

HEROES
TO
HOMETOWNS

When They COME HOME

A POST GUIDE TO ESTABLISHING A SUCCESSFUL
"HEROES TO HOMETOWNS" PROGRAM IN YOUR COMMUNITY

*"Care for our wounded must be our
highest priority."*

— Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense



THE AMERICAN LEGION



As the war on terrorism continues, more young American military men and women are coming home bearing the scars of battle. Many continue to recover physically and emotionally from severe injuries including loss of limbs, mobility, and psychological trauma.

The American Legion and the Department of Defense have teamed up to provide these outstanding and dedicated Americans all the help they need to reestablish their lives when they come home.

*It is a pillar of The American Legion –
“to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”*

If your post has agreed to participate in the Heroes to Hometown program because a comrade is coming home to your community, this guide will provide you with information you need to ensure that the servicemember and their family will get full assistance for a successful transition back to civilian life.

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Lance Cpl. Erin Liberty, an ammunition technician with Ammunition Company, 2nd Supply Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group, sustained several injuries when an improvised explosive device blew up near her convoy near Camp Fallujah, Iraq, June 23. The Niceville, Fla., native, received a Purple Heart. — Photo: Lance Cpl. Matthew K. Hacker

BACKGROUND

As part of its social contract with servicemembers and their families to care for their quality of life, the Department of Defense established the Military OneSource network, and the Wounded Warrior Resource Center. These programs were designed to augment the Severely Injured Support Programs:

- ARMY Wounded Warrior (AW2)
- Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment
- Air Force Wounded Warrior (formally: Air Force Palace HART)
- Navy Safe Harbor

The objective is to ensure seamless care to severely injured personal and their families for as long as it takes. The Wounded Warrior Resource Center (WWRC) provides service member, who have become wounded, ill or injured, as well as their immediate families and their primary caregivers, with a single point of contact for assistance with reporting deficiencies in covered military facilities, obtaining health care services, receiving benefits information and any other difficulties encountered while supporting wounded warriors.

Heroes to Hometowns is one element of the Wounded Warrior Resource Center network of non-governmental operations operating at a national level, reaching into the state and local communities. Heroes to Hometowns is designed to identify needs and coordinate resources in local communities prior to service members and their families returning home. The American Legion family will work with the community to organize a proper “Heroes Welcome” for our wounded warriors. Since its inception the services provided have expanded to provide assistance to all veterans of our armed services in need.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

National

The Heroes to Hometowns Program Coordinator is the first point of contact within the program. Applications are forwarded to the Program Coordinator through on line services, referrals from the Wounded Warrior Resource Center and direct contact. Program Coordinator will initiate contact with the Department Adjutant of the state where the veteran or service member resides. The Heroes to Hometowns Program Coordinator coordinates support with Federal agencies, national nonprofits, corporations and service programs. The Program Manager also works with Army Wounded Warrior, Marine for Life, Safe Harbor, Palace HART and Military Treatment Facilities and VA Case workers. The Heroes to Hometowns Program Coordinator also conducts Department training on how to set up State Heroes to Hometowns Committees.

State

State Heroes to Hometowns Committees are comprised of The American Legion Department Adjutants, National Guard State Family Program and State Veterans Affairs Office. Contact information for these state committees can be found in the appendix.

The Heroes to Hometowns representatives will encourage his or her community to establish a state wide support network to include:

- Government Representatives
- Members of the clergy
- Chambers of Commerce
- Military Family Support Units
- State Vocational Office
- State Transition Assistance Office
- Civic Groups
- Adaptive Sports Clubs
- Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services
- Local Media
- Leaders of The American Legion local posts



VA Medical Center (Heroes to Hometowns VAVS Volunteer Coordinator Pilot Program)

The American Legion Heroes to Hometowns Program and the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program entered into a pilot program in 2008 at 10 VA Medical Center pilot sites. Those pilot sites are: Boston, Dayton, Louisville, Phoenix, Providence, Richmond, St. Louis, San Diego, West Haven and Washington, DC.

The Heroes to Hometowns VA Volunteer Coordinator is

- Certified as a VAVS Volunteer at the VA Medical Center
- Serves as Chief Coordinator of the VA Hospital's Heroes to Hometowns Program
- Will volunteer within the VA Medical Center's social work office to connect transitioning service member needs with community resources and support
- Creates a Community Resource Directory and networks with National,

State, and local community agencies to provide for the specific needs of transitioning service members

If the Heroes to Hometowns VA Volunteer Coordinator is not currently appointed at the VA Medical Center, or if your location is not a pilot site, please contact the Department Adjutant to inquire about serving as the Heroes to Hometowns Community Coordinator. The Heroes to Hometowns Community Coordinator serves in the same role by creating a community resource directory and working with the VA Medical Center's Voluntary Service Office to coordinate requests and assistance with community assistance and donations.

Posts

Posts are the foundation of The American Legion. Legionnaires have the experience, knowledge, and leadership ability to accomplish our mission to assist our men and women in uniform. By utilizing your military training and civilian experiences, our communities can provide ease to the transition back to the hometowns for our wounded warriors. As long as America has its armed services, The American Legion will be there for them. Your relationship with the community can serve as a basis for public coalition of government, civic, and business professionals to respond to any specific need of military families. Posts are encouraged to have a Post Heroes to Hometowns Chairman and create a Post Hero Transition Team (HTT) to provide assistance with coordinating community outreach (volunteer assistance and donations) to support to our returning veterans.

Individuals to include in your HTT should be Chaplains, Vice commanders, Post Service Officers, Public relations officer, and representatives from the Auxiliary and Son's of The American Legion. Depending of the size and location of your post, your HTT members are encouraged to coordinate their efforts with other posts and meet many of the immediate needs of returning veterans and their families. Once your HTT is established, notify the Heroes to Hometowns VA Volunteer Coordinator, Heroes to Hometowns Community Coordinator and the Department Adjutant. The Department Adjutant can connect your HTT with other resources within your state.

Assistance Requests

National: The Heroes to Hometowns National Coordinator receives the application for assistance requests from both The American Legion website and from WWRC. The Coordinator will then review the assistance requests, ensure the appropriate information is provided and then forward them to the appropriate State Adjutant. The Coordinator will then file the requests into that respected state's national file for assistance requests. The Coordinator will also be using this structure for The American Legion's Heroes to Hometowns 10 VAVS H2H Pilot Sites. The Coordinator will also provide training for the states as needed. The Coordinator will receive monthly reports on

the first of each month from each state department in addition to the H2H VAVS Pilot Program. The Coordinator will then analyze the reports and add them to the National Case Files. Each month the Coordinator will complete a National H2H Report with the following:

- 1.) The number of assistance request submitted for the month
- 2.) The number of requests that the Legion was able to provide assistance to
- 3.) The number of requests that the Legion was unable to provide assistance to and reasons why
- 4.) The types of assistance provide
- 5.) Pending assistance request forms
- 6.) Repeat applications for assistance
- 7.) Obstacles in providing assistance
- 8.) Current Programs and projects

State: The State Adjutant will then receive the requests from the National H2H Coordinator and will forward them to the Regional H2H Coordinator. These individuals may be DSOs, volunteers, or other key advocates for the H2H program. The number of Regional H2H Coordinators will vary depending on the size of the state and will be left to the discretion of the State Adjutant. The State Adjutant will have oversight and responsibility over the Regional H2H Coordinators for their respected state and ensure replacements are filled promptly, should a Regional H2H Coordinator not be able to fulfill his or her duties for one reason or another. The State Department will also be responsible for keeping case records of every request submitted to their state, which will be forwarded to them from the Regional H2H Coordinator. The State Department will provide a summarized report for the state to the National Coordinator on the first of each month to include:

- 1.) The number of assistance request submitted to him/her
- 2.) The number of requests that the Legion was able to provide assistance to
- 3.) The number of requests that the Legion was unable to provide assistance to and reasons why
- 4.) The types of assistance provide
- 5.) Pending assistance request forms
- 6.) Repeat applications for assistance

- 7.) Obstacles in providing assistance
- 8.) Any National support that is needed to include H2H materials
- 9.) Any H2H Programs or events attended
- 10.) Current H2H Projects if applicable

Regional: The Regional H2H Coordinator will then keep an up to date registry of all the H2H Post (local) Chairmen within his region and will forward the request to the nearest active Post (H2H Chairman). The Regional H2H Coordinator will support the H2H Post Chairman in resolving issues and finding assistance. The Regional H2H Coordinator will have oversight over the Post H2H Chairman and ensure replacements are promptly established, should there be a need to replace a current Post H2H Chairman. The Regional H2H Coordinator will also ensure that applications are being addressed within an appropriate amount of time (96 hours). The Regional H2H Coordinator will keep case records of all assistance requests within his/her region. The Regional H2H Coordinator will receive reports from each of their Post H2H Chairman by the 20th of each month. The Regional H2H Coordinator will then condense the information into a report that will include the following for each of the H2H Post Chairman receiving and assisting in applications for assistance for that month:

- 1.) The number of assistance request submitted to him/her
- 2.) The number of requests that the Legion was able to provide assistance to
- 3.) The number of requests that the Legion was unable to provide assistance to and reasons why
- 4.) The types of assistance provide
- 5.) Pending assistance request forms
- 6.) Repeat applications for assistance
- 7.) Obstacles in providing assistance
- 8.) Any National support that is needed to include H2H materials
- 9.) Any H2H programs or events attended
- 10.) Current H2H Projects if applicable

Post (local): The Post H2H Chairman will coordinate their individual Heroes Transition Team (HTT) to include five post members at any given time to be on call for providing the direct assistance in regards to the assistance request form. This will ensure that if the first , second, or third HTT member cannot assist the veteran, or if something comes up after they had planned to assist the veteran, the Post H2H Chairman will be able to quickly find a

replacement, ensuring that a prompt response is provided to each veteran who has submitted a request for assistance (making contact within 96 hours of receiving the request). The Post H2H Chairman will then be responsible for keeping accurate case files on each veteran who applies for assistance for his/her HTT, whether assistance was granted or not from the HTT. The H2H Post Chairman will forward all H2H assistance request information to the Regional H2H Coordinator as it becomes available. The Post H2H Chairman will also relay any programs or events that their HTT have been involved in. In actuality, not all Posts will be able to function in this manner. It will be my suggestion for the State Department to ensure that they have good contact with the Regional H2H Coordinators and that the Regional H2H Coordinators keep up to date information on which Posts are active with the H2H program and have HTTs set up at any given time.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

All members do not need to work together with every issue, however, in a cooperative environment, government agencies and communities can work together to assist our service members and their families on a variety of support issues. Immediate needs may include but are not limited to:

- Organizing a Welcome Home Celebration
- Temporary Financial Assistance
- Helping secure temporary and permanent housing
- Community Assistance in adapting a home or vehicle
- Education and employment assistance
- Information on VA benefits
- Specific service issues
- Family Counseling
- Resources in local communities
- Childcare support
- Create a carpool for hospital visits
- Patient Advocate: helping new veterans navigate community and government support programs

While Heroes to Hometowns was created to serve as a safety net for our severely injured servicemembers, we can utilize these same resources to assist families throughout the deployment cycles, and the subsequent return of their loved ones.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

The Heroes to Hometowns VA Volunteer Coordinator or Heroes to Hometowns Community Coordinator will create a Community Resource Directory to broaden program and contact base of assets in the community to support transitioning service members' requests for assistance. Assets in the community include: Individuals, Institutional/Businesses, Government, Veteran or Community Service Organizations.

Create a word document under the following sections: Individuals, Institutional/Businesses, Government, Veteran or Community Service Organizations. For each entry, include Organization, Mission, Point of Contact Name, Phone, Email and how they can assist transitioning veterans.

- Individuals- volunteers with experience (professional, personal, resources, leadership)
- Institutional- colleges/universities, fire department, hospitals and clinics, libraries, police, schools, utility companies
- Businesses- Corporations and Unions, construction companies, furniture companies, gyms, mechanics, movie theaters, restaurants, sporting event venues and teams
- Government- city government- Mayor's office, state capital, bureau of land management, economic development, forest service, military facilities, small business administration, chamber of commerce and state education agency, local media, local employment agencies
- Veteran and Community Service Organizations- American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Red Cross, Salvation Army



Your first step is registering as a VAVS Volunteer- Heroes to Hometowns Volunteer Coordinator. Coordinator will complete VA Volunteer Training with VA Medical Centers VAVS Program Manager and be assigned to social work office or local assignment. After meeting social work office staff, begin creating the Community Resource Directory. VA staff will communicate transitioning service member's need and coordinator will utilize the Community Resource Directory to match the need with assistance.

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

Now that your post has assembled a Heroes to Hometowns VA Volunteer Coordinator, how do you get the word out to the community that you are “on-line” and ready to be there when your hero returns?

Develop a communications plan to reach out to all entities in the community informing the public of your post’s coordination of the Heroes to Hometown program.

The plan should include:

- Liaison with local military installation, National Guard Armory or Reserve Center commanding officers or designated point of contact.
- Public announcement of the formation of your post’s team and its purpose. This should include a media advisory.
- A letter to the editor in your local newspaper.
- Pitch a post spokesperson to local television and radio talk shows to discuss the Heroes to Hometown program and your American Legion Post’s team.
- Avail your Heroes to Hometowns VA Volunteer Coordinator to speak to public meetings such as Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.
- Consider inviting a member of your local radio or television station’s management to become a member of your community committee. Participation as a partner will help you get the word out when public support may be needed.
- Hold a fundraiser: The more creative you make your post’s outreach efforts, the more likely they are to gain interest and momentum in media coverage and support. The more people know about your Heroes to Hometown program and your team, the more sources will be available to help the returning hero and his or her family.
- Work with Your local VA Medical Center or Vet Center: By supporting the VA’s outreach to the new veterans of the Global War on Terrorism, such as a welcoming home celebrations, resources are pooled and communities are energized to support the servicemembers in need. here is nothing better than being welcomed home by your entire community.

Army SSG Sgt. Chris Baine received a homecoming in his town of Williamsport, PA.. He told The American Legion magazine:

“You Legionnaires, you do great things for us. I got to be one of those lucky guys who got a hometown hero welcome. I’ll never forget it. I felt like the president of the United States that day. They had a big dinner for me at Post 1 in Williamsport, PA. They really went all out to make this happen for me.”

Feedback

Legionnaires have several options for providing feedback on the support provided by a Heroes to Hometowns VA Volunteer Coordinator. The task is demanding and important enough to assign a dedicated volunteer to this task alone.

Recommendations for Providing Feedback

1. Use the Feedback Form on The American Legion website to provide detailed reports on what your post is doing to support servicemembers in your community.
2. Volunteer hours can be recorded through the Presidential Volunteer Service Award website. Register as a National Volunteer and record Your The American Legion’s Heroes to Hometown volunteer hours at www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/. Use our Service Key (WCB-24899) in the Certifying Organization block so that The American Legion representative at the Military Severely Injured Center can track your hours and report your support for our wounded service members to DoD. Furthermore, through the President’s National Service Award, the President of the United States national recognizes you and your post’s volunteer efforts through awards and signed letters of appreciation.
3. Send videos of your community’s Heroes to Hometowns events to herostohometowns@legion.org

These methods are only some of the excellent ways to provide feedback to your Department and The American Legion desk at the MSIC.

Membership Connection

In supporting the disabled servicemember and his or her family, The American Legion Post shouts to the community that military men and women are the newest veterans, and that The American Legion will always be there for them. It sends a signal that their success and welfare are integral to the community.

By leading the community, your post garners high visibility with town officials, the media and the general public – including many veterans that may not previously have considered membership in The American Legion.

When other veterans see a post actively engaged in supporting wounded comrades, they understand the Legion’s role as an advocate and are likely to

offer their own camaraderie and expertise to help fellow veterans.

Getting this message out should be part and parcel to public troop support efforts.

The support and assistance provided to this servicemember and his or her family will never be forgotten. Service truly equals membership.

Harnessing Media Power (Public Relations)

The war on terrorism has touched every city, town, and neighborhood in America. The hero coming home to your community is a very real testament to the cost of war and to the professionalism and dedication of today's armed forces. Supporting them and their families is a wonderful news story.

Stories about your American Legion Post Heroes to Hometowns VA Volunteer Coordinator accomplishes a number of goals:

- They remind everyone in the community of the honorable nature of military service and the sacrifices their neighbors make as citizen soldiers.
- They provide information to other service personnel and their families that The American Legion will always be there for them.
- They enable other area veterans to learn of your post's advocacy in helping wounded servicemembers and their families that may lead to increased membership among veterans of all eligible wartime periods.
- They generate interest and enthusiasm among all age groups to join in community activities supporting local hometown heroes in uniform.
- They give your post visibility and promote advocacy of The American Legion in your town.

There are a number of methods to let the media know in advance about the Heroes to Hometowns project your post is planning:

- **A media advisory** – An invitation to the media to cover a specific event, presentation, speech or activity. It provides the Who, What, Why, Where and When along with a point of contact from your post who can set up interviews and discuss the story.
- **A news/press release** – A prewritten story by your post that provides details, along with quotes from key players such as the Post Commander, Team leader, etc. Provided at the event and delivered to reporters.
- **Phone pitches** – Calls made to television station news assignment editors, directors and editors in advance. One-on-one discussion allows

media to ask questions to gain an understanding of the full scope of the story. Provide an opportunity to “sell” the benefits of covering the story for the media outlet and the audience.

- **Television Interviews** – Set up in advance by “pitching” the show producers. Usually these are local news programs that will bring on a guest for a brief discussion of the story during local segments before network programming begins. Station’s may tape a segment and use it later during other news programs giving your post more “bounce for the ounce.”
- **Talk Radio** – Morning and afternoon drive-time programs frequently have hosts who welcome guests with timely information about stories that affect the community: the coming home of a wounded veteran is an important topic.
- **Letters to the Editor** – Written to the Opinion Page Editor from the Post Commander, team leader or other post officer providing information to the public. Usually not more than 250 words.

**MOST MEDIA TODAY PREFER TO RECEIVE
PRINTED MATERIALS BY E-MAIL.
CALL THEM TO FIND OUT THEIR E-MAIL ADDRESS.**

HOW TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE

Applications can be completed and sent online at <http://www.legion.org/veterans/h2h/request> , submitted by mail or through direct contact with the service member.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: heroestohometowns@legion.org

Office Phone: 202-861-2700, ext 1408

Wounded Warrior Resource Center Phone: 703-908-6377

Mobile: 202-631-9924

FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

(POST LETTERHEAD)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEGION POST ACTIVATES (CITY) HERO TRANSITION TEAM

CITY (month day year) – As the war on terrorism continues, Legionnaires here have activated a special unit to facilitate the transition of a wounded soldier back into civilian life following their treatment. “Our post has always reached out to our fellow veterans and their families, but the establishment of this special Heroes to Hometown Team gives us the ability to reach out to the community for local resources that will help the servicemember and his or her family get back to a normal life,” American Legion Post XXX Commander (Full Name) said. “This unit will be ready to provide an around the clock “buddy” for the family to respond to their needs, evaluate the nature of the request, determine the fix and activate the resources to get the job done.”

As the nation’s largest veterans service organization, The American Legion has, since its inception in 1919, served America’s veterans and their families. The Legion’s nation wide Family Support Network put into service during the first Gulf War in 1991, has responded to thousands of military families’ calls to a toll free hotline: 1-800-504-4098. Their emergency needs included such mundane help as snow shoveling, lawn cutting and fixing a leaky faucet to more serious needs including money to pay the rent, getting an automobile running again or watching the kids while Mom takes a child to the doctor. Calls are routed from the call center at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind., to the nearest American Legion Post where help is dispatched.

“Our post will be working with The American Legion representative working with the Pentagon to facilitate the actual return of the soldier and his family home,” (Commander’s last name) said. “The Post XXX is right here, right now and can respond in real time. We will be working with various resources in the community to assemble an area-wide Hero to Hometown committee that will be ready and in place to help in their reintegration into hometown life, to include transportation, finding a job, a home, education and anything else that a grateful community can provide.”

– MORE –

Transition Team 2-2-2-2-2

“As veterans, many Legionnaires have returned home from war with life altering injuries and have gone through the same kind of trauma. Other veterans were there for us – now it’s our turn to be there for today’s men and women who have gone into harms way on our behalf,” (Commander’s last name) said.

There is no charge for help rendered by The American Legion Post Heroes to Hometown team. Appropriately, the Legion motto is “Still Serving America.”

Commander (Last Name) invites all veterans of any wartime era to join the post and to help grow the team’s expertise and capabilities.

– 30 –

Media contact: (Name and telephone number)

(POST LETTERHEAD)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Day, Month, Date, Year

MEDIA ADVISORY

City, Legion Activate Team to Assist Guard, Reserve Families

Who:	Mayor XXXXXX, American Legion Post Commander XXXXXX
What:	Joint press conference with community leaders
When:	(Day, month, date, year) – (Time)
Where:	American Legion Post XXXX 2222 Legion Avenue Your town, USA zip

BACKGROUND

As the nation's largest veterans service organization, The American Legion has, since its inception in 1919, served America's veterans and their families. The American Legion is forming a community "Heroes to Hometown" committee in support of the national program. It's mission: to facilitate the coming home of a wounded servicemember and his or her family by calling on the resources available in this community. Whether it will include finding jobs for the soldier and his or her spouse, helping find a home, fixing a leaky faucet to more serious needs including money to pay the rent, getting an automobile running again or watching the kids while Mom takes another child to the doctor, our community will be there for them.

The American Legion Post XXX Hero Transition team is being formed to respond quickly to real-time emergencies faced by the newly returned servicemember and his or her family. It will harness the talents and resources of many citizens and businesses in (CITY) as needed to ensure all the families of our citizen soldiers from this area that were injured serving our country in Iraq will be welcomed home and given every chance to assume a happy and prosperous life back home.

Media Contact: (Name and Telephone number)

(POST LETTERHEAD)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The American Chronicle
(Address)

Dear Editor:

Soon a wounded American hero will be coming home to our community. American Legion Post XXX is forming a “Heroes to Hometown” team to provide seamless support for this wounded veteran from the war in Iraq as he or she returns after lengthy treatment and rehabilitation at the Military Severely Injured Center in Washington, D.C.

We will be asking folks from all corners of our area to join us in establishing a resource committee to be able to help our local hero transition back to a normal life with his or her family. For a severely disabled veteran, finding a job, getting transportation, seeking training and education, finding a place to live and adapting it for wheel chair access, helping out with baby sitting to name a few are all concerns that you can help us ease for this young family.

If you can volunteer time, effort or resources they may need, call Post XXX Hero Transition Team at (phone number).

Let’s ensure that the tremendous sacrifice made by this great American – our neighbor – will be recognized with all the thanks a grateful community can muster. Please join the veterans of American Legion Post XXX and your friends across our community in recognizing and assisting our hometown hero and his/her family.

Name

Commander

American Legion Post XXX

Address

(POST LETTERHEAD)

COMMUNITY SUPPORT THANK YOU LETTER

(Date)

(Name)

(Address)

Dear (Name):

On behalf of the Heroes to Hometowns Program at the (Name) VA Medical Center, I want to thank you for the (type of assistance/ Description).

The partnership with (Name of Organization or you) has demonstrated the commitment of a grateful nation in support of our wounded soldiers. We value your assistance and support with our program.

Sincerely,

Heroes to Hometowns VAVS Coordinator

Name, VA Medical Center

cc. (Name) VA Medical Center Chief of Voluntary Service

(POST LETTERHEAD)

COMMUNITY DONATION THANK YOU LETTER

(Date)

(Name)

(Address)

Dear (Name):

Please accept this as a receipt for your generous donation to the (Description). Your donation to the Heroes to Hometowns Program during (year) totaled (Dollar Amount).

We appreciate your recognition of the needs of our nation's transitioning service members. Without your support, we would be limited in the opportunities we are able to provide.

Thank you for your generous support.

Sincerely,

Heroes to Hometowns VAVS Coordinator

Name, VA Medical Center

cc. (Name) VA Medical Center Chief of Voluntary Service

HEROES TO HOMETOWNS VA VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR OR COMMUNITY COORDINATOR PROGRAM INFORMATION

Heroes to Hometowns VA Volunteer Coordinator Program

Partner With Us!

There are so many ways in which your business could assist our efforts. Here are but a few:

- Allow your employees to volunteer time during their working hours
- Sponsor one of our many volunteer-driven events (Welcome Home Celebrations, Job Fairs, Transportation, Housing Assistance, etc.)
- Become involved in the committee of your choice (Welcome Home, Employment, Education, Housing, Benefits)
- Allow us to host an event at your facility
- Encourage your employees to be community
- Register which type of service and a designated point of contact in our Community Resource Directory
- Donation
- Explore a profit-sharing campaign with one of your products. (X percent of all sales- during this period of time- will go the Heroes to Hometowns program)
- Collaborate with us on a community betterment project
- Explore ways in which your company's equipment or expertise or products might be used to offset our program's expenses (e.g., printing publications, making your product/service free for our program)

Consider This Your Invitation...

We take this opportunity to invite you to partner with us and welcome whatever level of participation you choose.

You will find a partnership to be mutually beneficial. A few of the business perks you will receive include:

- Publicity about any good deeds you have completed through or on behalf of our agency
- Satisfaction of helping a transitioning soldier and their family
- Invitations to community events and/or listing as a sponsor

And the list goes on...

**Interested? Want more information about how it works?
Simply complete this form, return it to us and we'll be in touch.
It's that simple!**

I'd like to know more. Please contact me.

I'm definitely interested. Sign me up!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Daytime Phone _____

E-mail _____

Instructions

- Cut form along dotted line.
- Insert completed form into an envelope.
- Affix proper postage and mail to:

The American Legion
Heroes to Hometowns – VA Volunteer Coordinator Program
1608 K Street
Washington, D.C. 20006

APPENDIX

Resources

To order any of the following, please submit (e-mail) requests to: heroestohometowns@legion.org.

- Heroes to Hometowns Guide
- Heroes to Hometowns Assistance Request Brochure
- Heroes to Hometowns Post Poster
- Heroes to Hometowns DVD

HEROES TO HOMETOWNS STATE CONTACT LIST

The State Heroes to Hometowns Committees are comprised of The American Legion Department Adjutants, National Guard State Family Program and State Veterans Affairs Office.

For American Legion Department Adjutant listing, go to:

www.legion.org/members/locators/deptdirectory

ALABAMA	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Director	clyde.marsh@va.alabama.gov	(334) 242-5077
	Nat'l Guard Family Program	Director	hubert.chance@us.army.mil	(800) 231-2846
	American Legion	Adjutant	allegion@bellsouth.net	(334) 262-6638
ALASKA	Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs	Director	jerry_beale@ak-prepared.com	(907) 428-6016
	National Guard Family Program	Director	jan.myers@us.army.mil	(907) 428-6663
	American Legion	Adjutant	legion@anch.net	(907) 278-8598
ARIZONA	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Director	jstrickland@azdvs.gov	(602) 255-3373
	National Guard Family Program	Director	jody.reidenhour@us.army.mil	(800) 233-7758
	American Legion	Adjutant	hdqtrs@azlegion.org	(602) 264-7706

ARKANSAS	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Director	James.miller@vba.va.gov	(501) 370-3820
	National Guard Family Program	Director	mary.myers@ar.ngb.army.mil	(800) 446-4645
	American Legion	Adjutant	alegion@swbell.net	(501) 375-1104
CALIFORNIA	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Secretary	thomas.Johnson@cdva.ca.gov	(916) 653-2158
	National Guard Family Program	Director	steve.read1@us.army.mil	(800) 449-9662
	American Legion	Adjutant	joan@calegion.org	(415) 431-2400
COLORADO	Division of Veterans Affairs	Director	bill.belz@dmva.state.co.us	(303) 894-7424
	National Guard Family Program	Director	charlene.m.shields@us.army.mil	(720) 250-1190
	American Legion	Adjutant	cpatsmith@coloradolegion.org	(303) 366-5201
CONNECTICUT	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Commissioner	Linda.Schwartz@po.state.ct.us	(860)-721-5891
	National Guard Family Program	Director	kim.hoffman@ct.ngb.army.mil	(800) 858-2677
	American Legion	Adjutant	deptadj@ctlegion.necoxmail.com	(860) 721-5942
DC	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Director	kerwin.miller@dc.gov	(202) 724-5454
	National Guard Family Program	Director	Shannon.rene.goodwin@us.army.mil	(202) 685-9826
	American Legion	Adjutant	legiondc@verizon.net	(202) 362-9151
DELAWARE	Commission of Veterans Affairs	Exec Director	antonio.davila@state.de.us	(302) 739-2792
	National Guard Family Program	Director	willie.barnes@de.ngb.army.mil	(302) 326-7268
	American Legion	Adjutant	delaware_adjutant@verizon.net	(302)628-5221
FLORIDA	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Exec Director	collinsl@fdva.state.fl.us	(850) 487-1533
	National Guard Family Program	Director	amy.king1@us.army.mil	(904) 814-6678
	American Legion	Adjutant	fl_mail@fllegion.newsouth.net	(407) 295-2631

GEORGIA	Department of Veterans Services	Commissioner	ga.vet.svc@mindspring.com	(404) 656-2300
	National Guard Family Program	Director	william.arp@ga.ngb.army.mil	(678) 569-6454
	American Legion	Adjutant	amerlegga@bellsouth.net	(678) 289-8883
HAWAII	Office of Veterans Services	Director	hirossc@vvba.va.gov	(808) 433-0420
	National Guard Family Program	Director	laura.a.wheeler@us.army.mil	(800) 672-1439
	American Legion	Adjutant	aldepthi@hawaii.rr.com	(808) 946-6383
IDAHO	Office of Veterans Services	Director	david.brasuell@veterans.idaho.gov	(208) 334-3513
	National Guard Family Program	Director	james.w.hicks1@id.ngb.army.mil	(208) 327-0387
	American Legion	Adjutant	idlegion@mindspring.com	(208)342-7061
ILLINOIS	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Director	s-ltd@dva.state.il.us	(217) 785-4114
	National Guard Family Program	Director	joseph.schweickert@il.ngb.army.mil	(800) 832-9225
	American Legion	Adjutant	hdqs@illegion.org	(309) 663-0361
INDIANA	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Director	tapplegate@dva.IN.gov	(317) 232-3910
	National Guard Family Program	Director	susan.richards@in.ngb.army.mil	(317) 247-3227
	American Legion	Adjutant	members@indlegion.org	(317) 630-1300
IOWA	Commission of Veterans Affairs	Director	Palmersheim@icva.state.ia.us	(515) 242-5331
	National Guard Family Program	Director	catherine.luther@ia.ngb.army.mil	(515) 252-4416
	American Legion	Adjutant	info@ialegion.org	(800) 365-8387
KANSAS	Veterans Commission	Director	kcva006@lnk.org	(785) 296-3976
	National Guard Family Program	Director	robert.parvin@us.army.mil	(785) 720-8604
	American Legion	Adjutant	yunker@ksamlegion.org	(785) 232-9315

KENTUCKY	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Commissioner	les.beavers@ky.gov	(502) 564-9203
	National Guard Family Program	Director	marion.peterson@ky.ngb.army.mil	(502) 687-1555
	American Legion	Adjutant	kylegion@bellsouth.net	(502) 587-1414
LOUISIANA	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Secretary	jstrickland@vetaffairs.com	(225) 922-0500
	National Guard Family Program	Director	lida.eichenauer@us.army.mil	(866) 647-3617
	American Legion	Adjutant	adjutant@americanlegion.ntcmail.net	(225) 923-1945
MAINE	Division of Veterans Services	Director	Peter.Ogden@me.ngb.army.mil	(207) 626-4464
	National Guard Family Program	Director	Barbara.Claudel@us.army.mil	(207) 626-4521
	American Legion	Adjutant	legionme@me.acadia.net	(207) 873-3229
MARYLAND	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Secretary	gowings@mdva.state.md.us	(410) 260-3838
	National Guard Family Program	Director	jeannette.wittman@us.army.mil	(877) 399-6221
	American Legion	Adjutant	hdqtrs@mdlegion.org	(410) 752-1405
MASSACHUSETTS	Department of Veterans Services	Secretary	tkelly@vet.state.ma.us	(617) 210-5765
	National Guard Family Program	Director	dana.sanders-udo@ma.ngb.army.mil	(508) 233-7232
	American Legion	Adjutant	masslegion@verizon.net	(617) 727-2966
MICHIGAN	Department of Military Affairs	Asst. Adjutant Gen.	fausonec@michigan.gov	(517) 335-6523
	National Guard Family Program	Director	mary.jones4@us.army.mil	(877) 616-0128
	American Legion	Adjutant	info@michiganlegion.org	(517) 371-4720

MINNESOTA	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Commissioner	clark.dyrud@state.mn.us	(651) 296-2562
	National Guard Family Program	Director	james.swanson@mn.ngb.army.mil	(651) 296-4439
	American Legion	Adjutant	department@mnlegion.org	(651) 291-1800
MISSISSIPPI	Veterans Affairs Board	Exec Director	grice@vab.state.ms.us	(601) 576-4850
	National Guard Family Program	Director	melissa.tanksley@us.army.mil	(866) 369-6506
	American Legion	Adjutant	legion27@aol.com	(601) 352-4986
MISSOURI	Veterans Commission	Exec Director	hal.dulle@mvc.dps.mo.gov	(573) 751-3779
	National Guard Family Program	Director	melissa.ireland@mo.ngb.army.mil	(800) 299-9603
	American Legion	Adjutant	info@missourilegion.org	(573) 893-2353
MONTANA	Veterans Affairs Division	Administrator	jofoster@state.mt.us	(406) 324-3740
	National Guard Family Program	Director	kathryn.gilding@us.army.mil	(406) 324-3248
	American Legion	Adjutant	amlegmt@in-tch.com	(406) 324-3989
NEBRASKA	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Director	jhilgert@notes.state.ne.us	(402) 471-2458
	National Guard Family Program	Director	drey.ihm@ne.ngb.army.mil	(402) 309-7331
	American Legion	Adjutant	nebraska@legion.org	(402) 464-6338
NEVADA	Office of Veterans Services	Dep Executive	turnerc@veterans.nv.gov	702-636-3070
	National Guard Family Program	Director	joanne.farris@nv.ngb.army.mil	(702) 632-0518
	American Legion	Adjutant	achief@aol.com	(702) 392-2353

NEW HAMPSHIRE	State Veterans Council	Director	mary.morin@vba.va.gov	(603) 624-9230
	National Guard Family Program	Director	suzanne.barricklow@us.army.mil	(888) 977-7400
	American Legion	Adjutant	adjutantnh@amlegion.state.nh.us	(603) 271-2211
NEW JERSEY	Department of Military and Veterans Affairs	Deputy Commissioner	stephen.abel@njdmava.state.nj.us	(609) 530-7045
	National Guard Family Program	Director	ralph.cwieka@nj.ngb.army.mil	(609) 562-0668
	American Legion	Adjutant	adjutant@njamericanlegion.org	(609) 695-5418
NEW MEXICO	Veterans Service Commission	Cabinet Secretary	johnm.garcia@state.nm.us	(505) 827-6334
	National Guard Family Program	Director	Therese.Sanchez@nmkirt.ang.af.mil	(505) 233-7259
	American Legion	Adjutant	legionnm@osogrande.com	(505) 247-0400
NEW YORK	State Division of Veterans Affairs	Director	gbasher@veterans.state.ny.us	(518) 474-6114
	National Guard Family Program	Director	beverly.keating@ny.ngb.army.mil	(877) 715-7817
	American Legion	Adjutant	info@nylegion.org	(518) 463-2215
NORTH CAROLINA	Division of Veterans Affairs	Assistant Secretary	charles.smith@ncmail.net	(919) 733-3851
	National Guard Family Program	Director	dale.j.cowan@ng.army.mil	(800) 621-4136
	American Legion	Adjutant	nclegion@nc.rr.com	(919) 832-7506

NORTH DAKOTA	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Commissioner	behanson@state.nd.us	(701) 239-7165
	National Guard Family Program	Director	jackie.huber@us.army.mil	(800) 242-4940
	American Legion	Adjutant	adjutant@ndlegion.org	(701) 293-3120
OHIO	Governer's Office of Veterans Affairs	Director	tepsich@gov.state.oh.us	(614) 644-0892
	National Guard Family Program	Director	robert.bramlish@oh.ngb.army.mil	(800) 589-9914
	American Legion	Adjutant	legion@ohiolegion.com	(740) 362-7478
OKLAHOMA	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Director	pdriskill@odva.state.ok.us	(405) 521-3684
	National Guard Family Program	Director	lindy.white@us.army.mil	(405) 228-5036
	American Legion	Adjutant	oklalegion@sbcglobal.net	(405) 525-3511
OREGON	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Director	willisj@odva.state.or.us	(503) 373-2388
	National Guard Family Program	Director	diane.gooding@or.ngb.army.mil	(503) 584-3987
	American Legion	Adjutant	orlegion@aol.com	(503) 685-5006
PENNSYLVANIA	Dept. of Military Affairs	Deputy Adjutant Gen.	chengeveld@state.pa.us	(717) 861-8901
	National Guard Family Program	Director	jennifer.n.sadler@pa.ngb.army.mil	(717) 861-2389
	American Legion	Adjutant	hq@pa-legion.com	(717) 730-9100
RHODE ISLAND	Dept. of Military Affairs	Director	rbaccus@dhs.ri.gov	(401) 253-8000
	National Guard Family Program	Director	robert.behm@us.army.mil	(401) 275-4177
	American Legion	Adjutant	tdequattro@aol.com	(401) 726-2126

SOUTH CAROLINA	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Director	pbutler@oepp.sc.gov	(803) 734-0200
	National Guard Family Program	Director	Clarence.bowser@us.army.mil	(803) 806-2908
	American Legion	Adjutant	dept@aldsc.org	(803) 799-1992
SOUTH DAKOTA	Division of Veterans Affairs	Director	dennisf@mvastate.sd.us	(605) 773-3518
	National Guard Family Program	Director	harvey.fitzgerald@us.army.mil	(605) 737-6088
	American Legion	Adjutant	sdlegion@dailypost.com	(605) 886-3604
TENNESSEE	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Commissioner	John.Keys@state.tn.us	(615) 741-2930
	National Guard Family Program	Director	ronald.strahle@ng.army.mil	(615) 355-3996
	American Legion	Adjutant	tnamerle@bellsouth.net	(615) 254-0568
TEXAS	Veterans Commission	Exec Director	info@tvc.state.tx.us	(512) 463-5538
	National Guard Family Program	Director	thomas.palladino@tx.ngb.army.mil	(800) 252-8032
	American Legion	Adjutant	txlegion@txlegion.org	(512) 472-4138
UTAH	Division of Veterans Affairs	Director	tschow.@utah.gov	(801) 326-2372
	National Guard Family Program	Director	annette.barnes@ut.ngb.army.mil	(801) 766-4677
	American Legion	Adjutant	growley@utlegion.org	(801) 539-1013
VERMONT	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Director	clayton.clark@state.vt.us	(802) 828-3379
	National Guard Family Program	Director	lynn.bedell@vt.ngb.army.mil	(888) 607-8773
	American Legion	Adjutant	alvthq@verizon.net	(802) 223-7131

VIRGINIA	Department of Veterans Services	Commissioner	vince.burgess@dvs.virginia.gov	(804) 786-0286
	National Guard Family Program	Director	lc.myers@us.army.mil	(434) 298-6365
	American Legion	Adjutant	eecleston@valegion.org	(804) 353-6606
WASHINGTON	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Director	johnk@dva.wa.gov	(360) 725-2151
	National Guard Family Program	Director	carol.seger@wa.ngb.army.mil	(800) 364-7492
	American Legion	Adjutant	americanlegion@walegion.org	(360) 491-4373
WEST VIRGINIA	Division of Veterans Affairs	Director	wwdva@state.wv.us	(304) 558-3661
	National Guard Family Program	Director	james.a.martin2@wv.ngb.army.mil	(800) 79-GUARD
	American Legion	Adjutant	wvlegion@charterinternet.com	(304) 343-7591
WISCONSIN	Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Director	John.Scocos@dva.state.wi.us	(608) 266-1315
	National Guard Family Program	Director	meg.blankschein@wi.ngb.army.mil	(608) 243-3723
	American Legion	Adjutant	info@wilegion.org	(608) 745-1090
WYOMING	Commission of Veterans Affairs	Director	wwac@trib.com	(307) 265-7372
	National Guard Family Program	Director	william.breckenridge@wy.ngb.army.mil	(800) 635-4917
	American Legion	Adjutant	wylegion@qwest.net	(307) 634-3035

MEXICO AND U.S. TERRITORIES

NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

Division of Veterans Affairs	Director	ruthcoleman2003@yahoo.com	(670) 2650/2651
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GERMANY

American Legion	Adjutant	bigkansas@gmx.de	011-49-07131- 6421812
National Guard Family Program	Director	robert.crisostomo1@us.army.mil	

GUAM

Veterans Affairs Office	Administrator	fgofigan@mail.gov.gu	(671) 642-4114
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MEXICO

American Legion	Adjutant	campani@prodigy.net.mx	01-52-33- 3610-0456
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PHILLIPINES

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PUERTO RICO

Public Advocate for Veterans Affairs		opvpr@yahoo.com	(787) 758-5760
National Guard Family Program	Director	nydia.garcia@pr.ngb.army.mil	(787) 289-1503
American Legion	Adjutant	quilesma1@aol.com	(787) 792-4899

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Office of Veterans Affairs	Director	justinova46@yahoo.com	(340) 773-6663
National Guard Family Program	Director	linda.todman@vi.ngb.army.mil	(340) 712-7782



Maj. Matthew Conlan was seriously injured by a land mine blast in Afghanistan. He is recovering in San Antonio with his wife, Becky, and son, Cameron.

— Photo: Master Sgt. Michael A. Ward



THE AMERICAN LEGION