



THE  
HOME  
FRONT  
CARES

July 2014

# NEWS

## FROM THE HOME FRONT

### A Financial Bridge to a Better Life

By April Speake  
Executive Director

Several months ago, our board of directors voted to change our Vision Statement to better reflect our purpose in our clients' lives, "that The Home Front Cares' emergency financial bridge provides hope for a brighter future to our Colorado service members, veterans, and their families."

When one thinks of a bridge, you sometimes think of a gap, as in, we are helping our clients across a gap. In nonprofit terms, "gap funding" meets a short-term, immediate financial need, which is technically what we do at The Home Front Cares.

But in reality, our financial bridge does more than cross a gap. It provides hope, an opportunity for a veteran to regroup and move forward without worrying if his or her family will have a place to live this week. It is hard to focus on finding a job or taking classes toward a degree when you don't know where your children will sleep next week.

The Home Front Cares helps alleviate such concerns. With our grants and assistance, we help veterans and their families cross a bridge, from the desperation and stress of today, to the hope of tomorrow. When you consider the rates of veteran suicide and homelessness, the struggles of divorced and broken families already saddled with Post Traumatic Stress and other disabilities, a simple bridge across today's gap is often the first, essential step to a stable life full of happiness and love. No one can argue that our veterans and their families--all of whom have sacrificed for you and me--deserve any less.



#### Welcome Home Heroes!

Volunteers from The Home Front Cares and the Knights of Columbus Mount St. Francis Council #12228 welcomed home some 230 Fort Carson soldiers returning from deployment to Kuwait on June 27. THFC's Welcome Home Heroes program coordinates with McDonald's, Coca-Cola and several local service organizations like Knights of Columbus to greet every flight of returning soldiers with a burger, soda and a heartfelt thanks for their service. (Photo courtesy of Knights of Columbus)

### Sponsors Signing Up for Annual Dinner

Sponsorships are filling for the tenth annual For The Love Of Our Troops dinner, Oct. 17 at The Broadmoor.

THFC's American Patriot sponsor, Sam's Club, is title sponsor of this year's dinner, featuring best-selling author Lee Woodruff as keynote speaker.

Joining Sam's Club as an event sponsor are Centura Health as centerpiece sponsor, the Garden of the Gods Club as VIP reception sponsor, and W.W. Grainger as testimonial sponsor. Sponsorships remain available for the general reception and more. Table sponsorships and individual seats also are available. For more information, visit [www.thehomefrontcares.org](http://www.thehomefrontcares.org).

As co-author of the best-selling *In an Instant*, Woodruff earned critical acclaim for the compelling and humorous chronicle of her family's journey to recovery following her husband Bob's roadside bomb injury in Iraq. The couple has helped put a face on the issue of Traumatic Brain Injury among returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who live with this often invisible, but life-changing affliction. They



Lee Woodruff

founded the Bob Woodruff Foundation to help wounded service members and their families receive the long-term care that they need and help them successfully reintegrate into their communities.



# Many to Thank for Sam's Club Veterans Cup

The Home Front Cares started a new era for its annual golf tournament this year with the Sam's Club Veterans Cup Tournament.

The tournament marked the introduction of Sam's Club as THFC's first-ever American Patriot sponsor, which includes title sponsorship of the tournament. Sam's Club West Division is a longtime supporters of THFC, and donated two tournament foursomes to veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The new, crystal Veterans Cup went to the tournament winners and three-time champions, an Air Force Academy team led by head football coach Troy Calhoun. Their team will keep the cup until the next year's tournament, when it will be transferred to the new champion.

New THFC partners and supporters, Denver radio station KEZW (AM 1430), broadcasted live from Sanctuary on tournament morning.

Coach Calhoun and Matt Cohen, a PGA Member and the Head Golf Professional at The Country Club of Colorado and Cheyenne Mountain Resort, were this year's honorary tournament co-chairs.

The Home Front Cares is so grateful to the Liniger Family and the entire **Sanctuary staff** for helping us support Colorado veterans and military families with this event. Special thanks go to Sanctuary's **Andrew Hedrick** and **Leanne Sienknecht**, for their patience, care and feeding.

We thank our **THFC volunteers** who helped plan and run the tournament, and greet the golf-



**THFC client Travis Strong thanked donors for supporting him and other Colorado veterans.**

**ers:** Tom Allee, Paul Anderson, Brett Cheatham, Matt Cohen, Carolyn DeKok, John Dunker, Carissa Fontanez, Mike Greenwood, John Haaren, Ben Kaufman, Joan Klein, Theran Martin, Joe Michaels, Bob Peterson, Dave Ross, and Grayson Wilson. Our staff can't do it without you.



**Paul Stone, right, senior vice president of Sam's Club, tells KEZW radio host Rick Crandall about Sam's Club long-standing support of THFC. (Photo courtesy KEZW)**

We also give deep thanks to our sponsors, who are the life-blood of our mission:

**American Patriot Sponsor:** Sam's Club

**Platinum Sponsor:** HuHot Mongolian Grill

**Gold Sponsor:** All Colorado Beer Festival

**Silver Sponsors:** , Equity Group, Phil Long Dealerships, VIP Mortgage, Veterans United Foundation

**Bronze Sponsors:** United Launch Alliance

**Holes Sponsors:** All Colorado Beer Festival, The Equity Group, HuHot Mongolian Grill, Phil Long Dealerships, Sam's Club, Veterans United, TD Support Services

Thanks to **Pam Cress with Blacktie Photo**, and all our prize and silent auction item donors.

Thank you, and congratulations to the winners! We hope you'll come back next year to defend your titles!



**Peak FM morning co-host Goose Seller emceed the tournament dinner, and kicked off the silent auction with a live auction of a signed jersey from Denver Broncos' linebacking great Randy Gradishar.**



**The first winners of the Veterans Cup are the Air Force Academy team led by Falcons' football coach Troy Calhoun, second from left. The coach's team, including Clay Hendrix, Steve Senn (holding the Veterans Cup) and Mitch Mann won the tournament for the third year in a row! (Photos courtesy of Blacktie Events.)**

## Doers and Donors

# Rough Riders Motorcycle Club Rallies for THFC

There's a small sign in The Home Front Cares' office that reads "never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." If you need proof of that, of an example of veterans helping veterans, we introduce you to the Rough Riders Motorcycle Club.

The Rough Riders were formed in 1992 as a club for veterans of the Vietnam War and other conflicts. The club's mission states they support "veterans, veteran causes and veterans hospitals," and prospective members must demonstrate a commitment to veterans causes.



The Sand Creek chapter in Colorado Springs has been supporting The Home Front Cares for two years, raising nearly \$3,000 for our mission through poker runs and other club activities. In 2013, they held four events that benefited our nonprofit.

"The Rough Riders carry us with them and represent us well wherever they go," said April Speake, THFC's executive director. "They epitomize the idea of 'veterans supporting veterans,' and they live that spirit of our cofounder, Bob Carlone, who knew that every donation, no matter how small, helped make life better for a Colorado military family."

The Home Front Cares is proud to call the Sand Creek chapter our friends, and thank all Rough Riders for supporting our nation's veterans.

Printing for our quarterly newsletter is sponsored by



## *US Space Symposium*

Longtime THFC volunteer Jim Rocklin manned a booth at the 2014 US Space Symposium in Colorado Springs in May. This was the second year in a row that THFC was able to meet new friends at the symposium, courtesy of United Launch Alliance, who graciously have shared their exhibit space with us. Thanks ULA!  
*(Courtesy photo)*

## THFC Chosen for IndyGive! and Empty Stocking

The Home Front Cares is honored to be selected to be part of the 2014 IndyGive! and Gazette Empty Stocking campaigns. This is the first time that we have been chosen to benefit from either of these fantastic annual drives, so we are doubly proud!

Thanks to the good people at IndyGive! and the Gazette for not only recognizing our work, but also recognizing the needs of our Colorado veterans as they return home from the wars in Iraq and

Afghanistan. Our veterans and their families need our support more than ever, and we are grateful that both IndyGive! and the Gazette will help us aid even more families.

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](http://www.indygive.com) and <http://fillanemptystocking.org>.



## Caring Calendar

Here are a few upcoming opportunities to support THFC:

**1st Wednesday of every month, 5-9 p.m.—Freddie's Steakhouses'**  
Colorado Springs locations donate 10% of sales to THFC

**July 26—Serco Car and Motorcycle Show, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.** at the Serco Inc. campus, 1050 N. Newport Rd, Colorado Springs. To enter your vehicle, email [Thomas.winters@serco-na.com](mailto:Thomas.winters@serco-na.com)

**Sept. 8—Gleneagle Sertoma Benefit Golf Scramble** to benefit THFC at the Air Force Academy's Eisenhower Golf Course. <http://www.gleneaglesertoma.org>

**Sept. 29—HuHot Cares Day** at all five Front Range HuHot Mongolian Grills

## 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. *Quite often, our grants pay rent or utilities that save a veteran from homelessness or keep the power turned on for a military family.*

Since 2003, we have helped thousands of Colorado military and veteran families with grants. We have grown every year of existence while keeping our administrative costs low, letting us help more deserving military and veteran families in need.

The need for our aid will increase in the next few years, as the wars abroad wind down and 100,000 service members exit the military into an uncertain economy. They, and 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 use the enclosed envelope, or visit [www.thehomefrontcares.org](http://www.thehomefrontcares.org) and click the **Donate** button.



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# Your Donation Makes A Difference

## A Client Testimonial

Our case managers often receive notes of gratitude from our clients. We like to share some of those notes, because they are a reminder of the struggles of today's veterans, and the importance of our work.

After going online and researching assistance for veterans, I finally found your site. Before going and seeking help, I was proud and will only die before seeking help. I was already medically temporarily retired. My mind was not in right place and add to the reality that my income is reduced way more than half. I was a previous neck.

All my life I have been doing the right thing, never been in trouble, left the military with an honorable discharge and now this. Military does not need me any more because of my injuries.

Your assistance was God sent. My interactions with you was flawless, your guys are truly compassionate, you truly understand people in need. I will always be in debt to THFC.

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The Home Front Cares is a Colorado charitable corporation with 501c3 status that provides responsive emergency aid and other support to Colorado service members, veterans and military families.

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