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Operation Homefront Serving America's Military Families

By Robin Miller

Operation Homefront Dallas Region Director

SAN ANTONIO — The national nonprofit Operation Homefront in February marked its 15th anniversary of building strong, stable, and secure military families so that they can thrive – not simply struggle to get by – in the communities they have worked so hard to protect.

Since 2012, our Homes on the Homefront program has placed more than 560 military families in mortgage-free homes, providing more than \$48 million in home equity. One of those military families lives in Claremore, Oklahoma.

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Brandon Fox served as a drill instructor for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot. He helped Marines develop their skills in becoming instructors that would shape the future of the Marine Corps and of its new recruits. In 2006, Brandon did an 18-month tour in Okinawa, Japan. And in 2009, he served nine months in Iraq.

Brandon transitioned out of the military after 10 years of service. He and his family came across a lot of financial hardships. They had been renting a home for two years and were no closer to financial stability and home ownership.

Thanks to Operation Homefront, Brandon received a mortgage-free home in Claremore. Brandon earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, and he continues to work with dedication, commitment, and service to others in the local law enforcement agency.

“We now have a place to call our own for our family to grow-up,” said Brandon. “We will now have the financial stability and home ownership.”

“This has been an overwhelming gift,” said Brandon. “A stepping stone to move forward in life.”

Operation Homefront serves America's military families in other ways. Recognized for superior performance by leading independent charity oversight groups, 92 percent of Operation Homefront expenditures go directly to programs that support tens of thousands of military families each year.

Our Critical Assistance Program since 2011 has helped more than 14,000 military families with more than \$20 million in financial assistance.

Our Holiday Meals for Military program since 2009 has provided nearly 70,000 free holiday meals to military families, feeding more than 280,000 family service members.

Since 2008, Operation Homefront's Back to School Brigade has distributed more than a quarter-million backpacks – each accompanied by school supplies – to military children.

Operation Homefront's Hearts of Valor program provides in-person peer support groups at more than 50 locations -- serving about 3,000 caregivers of wounded warriors.

Since 2008, Operation Homefront's Transitional Housing Villages have housed nearly 500 families of recovering and rehabilitating service members -- saving these families nearly \$4.8 million in rent and utilities.

To make all of this happen, Operation Homefront relies on the time and talent of dedicated volunteers and on the financial support of thousands of Americans. You can support Operation Homefront, apply for our assistance programs, or learn more about how we are serving America's military families at OperationHomefront.org.

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About Operation Homefront: *Founded in 2002, Operation Homefront is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to build strong, stable, and secure military families so that they can thrive – not simply struggle to get by – in the communities they have worked so hard to protect. Recognized for superior performance by leading independent charity oversight groups, 92 percent of Operation Homefront expenditures go directly to programs that support tens of thousands of military families each year. Operation Homefront provides critical financial assistance, transitional and permanent housing and family support services to prevent short-term needs from turning into chronic, long-term struggles. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the support from thousands of volunteers, Operation Homefront proudly serves America's military families. For more information, visit OperationHomefront.org.*