



THE
HOME
FRONT
CARES

November 2014

NEWS

FROM THE HOME FRONT

THFC Offers Financial Counseling Through New Partnership

The Home Front Cares is partnering with GreenPath, a 50-year-old nonprofit credit counseling organization, to provide comprehensive financial counseling, education and money management tools to Colorado veterans and service members.

The nonprofit Home Front Cares pays essential life expenses for Colorado veterans and military families in need. As our clients have shifted from primarily active duty to almost entirely veterans in the past few years, we have identified a severe need for financial counseling among clients.

“Some of our clients have trouble managing their finances due to PTSD or Traumatic Brain Injuries, and some just don't know how to manage their finances because they were never taught,” said Amy Cutler, THFC program manager. “If they don't get their finances back on track with the help of a financial counselor, they may get back into the same situation again. GreenPath can help them, offer them options they probably weren't aware of, and help them plan better for the future so they can be prepared if another hardship or emergency happens.”

GreenPath is headquartered in Michigan but has four locations in Colorado. They offer free debt counseling that is personal and tailored to unique situations. They can assist clients with personal and family budgeting, housing counseling, debt management, offering a wide variety of financial education tools and resources.



Annual Dinner Raises \$280,000!

THFC board member Carolyn DeKok (standing) introduces past THFC clients Keith and Alecia Deutsch to best-selling author Lee Woodruff, the keynote speaker at our annual dinner Oct. 17. Turn the page for more names and faces from this year's event. (Photo by Pam Cress, Blacktie Events)

Donate Via Give! and Empty Stocking

The Home Front Cares is honored to be first-time participants in the 2014 Indy Give! and Gazette Empty Stocking campaigns.

The Indy Give! campaign runs throughout November and December. Put on by the Pikes Peak Community Foundation and the Colorado Springs Independent, Give! is a community giving campaign that offers 75 Pikes Peak Region nonprofits matching grants, incentives and friendly competitions to meet fundraising goals. THFC's goal for this campaign is \$20,000, which includes \$4,000 in matching grants. But we need your help to get there!



Through Nov. 17, we'd raised nearly \$6,000 with Give! donations. Your donation not only boosts that total, but you earn Give! gifts as well. To donate to THFC via give, visit www.indygive.com/home-safe/the-home-front-cares/

The Empty Stocking Fund starts on Thanksgiving and runs through Jan. 16. ESF is a 31-year-old annual giving drive held by the Colorado Springs Gazette that has raised nearly \$15 million for local charities over the past three decades. This year, 20 Pikes Peak area nonprofits will benefit from the drive. To donate to Empty Stocking or to learn more, visit fillanemptystocking.org.



750 Attend Annual Dinner, Raise \$280K

Nearly 750 people helped raise \$280,000 at the Sam's Club "For The Love Of Our Troops X" annual dinner Oct. 17 at The Broadmoor Hall.

The keynote speaker was Lee Woodruff, the first non-military speaker and first woman to headline the 10-year-old annual event. As co-author of the best-selling *In an Instant*, Woodruff garnered critical acclaim for the compelling and humorous chronicle of her family's journey to recovery after her husband Bob, an ABC reporter, suffered a serious Traumatic Brain Injury from a roadside bomb in Iraq. They founded the Bob Woodruff Foundation to assist wounded service members and ensure their families receive the long-term care that they need and help them successfully reintegrate into their communities.

Several longtime THFC supporters called her the event's best speaker ever. "We were so honored to have Lee join us this year," said April Speake, THFC executive director. "She has a

special gift for putting the issue of TBI and the struggles of today's veterans in a context that everyone in the room could understand."

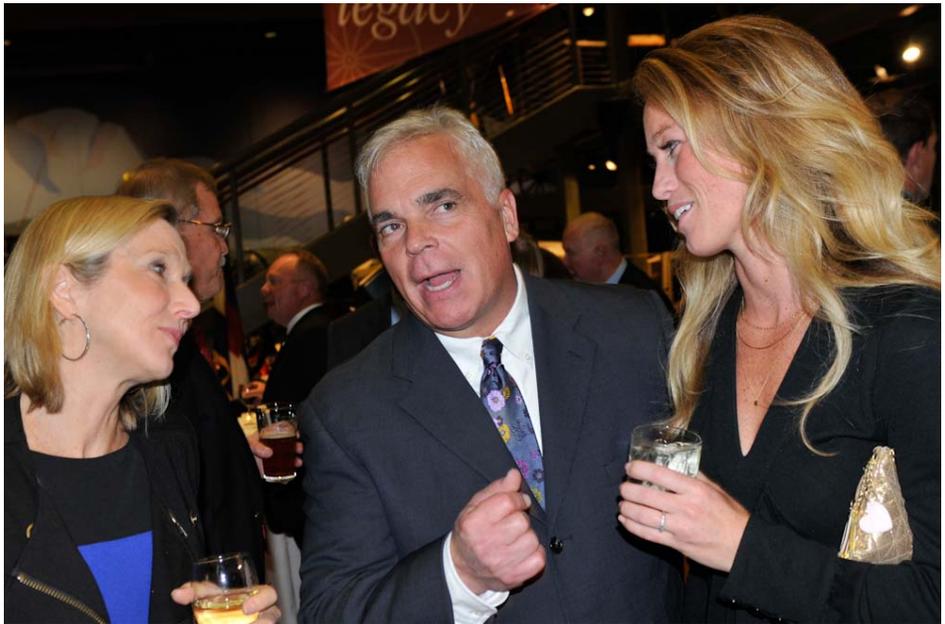
Speake offered special thanks to the event co-chairs, **Carolyn DeKok** and **Bliss Krucas**, as well as more than a dozen volunteers who helped plan and prepare for the dinner. Thanks to **Pam Cress with Blacktie Photo**, and all our auction item donors, as well as our



President's Award recipient Al Batey.

donors and sponsors, who are the lifeblood of our mission:

- **American Patriot Sponsor:** Sam's Club
- **Platinum Sponsors:** HuHot Mongolian Grill/Top Tier LLC, Lockheed Martin
- **Gold Sponsors:** All Colorado Beer Festival, Northrup Grumman
- **Silver Sponsors:** Phil Long Dealerships, The Equity Group, Veterans United, V.I.P. Mortgage



Longtime THFC supporters Danny and Becky Mientka helped entertain keynote speaker Lee Woodruff (left) during the pre-dinner VIP reception in the Carriage House. (All photos by Pam Cress, Blacktie Events)

- **Bronze Sponsor:** United Launch Alliance
- **VIP Reception Sponsor:** El Pomar Foundation and Garden of the Gods Club
- **General Reception Sponsor:** Boeing
- **Dinner Centerpiece Sponsor:** Penrose-St. Francis Health Systems
- **Testimonial Video Sponsor:** Grainger Foundation
- **Entertainment Sponsor:** Challenger Homes
- **Wine Donor:** Republic National Distributing Co. and Cheers Liquor Mart
- **Table A Sponsors:** Andy Cain & Al Mathews, Colorado Technical University, GE Johnson Construction Co., JBI Construction, Jerry & Carol Lubell, Peter Teets, Security Service Federal Credit Union, TD Support Services, Wheel City Auto Finance, William & Betty Ball.



THFC board member and KKTV news anchor Betty Sexton was the event's emcee. She has emceed the dinner each of its 10 years.

During the pre-dinner VIP Reception at the Carriage House, THFC presented to following annual awards:

- **President's Award**, for outstanding service and dedication to our mission: Al Batey
- **Joe Henjum Hero Award**, for the most significant contribution to the welfare of the families of those who have deployed in harm's way: Nanette Mueller
- **Bob Carlone Military Community Service Award:** Rocky Mountain Human Services and Operation TBI Freedom

To see more photos from the dinner, visit www.militaryevents.us/photos/photoevent.cfm?id=97



Some 750 people filled a Broadmoor Hall ballroom, including a table of our friends from platinum sponsor HuHot Mongolian Grill.

Doers and Donors

A Special Kind of Landlord at The Equity Group

Colorado Springs native Danny Mientka has watched the growth and impact of the military on his hometown all his life, so when THFC founder Bob Carlone came calling several years ago, Danny was moved to help.

Owner of The Equity Group, a portfolio of commercial real estate investment properties and commercial developments in the Colorado Springs area, Danny helped THFC find a suitable office location. He's been THFC's landlord ever since, and every month donates a large portion of our rent back to THFC.

"Just as we keep a roof over our clients' heads, Danny does the same for us," said April Speake, THFC executive director.

To Danny, it's simply the right thing to do. "Our community should be willing to support those on the front line of meeting the needs of today's military."

He describes the contrast between how veterans of the Vietnam War were treated, compared to veterans of today's conflicts. "Growing up and witnessing the stigma associated with the Vietnam War and how poorly our country treated those who put themselves in harm's way was disturbing," Danny said. "This was in stark contrast to the respect I have and see in others for the true sacrifice of the soldiers and their families following 9-11 and the conflicts within Iraq and Afghanistan."

Both Danny and his wife, Becky, have family who have served in the military. "Colorado Springs is blessed to be the home of so many who protect our freedom and who have decided to retire in our great community," he said.

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Run or Rock on New Year's Eve for THFC

On New Year's Eve, you can run a 5K then rock the night away, all to support THFC.

The **Devil Dog 5K** race opens the evening at 4:30 p.m., starting and ending at Red Leg Brewery in Colorado Springs. To register or for info, visit www.active.com/colorado-springs-co/running/distance-running-races/the-devil-dog-5k-2014

And that night, the Colorado Springs City Auditorium will rock as A Music Company, Inc. produced **Red, White & Blue New Year's Eve 2014**, starring Edgar Winter and Rick Derringer, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting THFC. The show will include a large dance floor and food and beverage vendors in a festival atmosphere. Tickets start at just \$35, and Hotel Elegante has a special room rate and shuttle transportation to and from the event. For tickets and info, visit www.amusiccompanyinc.com and click on "NYE" to the left of the page.

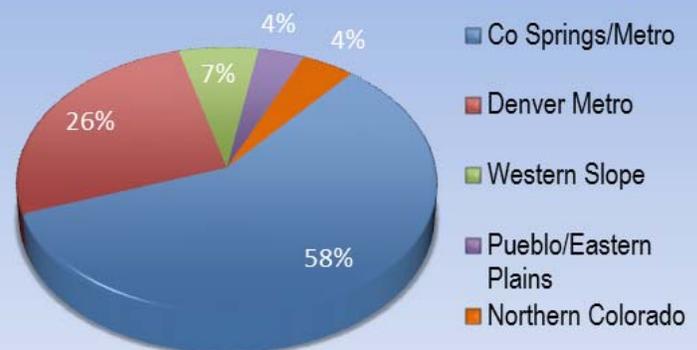


Edgar Winter, left, is best-known for the rock hit "Free Ride." Rick Derringer's hits include "Rock & Roll Hoochie Coo."

Who We've Helped This Fiscal Year

THFC has provided financial grants to 178 veterans and military families from May through October—the first six months of THFC's Fiscal Year 2015.

We've also provided referral services for 455 clients during that time. The chart at right shows our grant clients by Colorado location. While the majority still come from Colorado Springs, we serve clients throughout the state.



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 thousands of service members continue to 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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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 remind us of the struggles of today's veterans.

Read more inside...

"The Home Front Cares helped my family when everyone else turned a blind eye. Hopefully I will get help with my illness and my family will get better too. We are very thankful. It is a hard and emotional time for us."

**~J.D., a Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom
and father of four, unable to work due to service-related injuries**



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

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