationwide.





WALMART ► Thanks to Walmart, the Holiday Meals for Military program has grown to serve tens of thousands of families. The company supplied 8,500 meals in 2016, all assembled and delivered by Walmart associates. Since 2006, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have given over \$5.7 million to Operation Homefront for various initiatives including HMFM.

JPMORGAN CHASE ► In 2016, JPMorgan Chase donated 54 homes and helped Operation Homefront reach its 500th home award milestone in January. Since 2011, Chase has donated 406 homes, allowing us to help disabled veterans and their families realize the transformational impact of home ownership.





**REDS (RETIRED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS)** ► This selfnamed group of retirees from the River Creek community, near Leesburg, Va., organized a casino night and other fundraisers that generated \$70,000 for Operation Homefront in 2016. Over the last several years, about 120 volunteers with the group have helped at many of our Back-to-School Brigade and Holiday Toy Drive events, and raised money for our critical assistance and other programs. "Operation Homefront has a niche that filled a need," said Woody Wrable, one of the group's leaders. "These [enlisted] guys and gals don't make a lot of money. They're away from home. It's hard." **OPERATION HOMEFRONT CORNERSTONE AWARD** ► In 2016, Operation Homefront was proud to present its Cornerstone Award to **Ken Ruff**, Beam Suntory's national accounts vice president, and **Kathy Cox**, Walmart Foundation senior manager. This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to Operation Homefront's mission to build strong, stable, and secure military families.

Ken Ruff's personal generosity toward a military couple in a grocery store during Thanksgiving 2009 led to the creation of the Holiday Meals for Military program, which has served nearly 70,000 families since inception. "Operation Homefront has never left our side since we began this program together," Ruff said. "You took one idea and made it something so much greater for thousands of military families."

Under Kathy Cox's leadership at the Walmart Foundation, Operation Homefront has been able to support tens of thousands of military families through over \$5 million in donations and support since 2006. Cox said: "Operation Homefront does great work for the right reasons, and has had incredible impact on the lives of our military families."

Ken and Kathy join 2015 recipient, **Ed Delgado**, president and CEO of Five Star Institute, as Cornerstone Award recipients.





VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR ► Brian Henninger, a Vietnam veteran who served four years in the Marines, has been volunteering at Operation Homefront for over two years.

"I volunteer because so many people in my lifetime have helped me," said Brian. "I know what it's like to need help. Now it's my turn to give back and help others."





**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR** ► Jake Adams, the Lead Software Developer in Operation Homefront's IT department for the past two years, has made a tremendous impact across the organization in 2016.

"Jake played an integral role on many Operation Homefront projects, including the Responsive Web Design project, the My Operation Homefront project, and the Critical Assistance Program system. His contributions had a broad organizational impact," says Troy Kasbarian, Operation Homefront Senior Director, Information Technology.

# **Making a Difference**



#### LIFE CHANGING SUPPORT

Petty Officer First Class Alex Weatherholt served his country in Afghanistan, Qatar, Puerto Rico, and Japan, and many other spots around the globe aboard the USS Kitty Hawk. But it was an encounter with a hit-and-run driver on his California commute that destroyed his leg.

After the accident, the father of three underwent numerous surgeries on his leg. Alex tried to remain on active duty as a meteorologist, but medically retired in 2014. The transition from active duty to medical retirement was difficult for the Weatherholt family. While attending a resource fair for his special-needs daughter, Alex learned about Operation Homefront and the San Diego Village. He put in an application and was approved.

Living in the Village rent-free allowed Alex to save for his family's future—the money for a down payment on a permanent home. While living at the Village, the family heard about Operation Homefront's Homes on the Homefront program for a home in Florida and applied. Thanks to Operation Homefront and Chase, Alex received a mortgage-free home in Naples, Florida. His oldest daughter is autistic so having stability in their homelife is one of the major benefits of having a permanent place to call home. She attends a school where there is a specialized autism program and Alex says she is making great strides.

Alex received his associates in business from Coastline Community College in Orange County, CA and is currently pursuing online his bachelor's degree from Oregon State University.

"Operation Homefront has supported me in ways that are unimaginable," said Alex. "I appreciate that I have been given an opportunity through Operation Homefront that I would not have otherwise."

"It's definitely life-changing," added Alex. "Thank you so much for everything you have done, Operation Homefront and Chase."

#### A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS

Daniel Blevins wanted to join the military as a child. "I have no idea where this urge came from," said Daniel. "None of my relatives had ever been in the military."

It was during his junior year in high school when Daniel finally decided he wanted to serve, and ultimately decided he wanted to become an Army Calvary Scout. His assignments included the Boston, Massachusetts area, Korea and Fort Carson, Colorado followed by two deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq.

He left active duty in 2012, enrolled in college, and began receiving VA benefits for service connected injuries. Daniel also started work at a veteran's nonprofit, where he first learned about Operation Homefront and how they helped veterans in need.

Soon, Daniel found out that it was his own family that needed the help. He had the roof replaced on his family home three years earlier and thought he had a 30year warranty. When the roof literally fell in, what Daniel had was an unscrupulous contractor and no warranty. In his application for assistance, Daniel wrote, "I just graduated college, so, I have no money and three kids under two (twin toddler sons and infant daughter). The living room ceiling collapsed. ...I have not had the money to repair the damage to my roof, and the water damage has caused part of my ceiling to cave in. I need help repairing my roof and repairing the ceiling in my front room."

Thanks to generous donations from the Home Depot Foundation, OH repaired Daniel's roof, the ceiling in his dining room, water-damaged walls, and repair a water damaged warped door and frame.

Daniel is extremely happy with the repairs and the work done by The Home Depot Renovation Services. "Thank you!" said Daniel. "Because of you, I am not having to worry today. It's pouring down rain in Pittsburgh, and I don't have to gather water in rain buckets."

"Getting the roof repaired took a lot of stress off me," continued Daniel. "I can go on living daily life without worrying about the ceiling collapsing on me and my family."





#### "STRESS LIFTED"

"I took a leap of faith and joined the Air Force."

That's how Dominick Griego describes his decision to serve. He had entered college, trying to balance the demands of a young family, college and a job. But he needed healthcare and a constant paycheck so he enlisted.

Little did he know that decision would impact his family in ways he never imagined. Dominick had seven deployments during his thirteen years of service including Afghanistan.

In Kabul, Dominick and his operations team were driving to another location when a suicide bomber drove into them. Dominick and his team ended up five feet away from the 500-pound bomb.

"We ended up inside an attack and were under heavy fire," said Dominick. "Fortunately, we were able to fight back and maneuver tactically. There were six of us and all six survived and returned home with minimal injuries. Sometimes you get lucky. I was stubborn and didn't seek medical treatment. I stumbled around in country before ending up in hospital. They told me to make sure I rested my brain."

In July 2014, Dominick returned to the states and was awarded the Purple Heart for his bravery and courage in the Kabul attacks.

Despite his injuries, a recent cancer diagnosis, and resulting surgery, Dominick reenlisted in the Air Force in 2016. He still deals with traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress, and PTSD sleep deprivation. Dominick was a USAF Portraits in Courage honoree and attended an awards ceremony at the Pentagon. While there, he met an Operation Homefront staff member. Dominick's wife took a business card.

When the Griego family's heat and AC unit stopped working efficiently, the family recalled their chance meeting with Operation Homefront and applied for assistance. Dominick didn't believe the family would qualify.

"I didn't think that I was a candidate for help because you can't see my injuries," said Dominick.

But OH got the Griego family the help they needed. "I am at home a lot," he said. "Because of my health, I had no motivation to mentally or physically address the AC issue. The lack of efficient heat and AC made the situation more miserable as I was recovering from surgeries and chemo."

"We no longer have stress from worrying about fixing it," says Cecilia. "There is no way we could have done this without Operation Homefront's help."

"A lot of people tell me thank you for your service," said Dominick. "But to say thank you and then do something like your donors do to say thanks—to blindly give. That gesture is beyond words. What you and your donors do justifies and reinstates the reason why I serve and wear the uniform and would do anything to protect."



**OPERATION HOMEFRONT, INC.** 1355 Central Parkway South, Suite 100, San Antonio, TX 78232

Website: OperationHomefront.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/OperationHomefront Twitter: @Op\_Homefront

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