

Building Homes to Ease the Wounds of War



It was a television interview with a wounded veteran that caught the attention of John Gonsalves in 2004.

Gonsalves, who had worked for 20 years in the construction and home building industry, thought, "What now? What will happen to this man and his family?" John then sought out an organization where he could lend his construction experience to help remodel or build veterans' homes to suit their needs. When he found none, he formed Homes for Our Troops.

HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that builds and renovates homes for war veterans who have lost limbs, are blind, deaf, or paralyzed; or have other severe injuries sustained while serving our country. To date, Homes for Our Troops has constructed



dozens of homes for wounded veterans – homes suited to their difficult physical needs.

All of this has been accomplished through the help of volunteers on the job sites, as well as through monetary donations from concerned individuals, businesses and a variety of organizations. "Starting up a non-profit organization was an area as far away from supervising construction projects as it gets," says Gonsalves. "It's been a learning experience, and so rewarding. The outpouring of generous citizens at times is overwhelming. The veterans I have met along the way have touched my heart and I am honored to have them as my friends. Homes for Our Troops is dedicated to building specially adapted homes for disabled veterans, as long as there is a need."

Awareness of the work of Homes for Our Troops continues to spread as the result of media coverage, the organization's website and of course, word

of mouth. To learn more about Homes for Our Troops and to discover ways in which you can make a positive difference in the lives of these wounded veterans, visit www.homesforourtroops.org. You can view the homes that have been built or are currently under construction and you'll be inspired by these veterans' heroic experiences, both on the battlefield and through their rehabilitation and re-entry into mainstream life.

THE GARLINGHOUSE COMPANY is committed to the mission of **HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS**. As an active supporter, we trust you'll stand with us to provide your support as well through your labor, monetary donations, or through the purchase of a home plan from *Builders' First-Choice Home Plans*, from which we will donate a portion of each sale.



OPPOSITE: Sgt Peter Damon, of Middleboro, MA lost both arms when one of the tires of the Blackhawk Helicopter on which he was working, exploded. Here, Homes for Our Troops founder John Gonsalves, shares a hug with Peter after handing over the keys to his specially adapted new home.

ABOVE: Peter Damon and his family at the construction site of their new home.

LEFT: A volunteer shares his time and talents with Homes for Our Troops.



Photo by Sarah Moore

JARED'S STORY:

Sgt. Jared Luce USMCR, of New Haven, CT was driving in a convoy en route to Hit, Iraq. The vehicle he was driving was blown up by a double-stacked land mine. Jared lost both of his legs and suffered severe damage to his left hand and left eye. One of Jared's #1 desires is to stay in the Marine Corps Reserve and go back to school. He has a wife Melanie and three young boys.