



THE
HOME
FRONT
CARES

September 2015

NEWS

FROM THE HOME FRONT



Caring Calendar

Here are a few upcoming opportunities to support THFC:

Sept. 26—The Sentinels Motorcycle Club's 3rd annual poker run, now called Higgi's Run, starts and ends at Sarges' Grill, 6436 US-85, Fountain. Registration is 7-9 a.m.; ride starts at 9, returns about 11:45 a.m. Cars/trucks welcomed. For info, call Matt Langley at 719-337-4831.

Sept. 26, 4:30 —Rooster's Grille & Pizzeria, 1000 5th St, Calhan, will donate years of dollars collected on their ceiling to THFC. Live music!



HUHOT CARES DAY

MONDAY, SEPT. 28TH • 11 AM TO 9PM

All five Front Range HuHot locations—three in Denver and two in Colorado Springs—will donate 100 percent of sales to THFC!

Oct. 1, 4 p.m. til close—Smashburger, 3604 Austin Bluffs, Colorado Springs, will donate \$1 of every entrée sold to Ride For Heroes, which benefits THFC. For info, visit thewhosyourheroproject.com.

Oct. 3, 7 a.m. —Bob Carlone Memorial Sporting Clay Shoot, Pike Peak Gun Club, 450 S. Franceville Coal Mine Rd., held by the East Colorado Springs Rotary. Call 719-473-1986 for info.

Taya Kyle Dinner Nears Sellout

More than 100 tables have been sold to **The Home Front Cares' annual dinner Oct. 16 at The Broadmoor with Taya Kyle**, wife of "American Sniper" Chris Kyle.



Colorado Technical University is title sponsor of **Taya Kyle** the annual 'For The Love Of Our Troops XI,' event, which is Kyle's only expected Colorado appearance of 2015.

"We may be able to add more tables, but right now we're almost at capacity," said April Speake, THFC executive director. "I encourage anyone who's considering attending to buy your tickets as soon as possible."

The 11th annual dinner is the year's

largest fundraiser for the Springs-based nonprofit. Past dinner speakers have included best-selling author Lee Woodruff and Gen. David Petraeus.

A cocktail reception is at 5:30 p.m., and the dinner program begins at 6:30.

This year's dinner sponsors include the Gazette, All Colorado Beer Festival, El Pomar Foundation, HuHot Mongolian Grill, Kuni Lexus, Larry H. Miller Toyota, US Taekwondo, Garden of the Gods Club, Boeing, Cheers Liquor, LoafN'Jug, Northrup Grumman, Phil Long Dealerships, Security Service Federal Credit Union, United Launch Alliance, Veterans United Foundation and Walmart.



Who We Assist



Disabled

70%



70% of the clients we assist have a service-connected disability, with close to 50% suffering from PTSD.



with Children

70%



Additionally, 70% of those we serve have children, and many of our clients are young parents in their 20s.

Sen. Bennet Conference Focused on Military Families



**By April Speake
Executive Director**

On Sept. 1, I was honored to moderate a panel at the Connect To Thrive conference held by Sen. Michael Bennet and hosted by the

University of Colorado-Colorado Springs.

The conference was a follow-up to the Colorado Veterans Forum that Senator Bennet hosted four years earlier. That produced a report, *Better Serving Those Who Have Served* (Google it!), which addressed how Colorado can be a place for veterans and their families to thrive. That conference also produced a commitment among participants to revisit the topic in a few years.

Connect To Thrive was that revisit.

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.

Printing for our quarterly newsletter is sponsored by



Our panel included the widows of Vietnam veterans and spouses of current military members. We discussed a topic dear to The Home Front Cares' mission—the need for strong and stable family life. Our grants provide a financial bridge to hope because we know that a veteran cannot focus on a job, education, career or even healing if he or she is worried about where the family will sleep tonight or next week.

And the family is equally important to the healing and growth of our veterans. The family knows the veteran best, and often are the first or only people to notice warning signs when things aren't going well. Though families are critical to the care of our veterans, they are often left out of the conversation, and the need to care for families is what drove Vietnam veterans Bob Carlone and Joe Henjum to form our nonprofit nearly 12 years ago.

Senator Bennet asked our panel to

consider several questions:

What are the most critical ways in which family members support veterans? When is family support most important?

Where are gaps in system support for the families of veterans and service members?

What are the top three to five things we could do or change that would be instrumental to

supporting strong families?

The Vietnam widows on our panel recalled that when their husbands were deployed to Vietnam, they received no support. One's husband returned, but the other's did not, and she was pregnant with their child.

I am so glad times are different now.

The Home Front Cares fills a special niche in the continuum of care for our veterans and military families. But we don't do it alone. Conferences like this show that the challenges we and other veteran-serving nonprofits face are ever-evolving, and worth revisiting.

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El Paso County Sheriff Bill Elder visited THFC's August board meeting to present a donation check from the Sheriff's Department our board chairman, Andy Cain. The department held a "blue jeans" day to let department employees wear jeans to work, for a price, and raised \$260 for THFC! Thank you, Sheriff Elder!



Doers and Donors

A Good Ride for a Good Cause

Klarissa Marroquin, above, wanted to ride her motorcycle to Bishop's Castle, near Canon City, Colo. A nice summertime ride. But if she was going to do something, she wanted a reason. A cause.

She discovered The Home Front Cares on Coloradogives.org.

The website lets people organize fundraisers for nonprofits. So Klarissa organized a ride to the castle, asking for the entry fees to be donated to THFC.

The ride happened on a sunny weekend morning, July 18, and she raised \$300 for us!

“Most riders donated more than they needed to,” Klarissa said, “and my friends helped donate to the cause after I promoted all the good things you guys do for military.”

“My husband and I are both Air Force and my dad was a Marine so coming from a military family I've always been about anything that supports any branch, especially around my community.”

Gifts like Klarissa's keep THFC moving. And people like Klarissa make our community a better place.

Thank you, Klarissa!



Congratulations to Air Force Academy Football Coach Troy Calhoun and his team for winning the tournament for the fourth straight year. From left, Clay Hendrix, Troy Calhoun, THFC golf chairman Bob Peterson and the full-sized Veterans Cup, Steve Senn, and Mitch Mann.

Many Thank Yous in Order for Another Successful Veterans Cup Golf Tournament

The Home Front Cares thanks all the sponsors, partners, players, committee members and volunteers who made our July 1 Veterans Cup Golf Tournament a success.

The biggest thanks to the Liniger Foundation and Sanctuary Presented by RE/MAX for selecting THFC for a tournament at their prestigious, exquisite course.

Photos of all the golfers and other happenings at the tournament can be found at <http://photos.blacktie-colorado.com/event/thfc-veterans-cup-tees-off-at-cue-heavenly-music-sanctuary/>

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Your Donation Makes A Difference

A Client Testimonial

This note is from a veteran whose house we helped save. Your gift helped make this happen.



"This organization is incredible. I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for helping me keep my home. My son and I are so thankful to and for you all. I was at the end of my rope dangling the cliff. Thank you for adding more rope to keep me here for my son. God bless you and keep up the good fight at home. God bless America and her veterans.

Semper fi

—Jack and Aden



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

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