

OP FH HOME FRONT

2025 // FALL

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR SUPPORTERS



20 YEARS OF BUILDING HOPE & HONORING HEROES

Twenty years ago, Dan Wallrath heard about a young Marine from Friendswood, Texas, who'd been seriously injured by an IED while serving in Iraq. The Marine's family was doing their best to bring him home, but their house needed extensive modifications to make that possible.

Wallrath, then president of the Bay Area

Builders Association, knew he had to do something to help. Fueled by a passion to help, he spearheaded a grassroots effort, eventually called Bay Area Builders Association Support Our Troops, to unite industry experts around the goal.

We didn't know it then, but it was the start of Operation Finally Home.

Now, 20 years later, that grassroots effort has grown into a national nonprofit providing mortgage-free homes, home modifications and transitional housing for veterans, first responders and their surviving spouses.

"In the past 20 years, our organization has grown far beyond anything I could have imagined back then," Wallrath said. "This



USMC Lance Corporal Steven Schulz before and after his injuries from an IED in Iraq.

anniversary is something I couldn't even dream of back then, but I am so proud of the work Operation Finally Home has achieved over the past 20 years and the powerful ways we'll continue to honor America's heroes in the future."

While the nonprofit has grown since that day in 2005, Operation Finally Home's mission has remained the same. Now active in 34 states, Operation Finally Home has averaged one new home a month over the past 20 years and completed more than 200 home modifications. Through a partnership with five schools in the Humble and Huntsville (Texas) Independent School Districts, we've completed more than 25 tiny homes that serve as transitional housing for homeless veterans.

We're proud of these milestones and the difference these achievements have made in the lives of America's heroes and their families—but the work continues. While we celebrate the past, we're also looking ahead to the future. Our goal is to complete 100 projects by the end of 2026, and we can't do it without the support of our partners, supporters and donors.

But as we move forward, we're staying focused on the goal that started this mission: bringing together passionate people—builders, contractors, suppliers, donors and volunteers—who are willing to give back to those who've already given so much.



U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Miguel Olivera along with our partners McCoy's Building Supply and the Texas Veterans Commission.

Credit: Photos provided by Schulz family

Credit: ??



A FEW WORDS FROM DAN

As I look back over the years, it's hard to believe that Operation Finally Home is celebrating its 20th anniversary. What began as a single remodel for a wounded Marine in 2005 has grown into a national movement, making a difference in the lives of veterans, first responders and their families across the country.

I am so honored to be a part of the work we do—and none of this would be possible without the support of our partners, builders, suppliers and donors. Your generosity helps us fulfill our mission to provide America's heroes with a safe place to call home.

We've had a lot to celebrate over the past two decades—more than 500 home projects completed or planned in more than 30 states, including 40-plus transitional housing projects and over 240 home modifications. As our mission has evolved, so has our work. While new construction will always be a part of our story, we've come to recognize that sometimes what makes the greatest difference isn't building a new house, but modifying an existing one to fit the unique circumstances of a recipient.

Home modifications allow us to meet families where they are—whether that means widening hallways for a wheelchair, reworking a bathroom to be accessible or adding features that make everyday living safer. These projects may not always carry the excitement of a ground-up build, but for the families who benefit, the impact is just as profound.

As we step into this next chapter, our commitment remains the same: to honor heroes with homes. Thanks to your continued support, we're able to broaden our reach and respond with flexibility and compassion.

Twenty years is a milestone worth celebrating, but it's also a reminder that our work is not finished. Together, we can continue to change lives—one family, one home, one modification at a time.

God Bless,

Dan Wallrath

Founder of Operation Finally Home

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: GREATER HOUSTON BUILDERS ASSOCIATION



At Operation Finally Home, our mission is to provide custom-built, mortgage-free homes, home modifications and transitional housing for veterans, first responders and their families. We couldn't do any of that work without the help of partners like the Greater Houston Builders Association (GHBA).

GHBA was one of the first partners to rally behind Dan Wallrath's call to help in 2005, and they've continued as a vital and powerful supporter of Operation Finally Home's mission over the past two decades.

Founded: 1941

Members: With more than 1,600 member companies, GHBA is the fifth-largest builders association in the country and the largest in Texas. Members organizations hail from 12 counties surrounding the Houston area and are involved in the development, homebuilding and remodeling industries.

Why GHBA partners with Operation Finally Home: "We've been honored to support Operation Finally Home for many years. It's a privilege to support their mission to provide mortgage-free homes to America's heroes and their families and to witness the joy and stability a home can bring to those who have given so much for our country."



20 YEARS OF OPERATION FINALLY HOME: A TIMELINE

2005: Operation Finally Home founded.

2010: Dan Wallrath honored as a CNN Hero for his work with veterans and their families.

2013: Dan Wallrath was the guest of honor of Marine Corps Commandant General James F. Amos at the Marine Corps Sunset Parade hosted at the War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

2016: Operation Finally Home completes 100th home. U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Jonathan Dowdell and his family received the keys to their home in League City, Texas, in April 2016.



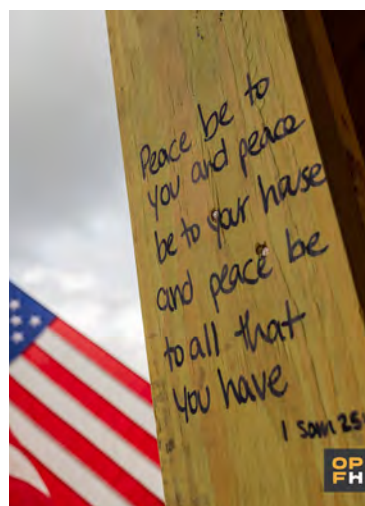
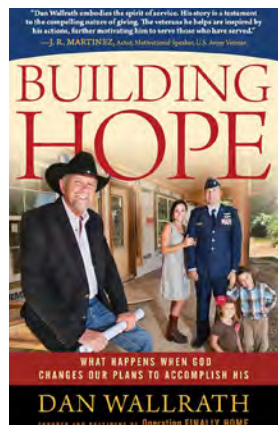
2016: Dan Wallrath published his book, *Building Hope: What Happens When God Changes Our Plans to Accomplish His*.

2021: 194 home projects and 75 home modifications completed since 2005, with 118 projects in the planning stages and 32 states represented.

2022: Operation Finally home completes 200th home. U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman Third Class Luisa Velez and her son cut the ribbon on their new home in Irving, Texas, in July 2022.



2024: 546 projects completed or in the planning stage (since 2005), including more than 244 home modifications and 40-plus transitional homes.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Fall is here and, with it, another school year. It's always a highlight for us when our Operation Finally Home recipients and families share their back-to-school photos!



Children of U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jeremy Brooking, Summerville, South Carolina



Children of U.S. Army Sgt. Matthew Hutcherson, Ball Ground, Georgia

HOME SWEET MODIFICATION



Operation Finally Home recently completed a much-needed home modification for retired Air Force veteran Robert Replogle of Wichita Falls, Texas. After his honorable discharge, Robert and his wife, Virginia, spent most of their married life in ministry. The repairs to the Replogle's home included foundation and siding repair, new windows and insulating the attic as well as updating the Replogle's bathroom to make it safe for the couple.

MUSIC MAKER

Operation Finally Home recipient U.S. Army Specialist Jesse Frewerd recently participated in the Bend Theater's Origins concert series, designed to highlight singer-songwriters in Wisconsin. We love watching our recipients get to do the things they love!



Thank you to everyone who came out to support the show last night! I truly appreciate you all especially during a Packer game too, nonetheless!! Extra special thank you to @thebendtheater for opening their wonderful space and allowing me to kick off their Origins series, such an amazing staff and beautiful venue, can't wait to come back!

ON THE SILVER SCREEN

U.S. Army Sergeant Major Jose Barreiro recently made his major motion picture debut as part of the new movie One Battle After Another. The action/thriller film stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Sean Penn and Benicio Del Toro and premiered in late September.



SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE TO DONATE TO OPERATION FINALLY HOME.



Visit OperationFinallyHome.org or call 512-329-2661 to help a hero!

FOLLOW US!

 @ OperationFINALLYHOME

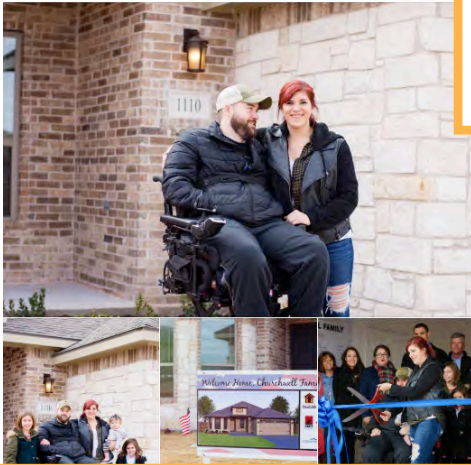
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In honor of our 20th anniversary, we're sharing a few of our top social posts from over the years.

Operation Finally Home
Check out these wonderful photos from the recent home dedication for U.S. Marine Sgt. Jake Churchwell! Thank you for your support [Permian Homes](#) and the Permian Basin Builders Association!



Operation Finally Home is with Joshua Lee Ferguson.
Last night our ambassador [Craig Morgan](#) joined us in surprising US Army SFC Josh Ferguson with the news that he'll be receiving a mortgage-free home live from the [Grand Ole Opry](#) stage! Welcome to the Operation FINALLY HOME family, Josh.



Operation Finally Home is with Wendy Aspinwall and 2 others.
Thank you to [Rob Gronkowski -Gronk](#) and the [Tampa Bay Buccaneers](#) for inviting U.S. Army SGT Javier Torres and family out to enjoy the game this weekend!



Operation Finally Home
Yesterday we joined [Lennar](#) in breaking ground on the home for U.S. Army SPC Adam Holbrook! Thank you for everyone who joined us in welcoming Adam to the neighborhood! You can read his story here: <https://www.operationfinallyhome.org/the-holbrook-family>



Operation Finally Home
Last week we had the great joy of welcoming U.S. Army Sgt. Adam Lee and his family home. Thank you to [Dilworth Development](#) and [Southern Living](#) for making this possible!



Operation Finally Home
Last night was a very special Fourth of July for Operation FINALLY HOME. During the FC Dallas game, we celebrated our 100th birthday for a wounded, ill and injured veteran. Sgt. First Class Jerry Holcomb and his wife are receiving a new mortgage-free home courtesy of Meriter Builders, Inc., Dallas Builders Association, TXU Energy and FC Dallas. Congratulations, Jerry and thanks to all for helping us pull off such a special surprise for a deserving veteran and his family!



FC Dallas • July 4, 2019
Tonight, we witnessed an AMAZING Fourth of July gift. Three-four veteran and hero Sgt. First Class Jerry Holcomb was surprised after tonight's FC Dallas game with a brand new mortgage free home from Operation FINALLY HOME!

FACES, PLACES & SPACES

SUNBELT BUILDERS SHOW

We were excited to spend time with friends, partners, suppliers and industry experts recently at the Sunbelt Builders Show. Held July 29-30 in Grapevine, Texas, the Sunbelt Builders Show also offered us a chance to accept a generous donation from our friends at Hotchkiss Insurance. The Hotchkiss team presented us with a check for \$100,000 to help further our mission of providing America's heroes a safe place to call home. Thanks, Hotchkiss Insurance, for your continued support!



TEEING OFF FOR HEROES



On June 14, supporters, Operation Finally Home staff and a few recipient families joined together in League City, Texas, for the 2025 Elmer Hinson Memorial Golf Benefit. It was a wonderful time to reconnect with supporters and families and enjoy time on the course. Thank you for your continued support of our mission!



MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH MODIFICATIONS

Over the past few years, modifications have become an increasingly important part of our work at Operation Finally Home. Sometimes, a ramp, a bathroom remodel or other modification project is the best way to ensure a home is safe and accessible for veterans, first responders and their families. Learn more by visiting @OperationFinallyHome on YouTube or watch the video at tinyurl.com/3993xnuh.



HERE TO HELP

Would you or someone you know benefit from a mortgage-free home, or a home modification? The Operation Finally Home process begins with our initial contact forms. Please check them out at operationfinallyhome.org/apply.

FINAL THOUGHT

Remember to celebrate your milestones as you prepare for the road ahead.

— Nelson Mandela

Visit OperationFinallyHome.org or call 512-329-2661 to help a hero!