



HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

2018 Annual Impact Report

Building Homes, Rebuilding Lives



2018 HFOT Home Recipient Marine Cpl Steven Bultje
New Braunfels, TX

Celebrating 15 Years!

Dear Friends of HFOT,

Homes For Our Troops began in 2004 with the building of one specially adapted custom home for a severely injured post-9/11 Veteran in Massachusetts. Now, 15 years later, I am proud to say that HFOT has completed over 270 homes nationwide, and we continue advancing our mission of building homes and assisting our Veterans in rebuilding their lives. We certainly are not alone in our quest; we are fortunate to have the trusted support from countless individual donors, organizations, volunteers, foundations, and corporate partners.

The numbers in this 2018 Annual Impact Report are a testament to your loyalty and dedication to our nation's most severely injured post-9/11 Veterans. Your commitment is apparent when looking at revenue growth over the years. Because of your efforts in FY18, revenue increased almost 19% over FY17.

However, your support is more than just dollars – it enables Veterans to start or expand families, continue school, start careers, and pursue dreams that previously seemed out of reach. Since moving into their homes, the percentage of Veterans obtaining or pursuing degrees or certifications has risen from 12% to 69%; for spouses and caregivers, it has gone from 8% to 90%. Veterans that were able to volunteer in their communities and pay it forward increased from 12% to 67% after receiving their HFOT home.

In these pages, you will read about our 250th home recipient, Army Sergeant Cristian Valle, who received his specially adapted custom home last year. Because of your generosity and kindness, he is now able to enjoy the simple and special moments with his wife Blanca and their four children, something that was almost impossible in his previous home due to the daily barriers he encountered. With the freedom and independence he has regained, Cristian is now pursuing his lifelong dream of becoming an actor. You'll also hear from one of our earlier home recipients Marine Corporal Visnu Gonzalez, who received his HFOT home in 2009. Over the past decade, Visnu has married his wife, Sahily Melissa, and their hearts are now complete with the birth of their first child this past December.

While we celebrate the impact achieved last year, we are focused on the work ahead. There are still over 1,000 severely injured post-9/11 Veterans in need of specially adapted housing. We will continue to work diligently to ensure every Veteran who qualifies for a specially adapted custom home receives one... but we need your help.

Each year we face the reality of rising land, building materials, and construction costs, and rely on the continued support of loyal donors to close these gaps. We are consistently inspired by the generosity of patriotic Americans like you, who demonstrate so much respect for the brave men and women who served and sacrificed for this great nation.

On behalf of HFOT's staff and Board of Directors, thank you for truly making a difference in the lives of our severely injured Veterans.

H.T. Landwermeyer, Jr.
H.T. Landwermeyer, Jr.
Brigadier General, USA Retired
President & CEO

Building Homes, Rebuilding Lives



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

Rising Star

Army SGT Cristian Valle debuts acting career



Cristian Valle's specially adapted custom home literally set the stage for his future. After receiving the keys to his home on Feb. 10, 2018, Cristian was finally in a position to pursue a longtime dream of his – acting. The experience Cristian has as an Army Infantryman may seem completely unrelated to his new role, but his two careers are aligning well. In his most recent project, Cristian plays Rafa, an injured military Veteran, in Miu Miu's Women's Tall Tales video series. The film takes place in a fictional Iraq village, and was filmed in California.

"I always wanted to do acting, or be an extra in films and shows. My new home in Southern California gave me the opportunity to pursue this dream of mine now that I live closer to where it all begins," he says.

Although Cristian is excited about his new venture, the thing he is most grateful for is having more time for family. He could not access the outside of his previous home easily, forcing him to spend most of his time inside. Within the home, Cristian often became frustrated because daily tasks were difficult – or impossible – because there was no room for his wheelchair. This made it hard for him to fully be present with his wife, Blanca, and their four children. *"Life has just been a whole lot easier since moving into the home. I have the freedom to do more, and I can help out around the house and hang out with my kids in their rooms,"* he says. *"With nothing to stop me, I go out and do it. Life is just more relaxing for me with less things to worry about."*

Blanca is relieved she no longer has to worry about her husband's safety and well-being. *"It brings so much comfort to our family, especially for Cristian. He has the freedom to go anywhere without fear of falling. The home has brought us more peace and financial stability,"* she says.

As for the next scene in Cristian's acting career, he's currently working on another project that's set to be released this spring, and enjoying the ride to see where it takes him. There's one thing he's sure of – he's appreciative to HFOT's donors and supporters for providing him with the comfort and stability of his forever home. *"Thank you to everyone involved, we are loving our new home,"* he says.



Army Sergeant Cristian Valle and his family cut the ribbon to their new home during their Key Ceremony on Feb. 10, 2018.



Cristian and his family celebrating their first Christmas in their new home.



Cristian on set of his upcoming film titled Fort Irwin.



For more information on the impact of our homes, please visit: www.hfotusa.org/impact

Rebuilding Lives

THEN:
Marine
Cpl Visnu
Gonzalez
received his
HFOT home
in Hillsdale,
N.J., in 2009,
after living in
hospitals and
staying with
family for
years.



Then
AND Now

HFOT Veteran Home Recipient Visnu Gonzalez



NOW: Since receiving his home 10 years ago, Visnu has gotten married and started a family.

The Home that Love Built

THEN in 2009: When Marine Corporal Visnu Gonzalez moved into his forever home in Hillsdale, N.J., the only thing he knew for certain was that he was grateful to finally have a safe and comfortable home, after living in hospitals for so long. At that time, he never could have imagined the wonderful and happy moments that lay ahead.

On April 21, 2004, Visnu was shot while serving in Iraq, severing his spinal cord and paralyzing him from the chest down. When his mother Maria, who was living in the Dominican Republic, first heard the news about her son, she did as any loving mother would do and left her home, business, and family to be at her son’s side during his recovery in the United States. Neither Visnu nor Maria were prepared for Visnu’s challenges. *“I never imagined all of my limitations, life changes, and adjustments,”* Visnu says. *“I was lucky to have my mom, my family, and my support team. They helped me strive, believe, and concentrate on loving life once again.”*

While Visnu was being treated at the Tampa VA hospital, his mother felt uneasy about the future and worried about where they would live once Visnu was released. They could not go back to the Dominican Republic because Visnu needed special care and services that would not be available. Visnu and Maria’s best option was to move in with family in New Jersey. While they were relieved to have a support network, they knew they needed to find a permanent home of their own. They were elated when they learned Homes For Our Troops would build them a home, but not just any home – one fully accessible to Visnu and adapted to his needs. At their Key Ceremony, they were so overwhelmed by the kindness from their community, they affectionately named their beloved abode, “The Home that Love Built.” A sign bearing the phrase is embedded in the entrance and serves as a warm reminder to them of the hope and happiness they felt on the day they received their home, after overcoming so much adversity.

NOW in 2019: The increased independence with his specially adapted custom home enables Visnu to concentrate on the important parts of life, especially starting and raising a family of his own. Shortly after leaving the hospital, Visnu visited his hometown in the Dominican Republic where he was introduced to Sahily Melissa Machado Butron, and was immediately taken with her. They married in 2013 and were overjoyed when they became new parents to their miracle baby girl, Lia Valentina, in December 2018. *“My daughter was the missing piece of our life’s puzzle. ‘The Home That Love Built’ was not complete until she came into our life,”* Visnu says. *“Our home is the perfect and safest place for our ‘warrior princess’, as we like to call her. It is warm, cozy, bright, easy to access, and right in the heart of our lovely town.”*

Visnu wants HFOT’s donors and supporters to know how much he deeply appreciates their generosity. *“I am forever grateful for your gift of a place to call ‘home,’ the safety of a door that locks, and the certainty of a place to return to each day,”* Visnu says. *“Thank you for making me feel that I served for a purpose. Even though the results were not as I anticipated, I would do it all again if it meant the safety of my country and the world.”*

Over **170** Babies have been born to HFOT families since 2010

IRS Form 990 Excerpts

| Fiscal Year Ending 9/30/18 | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| REVENUE | |
| Donations & Other Income | \$26,280,000 |
| Donated Materials and Services | \$3,150,000 |
| Total Revenue | \$29,430,000 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Programs | \$22,159,000 |
| General and Administrative | \$1,726,000 |
| Fundraising | \$3,613,000 |
| Total Expenses | \$27,498,000 |
| Change in Net Assets | \$1,932,000 |
| End of Year Net Assets | \$20,425,675 |

REVENUE: In FY18, Homes For Our Troops (HFOT) received more than 47,000 monetary gifts from individual donors, companies, organizations, and foundations across the United States. It is only through the commitment of these patriotic and generous supporters that HFOT can further its mission of helping severely injured Veterans nationwide. HFOT also received nearly \$3.2 million in donated materials and labor in FY18, which allowed us to stretch our monetary support further and assist more severely injured Veterans.

EXPENSES: In FY18, Homes For Our Troops’ Fundraising costs were significantly increased due to a contractual agreement with a professional car donation fundraiser. This caused a lower than normal Programs (81%) and almost twice as high Fundraising (13%) percentage. General and Admin expenses were 6%. HFOT has since terminated the car donation contract, and our Fundraising costs in FY19 and beyond will be back in line with our norm. We are projecting a Program percentage for FY19 of approximately 87%. HFOT remains a top-rated Military/Veterans Charity.

We were proud to honor the following Veterans with a new specially adapted custom home in FY18:

- 11.4.17 Army SGT Don Walters - Charlotte, NC
- 2.10.18 Army SSG Russell Dennison - Rutland, WI
- 2.10.18 Army SGT Cristian Valle - Temecula, CA
- 4.7.18 Army SSG Christopher Gordon - Groveland, FL
- 5.12.18 Army SPC Alexander Hussey - Washougal, WA
- 6.8.18 Marine Cpl Steven Bultje - New Braunfels, TX
- 6.9.18 Marine Cpl John Smith - Menifee, CA
- 6.23.18 Marine Cpl Luke McDermott - Clayton, NY
- 6.23.18 Army SGT Josh Hall - Jonesborough, TN
- 6.30.18 Marine Sgt Jacob Pope - Stella, NC
- 8.3.18 Army CPL Aaron Jacinto - New Braunfels, TX
- 8.5.18 Marine LCpl Matthew Grashen - Temecula, CA
- 8.11.18 Army SGT Lyndon Sampang - Gettysburg, PA
- 8.25.18 Navy PO1 Christopher Andrieu - Jamul, CA
- 9.21.18 Marine Sgt Hubert Gonzales - Spring Branch, TX
- 9.22.18 Army SPC Steven Baskis - Montrose, CO
- 9.29.18 Marine SSgt Omar Milan - Mansfield, TX
- 9.29.18 Army SSG Carl Moore - Land O’ Lakes, FL
- 9.29.18 Army SPC Ryan Wilcox - Mexico, NY



FY2018 Accomplishments

19 HOMES COMPLETED

23 VETERANS brought into the HFOT family

33 LAND PURCHASES

22 HOMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

17 COMMUNITY KICKOFFS

26 VOLUNTEER DAYS



HFOT depends upon the generosity of Donors and Communities to carry out its critical mission. Because of your support, last year's impact for our Veterans was amazing!

400

OF DONATIONS FROM ORGANIZATIONS IN FY18

Organizations

Across the country, Civic and Non-Profit Organizations raised funds to support HFOT, generating \$1.5 million in FY18.

44,000

OF DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS IN FY18

Individuals

A significant portion of HFOT's annual revenue came from the generosity and kindness of individuals, generating \$9.7 million in FY2018. The following represents the many ways this support was received.

- Direct Mail Donations
- Employee Workplace Giving
- Independent Fundraisers
- IRA Distributions
- Online/Credit Card
- Stocks/Securities (transfer)
- Supporting Team HFOT Runners
- Vehicle Donations

2,600

OF DONATIONS FROM CORPORATE SUPPORTERS IN FY18

Corporations

Our corporate donors provided support to HFOT through grants, cash donations, matching gifts, and contributions of goods and services for HFOT's programs for Veterans. In FY18, our corporate supporters and partners contributed \$10.4 million.

950

OF GRANTS RECEIVED IN FY18

Foundations & Donor-Advised Funds

Grants from donor-advised funds, as well as private, community, and family foundations provided significant support in covering the land and construction costs of many homes. HFOT received \$5.3 million through grants in FY18.

All Other

Includes \$1.1 million of income from investments and asset sales.

THANK YOU!

This amazing support was provided by those who believe in HFOT's mission. On behalf of our Veterans and the families we serve, **THANK YOU**, for Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives.

250

OF DONATIONS FROM ESTATES AND TRUSTS IN FY18

Estates & Trusts

In FY2018, HFOT received \$1.4 million by being named as the beneficiary of Estates, as well as donations made by Trusts.

Quotes from recent Home Recipients

Army SSG Christopher Gordon's life improved greatly since he received the keys to his specially adapted custom home in Florida on April 7, 2018.



"My HFOT home has benefited my daily life beyond expectations. My home helps me meet the daily challenges of being in a wheelchair when at home, while still having every task accessible to me. Things like preparing a meal, taking a shower, or doing laundry are comfortably and safely accomplished from the convenience of my wheelchair. That is not something that was possible, nor would I even attempt it, in my prior living space. There are so many additional features that make daily life so much better, like having a separate climate control in my bedroom and the spa tub that helps my muscles relax after a long day. The list goes on and on. I am forever grateful for the HFOT home I have been provided and I am so happy to be part of such a wonderful HFOT family." – **Army SSG Christopher Gordon**

Marine Cpl Steven Bultje received his home in New Braunfels, Texas on June 8, 2018. The Bultje family is experiencing significant improvements in their daily lives and are grateful to HFOT's donors and supporters for giving them the opportunity to continue rebuilding their lives.

"Prior to receiving the home, I knew there would be several changes for the better for myself and my family. After living in the home for almost a year, I am still discovering just how much this home impacts our lives. HFOT has given us opportunities and experiences we never would have had before and we are forever grateful."

– **Marine Cpl Steven Bultje**



Marine Cpl John Smith felt like a huge weight was lifted from his shoulders the moment he received the keys to his specially adapted custom home in California on June 9, 2018. He says the home enables him to focus on finishing his college degree and travel more.

"I would like to thank the HFOT donors from the bottom to the top of my heart for all they have done for myself and other Veterans. Giving us the ability to live our lives again in a normal and freeing way is a valuable commodity. Many of us feel our dreams and goals are out of reach because of our ailments, but with a stable home and financial freedom, we are able to continue pushing toward our own personal dreams again." – **Marine Cpl John Smith**

Army SGT Lyndon Sampang's specially adapted custom home is already making a difference for his family. Lyndon received his home in Pennsylvania on Aug. 11, 2018.

"Since moving into the home everything has been easy for me, and I am able to do everything I want to do. I can easily put my children to bed and tend to them when they wake during the night."

– **Army SGT Lyndon Sampang**





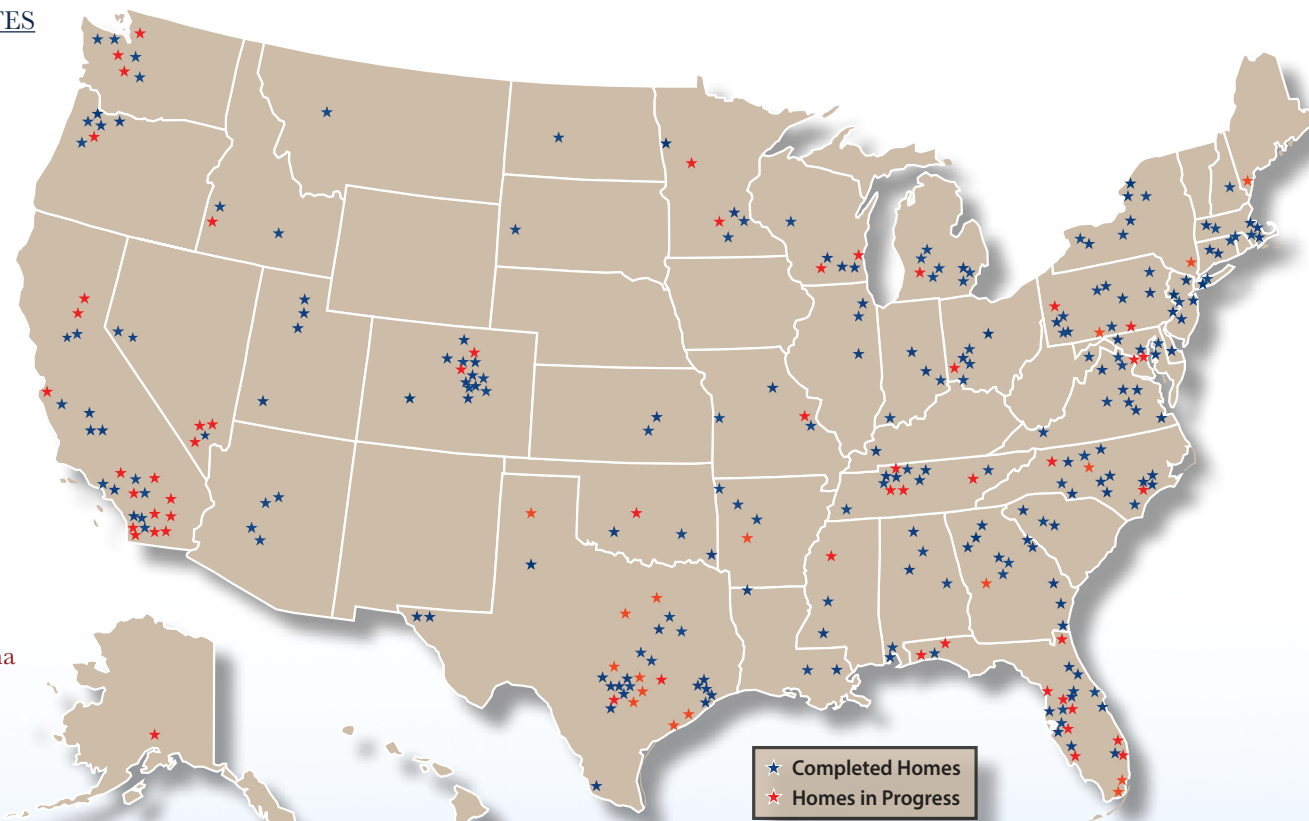
Our Mission

To build and donate specially adapted custom homes nationwide for severely injured post-9/11 Veterans, to enable them to rebuild their lives.

Homes For Our Troops' Home Building Projects Map

UPCOMING BUILD STATES

Alaska
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Florida
Georgia
Idaho
Maine
Maryland
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
Nevada
New York
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
Tennessee
Texas
Washington
Wisconsin



For more information, please visit www.hfotusa.org/maps

A History of Excellence



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

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