



THE
HOME
FRONT
CARES



FROM THE HOME FRONT

Our Mission Always Will Be Relevant

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A long-time sponsor of The Home Front Cares recently asked me about the continued relevancy of our nonprofit, "since the war in Iraq is ended and we are withdrawing from Afghanistan." This supporter, a dear friend of our organization, assumed that the need for our services must be diminishing.

It's an understandable assumption, and it is true for many nonprofits who have served our military community over the past decade.

Nonprofit organizations exist across the country and around the world to meet specific needs, whether that is providing adaptive housing for disabled persons, preventing homelessness, or preserving families. Fewer deployments and fewer wounded warriors mean that the services provided by some military-focused nonprofits are becoming less needed.

That is not true for The Home Front Cares. In fact, the need for our support is growing faster than we can match.



April Speake
Executive Director

'Ailing veterans are turning in droves to charity groups to fill gaps in government care.'

—USA Today

reads, "Ailing veterans are turning in droves to charity groups ... to fill gaps in government care."

For THFC, those gaps are most visible in housing and general living expenses, as veterans wait a year or more for VA benefits to begin. As the lead story in this newsletter points out, the amount of aid we've given for rent or mortgage has doubled in just a year, and our clients are increasingly coming from Denver and other parts of Colorado, as veterans return to their home towns after leaving the service.

Times are tight for nonprofits like us. Donations have flattened, in large part likely due to the public perception that the wars are over. But our mission is more relevant, and more important, than ever. As long as there are veterans in need, there always will be a need for

A Feb. 21 article in "USA Today" describes similar situations nationwide. Military-focused nonprofits that provide aid to recently separated veterans are struggling to meet the rising demand as the wars wind down. "The numbers are ticking up more rapidly in recent months as troops damaged by repeated deployments leave the military," the article



Where Your Donations Go

The Home Front Cares provides responsive, emergency financial aid and other support to Colorado's service members, veterans & military families. Our administrative overhead is less than 14%-an outstanding figure for a nonprofit. Nearly 87 cents of every dollar goes toward aid and programs: Grants to Families, Energy Assistance, Adaptive Housing & Welcome Home Heroes. Since 2003, we have helped more than 2,200 military & veteran families with grants. The need for our aid will increase in the next few years, as the wars abroad wind down & 100,000 service members exit the military into an uncertain economy. They, & their families, have sacrificed so much for us. It is time to show them that their home front cares about them. Please help us.

To donate, please click on the button above "Donate now" or visit

www.thehomefrontcares.org

&

click the Donate button

Caring Calendar

The Home Front Cares.

April Speake,

Executive Director

Tee Times, Sponsorships Open for Annual Golf Tournament

At Sanctuary
Presented by RE/MAX
Thursday June 27, 2013
Sedalia, CO.



For information about sponsorships or the tournament, contact George Hayward at 719-314-5018 or g.hayward@thehomefrontcares.org

THFC is honored and grateful to once again be among the select nonprofits chosen to hold a tournament at the prestigious, exclusive Sanctuary in the foothills south of Denver.

This year's tournament is Thursday June 27, 2013.

Sanctuary presented by RE/MAX was created in 1997 as a place for service organizations committed to developing unique relationships with those who support their efforts to improve our community. Play is limited not by membership, but to support charitable organizations.

That philosophy of stewardship has enabled it to nurture valued Colorado nonprofits like The Home Front Cares.



Every Monday-4pm to close
10% of sales at HuHot's 2 Colorado Springs locations will benefit THFC

THFC Featured Sponsors Spring 2013



Find us on Facebook 

Tee Times and Sponsorships

- **Tee Times:** \$900 per individual or \$3600 per foursome. Limited to 120 golfers. Includes brunch and dinner, cart and range balls, on-course beverages, snacks and goodie bags, use of Sanctuary's exquisite club house.
- **Title Sponsor:** \$15,000. Includes golf foursome, banner at event, recognition/speaking opportunity at golf dinner, logo item in golfers' goodie bags, news release announcing your sponsorship, recognition in this newsletter, social media and on website (logo and link to your site)
- **Hole Sponsorships:** \$2,000 each (18 total). Includes sign at your hole, logo item in golfers' goodie bags, recognition in newsletter, social media and website
- **The Home Front Care Package:** Four golfers and a Hole Sponsorship—\$5,000!

Homelessness, Denver Clients Redefining Focus

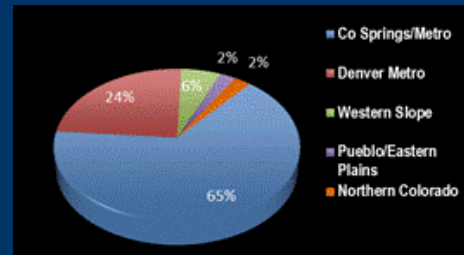
25% of Cases Come From Metro Denver Area

The threat of homelessness and a growing population of Denver-area clients are beginning to redefine The Home Front Cares' focus.

The nonprofit THFC has long seen most of its aid focus on the Pikes Peak region, with its five military installations. However, as the military services have contracted, clients are coming from all corners of Colorado, as Guard, Reservists and veterans return home. Today, nearly 25 percent of THFC's clients come from the metro Denver area, through referral agencies such as the Veterans Administration and Rocky Mountain Human Services.

Regardless of location, evictions and foreclosures have become the primary need among THFC clients. In fiscal year 2012, the organization provided \$170,880 in grants for rent and mortgage to save clients from eviction and homelessness. In fiscal year 2013, which ends in April, the organization projects to grant approximately \$388,000 in support of rent and mortgage, more than double the previous year.

"Over the past two years, we have saved hundreds of families from homelessness," said April Speake, executive director of THFC. "I am convinced that no organization has the direct and immediate impact of THFC. After all, what is the cost of homelessness to our communities? It is far more effective to work in a preventative manner



This chart shows the geographic distribution of THFC clients in fiscal year 2013.



THFC Launches Blog

The Home Front Cares is pleased to announce the launch of a blog on our website. We're sharing stories, snippets and pictures from our work and mission, as well as links and articles about issues affecting the lives of Colorado's service members, veterans and military families.

The blog will be updated multiple times each week with posts from our staff and volunteers, and gives you the opportunity to join the discussion! It is a big step in our efforts to reach every corner of the Centennial State.

We invite you to visit it regularly, share your thoughts, and share the link with your friends: <http://thehomefrontcares.org/blog/>

Office Wish List

- paper towels
- disposable coffee cups
- toilet paper
- non - perishable snacks
- liquid hand soap
- post it notes
- hanging folders
- manila files
- Clorox bleach spray
- Kleenex
- Bottled water
- dish soap
- Lysol or Clorox wipes
- Grocery cards for clients
- Gas cards for clients
- postage stamps

We appreciate your donation.

THANK YOU

and keep a roof over a veteran or family's heads, so they can focus on finding employment and building a stable family life, than to wait until their children have no place to live."

Welcome Home Heroes-More Than 130,000 Served

Long-Running Program Greet Every Flight of Returning Troops

It was a little festive-and crowded-at THFC's office on Feb. 4, as a couple dozen friends joined us for a big thank you from Colorado Springs' Fort Carson. Major Korey Brown, rear detachment commander at Fort Carson's 4th BCT, presented several certificates of appreciation not only to The Home Front Cares, but also to the many organizations that help us greet every plane of troops returning to Colorado Springs from deployment as part of our Welcome Home Heroes program.

The program shows returning soldiers that their community welcomes and appreciates them. Since 2003, THFC and our community

Volunteers from The Home Front Cares and our partners meet every plane that arrives in Colorado Springs carrying soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Brown thanked representatives from McDonald's on Airport Road, Coca-Cola, VFW Post 7829, the St. Francis Knights of Columbus, Daughters of the American Revolution, Military Community Youth

Ministries, Ronald McDonald House and other volunteers who help THFC greet each flight. It was an amazing gathering of people who each do a large part to give our returning heroes the welcome they deserve! For more photos of our Welcome Home Heroes program, visit



Major Korey Brown (right), rear detachment commander at Fort Carson, presents a certificate of appreciation to local McDonald's owner Oscar Munoz for McDonald's support to THFC's Welcome Home Heroes program.

Dennis McCormack
for
bottled water
Office refreshments

THFC
is participating
in the
Combined Federal Campaign

If you will be donating with the CFC or
know of someone who will, please let them
know

The Home Front Cares

CFC#
87158

We appreciate your donation.



The Home Front Cares has been honored with a prestigious 2012 Top-Rated Award by GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews about nonprofit organizations. The 2012 Top-Rated Nonprofit List was based on the number of positive reviews that nonprofits received, written by volunteers, donors and clients who posted their personal experiences with a nonprofit. "We are gratified by The Home Front Cares for its work," said Perla Ni, CEO of GreatNonprofits, "They deserve to be discovered by more donors and volunteers who are looking for a great nonprofit to support."

GreatNonprofits' mission is to inspire and inform donors and volunteers, enable nonprofits to show their impact, and promote greater feedback and transparency. Being on the Top-Rated list gives donors and volunteers more confidence in a nonprofit's credibility. This award is a form of recognition by the community, and its reviews show the on-the-ground results of this nonprofit. Visit THFC's GreatNonprofits page and add your own review at:

greatnonprofits.org/organizations/view/the-home-front-cares

The Home Front Cares
has been awarded the:

The Home Front Cares Facebook page

Active Duty Should Plan to Avoid Financial Challenges After Service

The uncertainties of today's economy means that service members on active duty should plan ahead to avoid financial strain when transitioning to civilian veteran status.

This year, the Home Front Cares has seen an increasing number of requests for aid from active duty service members separating from their military life, only to experience the overwhelming struggles civilian life can bring. More and more veterans are not finding the employment they always expected to find when they left the service. This is due to government and defense cuts, and many companies laying off employees, or even closing their businesses. I have seen several cases of veterans going through all the phases of the hiring process while they were in the process of separating from the service, only to find "their" job was no longer available once they'd left the service.

Situations like this are when referring agencies can step in and help their clients request financial assistance through THFC, because of they know we are unique, standing by to provide that urgent financial bridge for qualified Colorado service members, veterans and their families.

But before you need our help, future veterans have to be prepared in case your best-laid employment plans do not come to pass. Always have a plan "B" before separating from the military.

Doers & Donors

Newsletter Sponsor 2013



The Home Front Cares is pleased to announce that Aspen Auto Clinic is the print version of this newsletter's sponsor for 2013, and will donate the quarterly newsletter's print costs back to THFC for the year.

Aspen owner and president Greg Bunch said he chose to support THFC because the nonprofit and the people we support "have a special place in our hearts for me and our employees."

Bunch said that Aspen's staff includes several veterans. "One member of our Aspen Team was even a recipient of emergency funding from THFC at one point and wouldn't be here today if they had not received that assistance," he said.

Aspen Auto Clinic is a full service, award-winning "dealership alternative" for all automotive maintenance and repairs. The locally

Rocky Mountain Insurance Association
2011 Human Concern Award

Greater Co Springs Chamber of Commerce
2011 Military Affairs Award of Excellence

Lifquest 2011
Outstanding Collaborative Award



owned chain includes four locations in Colorado Springs, with a fifth location opening in March in Englewood, southeast of Denver, and two more locations planned for 2013.

"The rapid growth of our company would not be possible if it had not been for the loyalty of

In addition to their newsletter sponsorship, Aspen also has added THFC to its "Oil Changes That Change Our World" program. Customers can buy a 5 Pack Oil Change and Tire Rotations card starting at only \$80, that's just \$16 per oil change! The cards have no expiration date and can be used on multiple vehicles and the organization receives \$40 for each card purchased. Aspen supports more than two dozen

For locations, appointments and \$100 in coupons, visit www.aspenautoclinic.com. The site has a blog with car tips, informative videos and facts, and Aspen's community involvement.

local charities, and customers can designate which charity should receive a donation from Aspen as part of the card purchase. Bunch hopes to raise \$1 million for Colorado charities in the next two years with the program.

customers, this large military community and the soldiers who defend our country and our rights in America," Bunch adds.

Your Donation Makes A Difference

A Client Testimonial

Our case manager Amy received a beautiful thank you letter from a client. Below are a few lines from it.

We'd like to take this moment to express our gratitude from this amazing blessing that you all have given to our family. Being in the Army for 5 years and doing two back to back deployments was hard enough, but in February 2011 we lost our son Isaiah, making times more than difficult. ... The Homefront cares team helped us get back on our feet, as much as a family could after a loss

that affected each and every member of our family. After gluing the pieces back together and attempting to carry on, we were hit with another devastating blow... In January 2013, not only was our Military life ended, due to separating from the Army, [we] had 2 weeks to find a new place to live all while being two unemployed parents and having 3 kids with no family present and no income. ... After several appointments, calls and emails to numerous programs that might help, after one day of submitting our application, we got a call from The Homefront Cares stating they are able to help! ... The entire team at The Homefront Cares is great and thank you, to each and everyone of you. ... Thank you for allowing us to find a



Craig, Cassie, Raiddon, Isaac, Isaiah & Avonlea Kingrey

new home for our family where we can grow stronger and happier than ever! God Bless and Thank you!!!

~Craig, Cassie, Raiddon, Isaac, Isaiah and Avonlea Kingrey

"The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy."
~ Kalu Ndukwe Kalu