THE POWER OF PARTNERS

It takes a community of committed supporters to make Operation FINALLY HOME’s mission of providing mortgage-free homes and home modifications for veterans, first responders and their families a reality. Each supporter or donor makes a difference in countless lives, and Operation FINALLY HOME charitable partners help advance the mission even further.

“While every Operation FINALLY HOME project begins with the builder, our partners are vital to our mission,” said Rusty Carroll, Executive Director. “With their help and support, we’re able to start framing and finish with stocking pantries, furnishing a room, care for families and take all the extra steps that make a house a home.”

In a season when the COVID-19 pandemic has stymied supply chains, Operation FINALLY HOME projects could have slowed or stalled. But Operation FINALLY HOME partners have helped to keep the work moving forward. In fact, thanks to the support of the partners and supporters, more than 50 projects have been completed during the pandemic—with more than 10 additional homes and modifications to be completed in the next few months.

“It truly takes a team to do what we do,” Rusty Carroll said. “We’re a family at Operation FINALLY HOME and our donors, partners, builders, suppliers and supporters all work together to honor our military veterans and first responders in the way they so richly deserve.”

Operation FINALLY HOME charitable partners include organizations and businesses in a variety of industries. From partners such as leading engineering, procurement, and construction company Fluor to supermarket company H-E-B and RoyOMartin, a premier manufacturer of wood products, members of the Operation FINALLY HOME family help our recipients with product and financial donations throughout the build process.

While partners reflect a variety of industries and organizations, most say that giving back to military heroes, first responders and their families is an honor in itself.

“Our veterans have given so much,” said Amanda Martin Vincent, RoyOMartin marketing specialist and family council president. “Giving back is the least we can do. We want to honor those who risk their lives for our freedoms.”

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: ROYOMARTIN – AMANDA VINCENT, PRODUCT MARKETING MANAGER AND FAMILY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

In 2019, RoyOMartin became an official Operation FINALLY HOME partner, providing wood products for our veterans homes. Headquartered in Alexandria, La., RoyOMartin has plants in Oakdale and Chopin, La., and two (one currently under construction) in Corrigan, Texas.

How would you describe your company and its mission?
RoyOMartin is a family owned, American-made wood manufacturing company with nearly 800,000 acres of FSC® certified forestry and 98 years of business under our belts. Our founder, Roy Sr., started from nothing and was able to create this wonderful business because of the freedoms and opportunity our country offered him.

What fuels your company’s passion for supporting veterans?
RoyOMartin played a prominent role in WWII, manufacturing the wood to build the Higgins boats, the flat-bottomed boats that could navigate shallow waters, that allowed our troops to storm the beaches of Normandy and end the war. Roy Jr. served in the Navy during the war. Our late chairman, Johnny Martin, started every meeting with the pledge of allegiance. We love our country, and we honor those who risk their lives for our freedoms.

Why was it important for you to partner with an organization like Operation FINALLY HOME?
We know when we support Operation FINALLY HOME, our donations are going directly to the veterans. It is a well-run organization with great leadership, and we are happy to support it.
A Few Words from Dan

Operation FINALLY HOME has completed more than 250 homes and modifications for veterans and first responders over the past 16 years, each one with its own unique challenges. When we reach the finish line of a project and turn the keys over to one of our heroes, I often think about the incredible generosity of our supporters and the awesome capabilities of our partners.

We’ve focused this newsletter on some of those partners - the businesses and organizations who join us and the builder to fill in the gaps on the project or put the finishing touches on the home.

With our builds, the details are extremely important. Our partners are vital to each and every project because they help us take care of every last detail to make it even more special for our families.

Many times, our partners assist with details the veteran never sees – like purchasing the lot or assisting with legal and administrative costs associated with a project. When we walk through a home on dedication day, only a few of us are aware of their behind-the-scenes work and are able to appreciate their efforts.

Sometimes, our partners fill in the details that make dedication day even more special for the family. Imagine the life-changing moment of opening the door to your mortgage-free home, only to realize you’ll soon need a couch, a kitchen table and a bedroom set for your child. Our partners provide the funding or the in-kind donations to take care of these types of things, sometimes including a stocked pantry, before the veteran even places the key in the door.

At a recent home dedication, a tackle box and set of fishing poles sat in the corner of the garage. This veteran loves taking his kids fishing. In the commotion of the home dedication, he hadn’t noticed them. A few days later, he took the time to write several of our staff members a thank you note when he finally stumbled upon the fishing gear.

It was clear from his letter that this was a small detail that made a tremendous impact on his family. These details make a difference, and we appreciate your continued support as we honor our heroes and provide hope.

God Bless,

Dan Wallrath
Founder of Operation FINALLY HOME

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS: DAVID VEROS

If SSgt. David R. Veros Jr. had to pick one word to describe what fuels his passion to serve other veterans, he wouldn’t hesitate before answering.

“Gratitude,” said Veros, who received a mortgage-free home from Operation FINALLY HOME in 2016. “I want to show more veterans that transitioning [to civilian life] and being successful after service is absolutely possible.”

Veros, who served in the U.S. Air Force for eight and a half years, lives out that commitment through his work. An alumni manager with Wounded Warrior Project, Veros helps connect veterans with other veterans, providing support and interaction as they transition to civilian life. After six deployments to Iraq and being medically retired in 2012, Veros understands how beneficial that sense of connection can be.

“We call our warriors alumni because it’s a fraternal brotherhood and sisterhood,” Veros said. “We create events—dinners, movies, game nights, football games, baseball—that get warriors out of isolation and allow them to become more active in their communities.”

Veros and his family currently live in Jacksonville, Fla., in a home provided by Operation FINALLY HOME and Pulte Group’s Built to Honor program. Becoming a homeowner changed his family’s life, Veros says.

“Never in a million years did I think I would be able to become a homeowner,” Veros said. “But then Operation FINALLY HOME gave us a mortgage-free home. It really allowed me to really concentrate on getting better.”

Set free from the burden of rent and mortgage payments, Veros says he had the space and freedom he needed to concentrate on his own health and well-being. It’s something he wants other veterans to experience.

“I know how beneficial Operation FINALLY HOME can be in the long run,” Veros said. “That’s why I want other warriors to know about it.”

Veros’ describes his mortgage-free home as a “debt I can never repay,” which fuels his passion to connect veterans with Operation FINALLY HOME and other veterans organizations designed to help them.

“Operation FINALLY HOME and Wounded Warrior Project can’t do it alone,” he said. “This can change your family’s life and your financial outlook. I wake up every day with a roof over my head, and I just want to show gratitude.”

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Our Operation FINALLY HOME families are so supportive of each helping each other and paying it forward in their own way. Operation FINALLY HOME recipients Jorge DeLeon and the Daniel Carlton family joined Dan and Carol Wallrath at the John Stephenson Surprise and Groundbreaking (August 11) in New Braunfels, Texas. Also pictured are Operation Finally Home Case Manager Ruth Coffman and Pulte San Antonio Division President Shawn Seaburg.
PILLAR EVENTS: SURPRISES, GROUNDBREAKINGS, NOTES OF LOVE & DEDICATIONS

May 11  U.S. Army SGT Ethan LaBerge  Notes of Love  Mt. Juliet, Tenn.
May 26  U.S. Marine SSgt Felipe Tremillo  Notes of Love  China Springs, Tenn.
June 6  U.S. Army 2LT Jean Belmont  Dedication  Gilmer, Texas
June 9  U.S. Army SSG Danny Billek  Surprise/Groundbreaking  Bartow, Fla.
June 14  U.S. Marine SSgt Eric Fisher  Surprise/Groundbreaking  Myrtle Beach, N.C.
July 2  U.S. Army PFC J.A. Recer  Groundbreaking  Pharr, Texas
July 8  U.S. Army SPC Jacob Sanchez  Dedication  Cypress, Texas
July 9  U.S. Army SSG Stephen Netzley  Surprise/Groundbreaking  Royse City, Texas
July 9  U.S. Army SPC John Endsley  Notes of Love  Myrtle Beach N.C.
July 28  U.S. Army SGT Javier Torres  Dedication  Spring, Texas
July 29  U.S. Army SPC Chase Cormier  Notes of Love  Odessa, Texas
August 2  U.S. Marine Cpl Ray Lopez  Surprise/Groundbreaking  New Braunfels, Texas
August 16  U.S. Army SGT Ethan LaBerge  Dedication
BACK TO SCHOOL

HOW ARE OUR HEROES?

Brooking Family – Goose Creek, SC
(Max Crosby Construction, Southern Living Custom Builder Program)

Byrne Family – Humble, Texas
(Highland Homes, Ashlar Development, GHBA)

Kadleck Family – The Woodlands, Texas
(Beazer Homes, The Howard Hughes Corporation, Texans, GHBA)

Jantz Family – Watauga, Texas
(Cameron Classic Homes)

Nelms Family – Round Rock, Texas
(Wilshire Homes)

Van Dorsten Family – Arrington, Tenn.
(Carbine & Associates)

Ashby Family – Fort Worth, Texas
(PulteGroup Built to Honor)

Byrne Family – Humble, Texas
(Highland Homes, Ashlar Development, GHBA)

Brooking Family – Goose Creek, SC
(Max Onsby Construction, Southern Living Custom Builder Program)

BACK-TO-SCHOOL
FIRST-DAY PHOTOS
Operation Finally Home

Check out these great photos from the home dedication for U.S. Army SSG Stephen Notzdley and his family! Thank you to The Howard Hughes Corporation, Perry Homes, the Greater Houston Builders Association (GHBA), the Houston Texans, and Bridgeland for making it possible and thank you to Houston Texans defensive lineman Jacob Martin for joining us!

- Houston Texans

Operation Finally Home

Happy Homecoming to U.S. Army LT Garrett Spears and his family! It’s hard to believe it’s been two years since we handed over the keys with the help of Lennar San Antonio and Cushman & Wakefield.

Operation Finally Home

Every good and perfect gift is from above.JM

Operation Finally Home

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly light who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17

Operation Finally Home

Today we were blessed to welcome U.S. Army SSG Danny Billes to the Operation FINALLY HOME family by surprising him with the new home his family will be receiving a mortgage-free home with the help of Lennar Orlando at the home’s groundbreaking. Danny joined the military at age 22 and served for nearly 16 years, including four combat deployments – three to Iraq and one to Afghanistan. A right knee injury suffered during his final deployment ended his combat readiness, so he will...

Social Corner
Dominick Tremillo is ranked No. 1 in Texas for BMX. He is the youngest son of U.S. Marine Staff Sergeant Felipe Tremillo, Jr. and Tina who are getting ready to move into their home in China Spring later this month.

Sean Samuels and Cameron Carroll of Better Day Movers helped Ethan LaBerge on moving day! Sean’s father is a retired marine and Cameron’s father is Operation FINALLY HOME Executive Director Rusty Carroll. The LaBerge family received a home in Mt. Juliet, Tenn., in August thanks to Beazer and Ashlar Development.

The National Framer’s Council presented a check for $5,000 to Operation FINALLY HOME. Thank you for your support!

The Alterman Foundation presented Dan Wallrath with a $37,000 check from money raised during its Clay Shoot in May. Thank you for your continued support.

Last night was the first night Stephanie and I were able to sit and take in everything, together. We both had moments here and there to take it in, but not together. On Wednesday, everything was so fast. I wasn’t able to notice many things that I did notice later, such as the garage floor, the fans in the living room, the rolling laundry baskets (which the kids love), the art on the walls, hand soap in each bathroom, the tackle box for fishing poles and many more things. You all have taken so much care of my family and me with giving us this beautiful home!

In the past few days here at home, I have heard more laughter, seen more smiles, and shared so many emotions. My kids are moving around with more excitement. I feel more love in each of my children. The list can go on and on about how much things have changed for the better, in so few days. I have been able to go to our bedroom and use the darkening shades and cooler temperatures to help with my headaches and it works wonders.

This house is definitely our home! This house has already become my safe haven. It’s definitely a place I want to be and never leave. I always knew I wanted more in life for my family. What you all have given us is beyond my imagination in what I always wanted to give to my family.

We are forever grateful and thankful for everything. We are exactly where we belong because of each of you. This home wouldn’t be what it is without each of you. My family wouldn’t be as happy as we are at this very moment without you all.

Thank You,
The Torres Family

Visit OperationFINALLYHOME.org or call 615-732-6143 to help a hero!