BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Operation Finally Home exists to make a difference in the lives of America's veterans, first responders and their families. It's a mission we've been focused on since our inception in 2005—and that mission continues to drive us in 2022.

Over the past 17 years, Operation Finally Home has taken part in more than 380 projects across 32 states, including completed projects as well as those in the planning stages.

“It's an achievement we wouldn't be able to celebrate without the support of Operation Finally Home’s faithful donors and the help of our partners,” said Rusty Carroll, executive director of Operation Finally Home.

Representing a variety of industries, our partners make our projects possible, providing the labor and supplies, such as building materials, fixtures, appliances and more—everything that’s needed to transform a house into a home. Over the years, the NAHB International Builders’ Show has been the place where many of our partnerships have gotten their start. It’s where Rusty Carroll, now our executive director, first met Operation Finally Home Founder Dan Wallrath in 2011. That introduction led to a partnership with LP Building Products, a Kix Brooks concert benefitting Operation Finally Home and, eventually, relationships with six builders who continue to help us fulfill our mission to this day.

“This year, Pfister will be sponsoring the Young Pro Party featuring Operation Finally Home ambassador Craig Morgan,” Carroll said. “Both Craig and Pfister are valuable Operation Finally Home partners, and we’ve been able to build on those relationships each year at IBS.”

In 2022, we’re proud of the past but excited for what the future holds. Despite the upheaval of the past few years, we remain focused on our goal. Over the next year, we’re planning more than 40 projects, including home builds, home modifications and transitional housing.

“We are forecasting a record number of completions in 2022,” Carroll said. “It will be another exciting and rewarding year. It’s a blessing to join our partners and donors in making a daily difference in the lives of America’s heroes.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Operation Finally Home partner Pfister sponsors “American Plumber Stories,” a YouTube docuseries featuring plumbers from across the nation. They share their passion for plumbing, how they got started and more. Craig Morgan serves as the host.
Providing for those who have worn America’s uniform and sacrificed for others has been a passion of mine for a long time. Sixteen years ago, I founded Operation Finally Home and the work we have done together is a proud accomplishment.

We will finish our 200th home for a veteran in 2022 along with our 100th home modification. It has taken incredible generosity from so many, and hard work from many more to see that goal become a reality. As that milestone draws closer, I’ve started to think about the next steps for me and for the organization. From those reflections, I’ve decided that it’s time for me to take a step back from the day-to-day operations and leave the organization in the hands of those who share the vision and a plan for the next phase of our growth.

Rusty Carroll, who has worked by my side for 8 years, will move Operation Finally Home forward as President. Our full staff will remain in place and continue to serve the mission we’ve laid out since 2005.

I won’t be going far. I’ll remain as the Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors and keep in touch with the overall happenings of the organization. I will be focusing on a new veteran’s multifamily housing initiative in Texas, Patriot’s Pointe, a sister organization to Operation Finally Home.

The future of Operation Finally Home is brighter than ever before. The team we have assembled will continue to create national awareness of the sacrifices of our heroes and provide veterans a place to call home.

It has been a privilege to do this work, and I want to thank every builder, partner, vendor and donor for their support over the years. I also wish continued blessings on every veteran we have been able to help.

As I move into a new chapter in my career, I remain humbled by the kindness and generosity I have witnessed over the last 16 years. After all this time, I remain as excited for the dedication of our 200th home as I was for our first.

God Bless,

Dan Wallrath
Founder of Operation FINALLY HOME

Despite the pandemic and delays caused by supply chain issues, Operation Finally Home has been able to continue our mission of honoring veterans, first responders and their families with homes. Here’s a glimpse of what we accomplished in 2021 with the support of our donors and partners.

You may have noticed we are updating our logo. Over the years, we have expanded our mission of serving America’s heroes with mortgage-free homes, home modifications and transitional housing to include first responders. We want our logo to encompass all of our mission. We are still Operation Finally Home, and we look forward to continuing our journey with you.

Nothing transforms a house into a home quite like a handmade quilt, something Middle Tennessee quilter Linda Salerno knows well. A quilter for the past 25 years, Salerno began donating quilts to community heroes last summer. After watching local news coverage of the Operation Finally Home Notes of Love event at the Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, home of U.S. Army Sergeant Ethan LaBerge and his family, Salerno reached out to ask if she could send the family a quilt. She presented it to Ethan and his wife, Arin, at their home Dedication in August 2021. Upon learning about additional Operation Finally Home recipients in the Middle Tennessee area, she then made and sent each family a handmade quilt.
FROM THE GROUND UP

PILLAR EVENTS: SURPRISES, GROUNDBREAKINGS, NOTES OF LOVE & DEDICATIONS

Aug. 6  U.S. Marine LCpl Cory Hixson  
Sept. 24  U.S. Marine SSgt Felipe Tremillo  
Oct. 1  U.S. Army SPC John Endsley  
Oct. 7  U.S. Marine Cpl Ray Lopez  
Oct. 8  U.S. Army SSG Matthew Andrews  
Oct. 18  U.S. Marine LCpl Cory Hixson  
Oct. 27  U.S. Army PFC J.A. Racer  
Oct. 30  U.S. Army SSG Danny Billek  
Nov. 6  U.S. Army SPC Sean Shields  
Nov. 9  U.S. Navy Veteran Harold Lincoln  
Nov. 11  U.S. Navy SSgt Eric Fisher  
Nov. 12  U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman Third Class Luisa Velez  
Nov. 12  U.S. Marine Sgt Jonathan Stephenson  
Nov. 16  U.S. Army SGT Aaron Cabrera  
Dec. 9  U.S. Marine SSgt Nathan Rodriguez  
Dec. 15  U.S. Air Force SrA Nathan Mikeska  
Dec. 16  U.S. Army SPC John Endsley  
Dec. 22  U.S. Marine Sgt Jason Plank  

Groundbreaking  
Dedication  
Notes of Love  
Notes of Love  
Dedication/Housewarming  
Notes of Love  
Notes of Love  
Notes of Love  
Dedication  
Surprise  
Dedication  
Surprise  
Notes of Love  
Surprise  
Surprise/Groundbreaking  
Dedication  
Dedication  
Surprise  
Conway, Ark.  
China Springs, Texas  
Royse City, Texas  
Odessa, Texas  
Kalispell, Mt.  
Conway, Ark.  
McKinney, Texas  
Bartow, Fla.  
Tucson, Ariz.  
Waco, Texas  
Myrtle Beach, N.C.  
Irving, Texas  
New Braunfels, Texas  
Leander, Texas  
Melissa, Texas  
Summerville, S.C.  
Royse City, Texas  
Boise, Idaho
As we bring in the new year in our new home, we wanted to take the time to thank everyone that has contributed to making our new home such a comforting and welcoming environment. By now we have gone through our first summer and Christmas in our new home. We are still so grateful for all the hard work and dedication of Operation Finally Home in making our dream come true. We could not ask for a better community or a more beautiful place to call home. Our first Christmas in our new home was spent with our stocking hung by the fireplace, our walls filled with messages of love, and our hearts filled with gratitude. We can truly not thank you enough.

- U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Stephen Netzley and daughter, Mrazy Cypress, Texas

Perry Homes, The Howard Hughes Corporation, the Houston Texans & the Greater Houston Builders Association

In November, we joined the Houston Texans in celebrating 10 years of working together to provide veterans and their families with homes. Thank you for your continued support, and thanks to the USAA for helping put this event together!

In September, the Houston division of Douglas Elliman completed some landscaping for Ethel Terrell, the widow of U.S. Army Sergeant James Terrell. Operation Finally Home is working with Douglas Elliman to make vital repairs to the Terrell home in Houston.

From watching my family bake cookies from scratch for Santa to waking up in the morning hearing the kids shout, “It’s Christmas!” from a distance as they woke each other up—this Christmas was beyond anything I could have ever imagined for my family and me! Hollywood couldn’t have written a better story for our family this Christmas. Thanks to you all—the builders, the donors, the volunteers and our neighbors. Thank you all for everything you have done for my family and many others like ours. This was by far the merriest of Christmases for us!

- U.S. Army Sergeant Javier Torres and family

Land O’ Lakes, FL

PulteGroup Built to Honor

In November, we joined the Houston Texans in celebrating 10 years of working together to provide veterans and their families with homes. Thank you for your continued support, and thanks to the USAA for helping put this event together!
Operation Finally Home

We hope you enjoy these photos from a few of our families' Thanksgiving season!
VETERAN OF THE GAME

U.S. Air Force SSgt. David Veros was recently honored as Veteran of the Game at a recent Jacksonville Jaguars game. Veros, who was deployed to Iraq six times during his three years of service, lives in the Jacksonville, Florida, area with his wife, Carolyn, and their two children. He currently serves as a Warrior Coordinator for the Wounded Warrior Project, helping other service men and women transition into civilian life. He and his family received a home from Operation Finally Home in 2016.

BIG HEROES, TINY HOMES

Students in the University of Texas at San Antonio’s (UTSA) Margie and Bill Klesse College of Engineering and Integrated Design have partnered with Operation Finally Home to design and build a tiny home in Towne Twin Village, a new neighborhood in San Antonio designed to provide permanent housing for homeless seniors. Students began working in groups to develop their designs last summer, and a panel of industry professionals reviewed the designs in fall 2021. Construction of the winning design began in early 2022 on UTSA campus and will be completed at the homesite in May.

WELCOME TO IDAHO

Just three days before Christmas 2021, U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Jason Plank and his family received the gift of a lifetime. On Dec. 22, Operation Finally Home and Lennar partnered to surprise the family with the news they had been selected to receive a mortgage-free home in Meridian, Idaho. The project marks Operation Finally Home’s first in the state of Idaho and was featured on Fox and Friends First’s 12 Days of Giving on Dec. 23. While Lennar has been an Operation Finally Home partner since 2017, the builder recently entered the Idaho market alongside Operation Finally Home. Over the years, Lennar and Operation Finally Home have teamed to build 11 mortgage-free homes for veterans and their families across the nation, with another 10 homes forecasted in 2022.

FINAL THOUGHT:
Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better. - Harry S. Truman

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