



THE
HOME
FRONT
CARES

December 2015

NEWS

FROM THE HOME FRONT

THFC Part of IndyGive! and Empty Stocking

The Home Front Cares is honored to once again be selected to be part of the 2015 Gazette Empty Stocking and



IndyGive! campaigns. This is the second time, and second straight year, that THFC has been selected by these annual community giving drives.

We encourage you to support both campaigns, as well as the many other worthy nonprofits participating this year. All organizations involved are part of what makes our community great!

Learn more at www.indygive.com/veterans-and-their-families/the-home-front-cares/ and www.fillanemptystocking.org.



Taya Kyle Fills Broadmoor Hall

Taya Kyle, author and widow of "American Sniper" Chris Kyle, filled Broadmoor Hall with 1,100 people for our annual dinner on Oct. 17. See inside for more photos and thanks from our special evening. (Photo courtesy of Pam Cress/Blacktie Events)



THFC Grants Have Helped 186 Clients This Year

Through the first six months of fiscal year 2016, The Home Front Cares has provided nearly a quarter-million dollars in grants to 186 Colorado clients and their families.

THFC clients have received \$234,832 in grants since May 1, when the nonprofit's fiscal year started. Those grants have paid rent, utilities and other essential expenses, providing a financial bridge to hope for a better life. The average grant, almost always paid directly to creditors, has been about \$1,250.

Additionally, THFC has provided referral services to another 677 clients, working with other nonprofits and the VA to ensure those clients receive the emotional, physical and

financial care and counseling they need.

Here are some additional facts about the people we have helped through half of our fiscal year 2016:

- Of the 186 clients assisted, only one is on active duty. The rest are veterans, already separated from the service.
- 77% of our clients this fiscal year are disabled.
- 68% of our clients have children to support, typically two children.
- More than half (53%) of our clients live in the Pikes Peak region. Another 31% live in the metro Denver area, while 9% are from the Western Slope.

Many to Thank for Our Best Dinner Ever

Some 1,100 people helped raise more than \$330,000 at the Colorado Technical University "For The Love Of Our Troops X" annual dinner Oct. 17 at The Broadmoor Hall.

The keynote speaker was Taya Kyle, author and wife of the late "American Sniper," Chris Kyle. So spoke about the challenges of being a military family, and helping others cope with grief.

The 1,100 attendees were the most ever for the annual event.

THFC sends special thanks to the event co-chairs, **Joan Klein** and **Bliss Krucas**, as well as more than a dozen volunteers who helped plan and prepare for the dinner. Thanks to **Pam Cress with Blacktie Photo**, auctioneer **Dean Gunter**, and all our auction item donors, as well as our donors and sponsors below, who are the lifeblood of our mission:



The band **Balanced Rock**, including THFC Advisory Board member **Dr. George Ulrich** (far left) provided musical entertainment. (Photo courtesy of Pam Cress/Blacktie Events)

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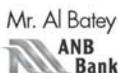
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Woman's Club of Colorado Springs





Mike Maiurro at the grave of one his three past students who were killed in action. In May, he's taking a special trip to honor them. (Photo courtesy of Mike Maiurro)

Doers and Donors

A Ride For Heroes

Mike Maiurro is taking a ride for veterans and families of fallen soldiers. Across the country.

In May 2016, the retired high school teacher and coach will bicycle from the south end of Fort Carson through Fountain, Colo., to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, to raise money for The Home Front Cares, and to raise the memory of three of his former students who died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mike has launched the Who's Your Hero Project, to let people tell the stories of personal heroes such as his former students. His ride across America is the fundraising side of that project. THFC and the Pikes Peak chapter of the Gold Star Mothers will benefit from his ride.

Mike said he chose THFC because of our ability to help veterans and military families "move forward quickly, efficiently and in a manner that is encouraging. I like the fact that it is a local organization, with 'mom & pop' roots that has grown steadily and has a reputation for being fiscally responsible."

We think what you're doing is pretty special, too, Mike. Thank you.

Read more about Mike's ride and donate at www.thewhosyourheroproject.com.

MRE Lunch Day Sales Continue

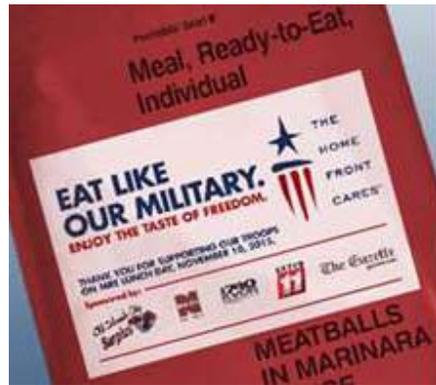
The Home Front Cares' MRE Lunch Day was so successful, the nonprofit will continue selling the military-style ready-to-eat meals until their supplies are gone.

The nonprofit THFC sold some 600 MREs for its Veterans Day awareness and fundraiser drive. The event called on people in the Pikes Peak Region to "eat like a soldier" in support of our Colorado military on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Proceeds benefited THFC's mission of paying essential life expenses like rent and utilities for needy veterans. Sales were first scheduled to end on Nov. 9, with MREs delivered on Nov. 10. But the organization was still receiving calls and emails days later.

"We wanted to give our community a tangible way to show solidarity with our veterans and military families on Veterans Day," said April Speake,

THFC's executive director. "But the response has continued past Veterans Day, and fortunately we still have a few hundred MREs left. So we are encouraging companies and families to hold their own MRE Lunch Days, and we'll keep selling them until we're out."

MREs can be ordered at thehomefrontcares.org/MRE. The



MREs cost \$11 each, with discounts on orders of 10 or more. Orders of five or more will be delivered by volunteers or staff from THFC, while smaller orders will be available for pickup during regular business hours at The Home Front Cares' office at 1120 N. Circle Drive, Suite 7.

The MREs were provided at cost by Old Colorado City Surplus, a Colorado Springs military surplus store. The Gazette, KVOR, Kat Country, and KKTU also sponsored the drive.

Shopping Can Mean Giving Too

You can give to THFC two different ways while you shop online via the Amazon Smile and Goodshop programs!



Amazon Smile donates half a cent to THFC for every dollar you spend at Amazon.com when you shop via this link: smile.amazon.com/ch/20-0564493

Goodshop is part of Goodsearch, a charity navigation site. Visit www.goodsearch.com/goodshop to find coupons and bargains, then simply choose The Home Front Cares at checkout.

Where Your Donation Goes

The Home Front Cares provides responsive, emergency financial aid and other support to Colorado's service members, veterans and military families. Since 2003, we have helped thousands of Colorado military and veteran families with essential life expenses like rent, utilities and car repairs. We share our full financials on our website, and have kept our administrative percentages in the low 20s while we expand our services and clients.

Their needs will increase in the next few years, as thousands of men and women exit the military. They, and their families, have sacrificed so much for us. It is time to show them that their home front cares. Please help us.

To donate, please use the enclosed envelope, or visit www.thehomefrontcares.org and click the Donate button.

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—Jack and Aden

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The Home Front Cares is a nonprofit Colorado 501(c)3 that provides emergency financial aid and other support to Colorado service members, veterans and military families.

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