



2022 SPRING EDITION

PURPLE HEART HOMES

CONNECTIONS



[page 3]

186 PROJECTS
Completed in 2021

[page 4 & 5]

DONOR SPOTLIGHT
Community Partnership with
Fifth Street Ministries

[page 6]

NEW RADIO SHOW
Putting the Pieces Back Together
Listen live or find us on Spotify!

WE'RE IMPROVING VETERANS' LIVES ONE HOME AT A TIME.



755 Washington Avenue
Statesville, NC 28677
www.phhusa.org | 704-838-4044

JOHN GALLINA
Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder

DALE BEATTY
Co-Founder (1978-2018)

TIM PARKER
Chief Operations Officer

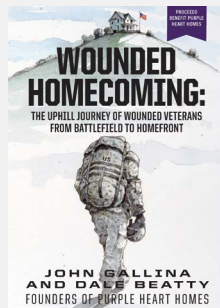
TIM MANGUM
Chief Administrative Officer

PAUL COCKERHAM
Chief Development Officer

KERRY LAWING
Vice President of Operations

BRAD BORDERS
Vice President of Community Outreach

BOARD MEMBERS
DAVE STERNBURG (Chairman), VICTORIA SCHWEIZER, CHARLIE EADIE, JESSICA MILLMAN, LIZ PARADISE, ROB BAÑUELOS, SHERRY YASKIN, ESTEBAN MCMAHAN, RUSSELL RAUCH, LAURA FORREST, CJ BANNISTER, DANICA COIT



Available now on
www.phhusa.org
and Amazon!

Contributors:
John Gallina, Tim Parker, Paul Cockerham, Brad Borders, Kerry Lawing, Layn Tallent, Tammy Pate, and Dave Sternburg

Purple Heart Homes is an equal opportunity employer and provider. "Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Section at www.secretary.state.nc.us/verification. The license is not an endorsement by the State."

CO-FOUNDER'S CORNER



John Gallina
Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder

It is always a pleasure to share with you the progress we have made and our plans for Purple Heart Homes (PHH). It is an opportunity to reflect and share our dream. Going down memory lane always starts at the same place for me, returning from Iraq and thinking of the challenges that I faced, thinking about my friend and fellow Co-founder, Dale Beatty, and the challenges he faced.

While we had different injuries, our overall experience returning home was very similar. We were both welcomed with open arms by family and a supportive community. When I think about the early days of PHH it is not without seeing and feeling that same outpouring of support and love each day and passing year. It is because of each of you and so many more in communities around our great nation that PHH is afforded the opportunity to continue the mission of serving Veterans. Not everyone experienced such support when they returned home. Some still face difficulties and challenges each day due to their service.

Looking back, it is hard to believe it has now been four years since we lost Dale to a double pulmonary embolism. My heart goes out to the family, Dale's wife, Belinda; their three children, Dustin, Lucas, and Sophia; his mom, Selene; and his sister, Amber. I know full well that no matter what our loss feels like as friends and coworkers, it pales in comparison to the pain they feel each day without him.

Dale and I never felt that we own the mission of PHH; rather, we realized it was bigger than us. We always said to each other that we hope when we pass the baton the mission will continue, and the organization will grow. Our dream has always been that veterans from past generations will know that they are appreciated, respected, and cared for by their community, and that the next generation will have an organization there to receive them the same as ours, supporting their housing needs and much more.

Each day the team at PHH strives to live up to our core values, meet the mission, and make Dale proud. He set the bar high for us all and we carry on, honoring him and so many others who have sacrificed their lives for our freedoms. When I visit his grave site and pay my respects, it is always with a heavy heart, missing my battle buddy, and burdened with the knowledge that the mission must continue. I can almost hear him say, too many are left behind in need, and, together, we have the ability to make a difference.

I'm proud to say that together we are making a difference, changing the lives of veterans and their families one home at a time. For the last three years we have grown 25 percent each year. Consistently increasing the number of projects completed, number of chapters, our geographical reach, organizational efficacy, and PHH's overall capacity.

In December we elected new board officers. Chairman Dave Sternberg, Vice Chair Esteban McMahan, Secretary Russell Rauch, and Treasurer Danica Coit. We are very thankful for those who have served over the last two years and led us through the beginning and, hopefully, the middle of the pandemic.

I would especially like to thank our governance committee members Jessica Millman, Sherry Yaskin, and Laura Forrest for their diligent work over the last year in holding elections and adding new members, ushering in a new slate of leaders.

With 2022 now in full swing and another year of reporting, audits, and tax filings upon us, we have already completed five projects and started over a dozen more. We have several new events coming online, so be sure to check out the website, which, by the way, is getting a facelift over the next few months.

In addition, we started a new weekly radio show, Putting the Pieces Back Together, where we talk to Veterans, charities, volunteers, and community members who share their stories and experiences of how community has made a difference in their lives. The show is co-hosted by me and Brad Borders, and you can tune in live through our Facebook and YouTube channels, or listen to the recordings at your convenience.

Our overall plans for 2022 are focused on increasing our manufacturing capacity, continuing to build and strengthen partnerships to reach more veterans, while establishing and growing more chapters. Each of these initiatives requires your support and involvement. Without you our work is not complete, not as impactful, and less meaningful. Yes, we could physically work on the project and change the shape of a home, but it is the relationships that are built and the love that is shown through your support and actions that changes the life. Letting the Veteran know that they are not forgotten and their service was not in vain.

Each time I write to you, I can't help but think of how much each of you mean to me and PHH. Your support and encouragement are great. More importantly, you are inspiring, giving hope that we as a nation and people have heart. You all put the "Heart" in Purple Heart Homes. You all matter, the Veterans we serve matter, and our future generations matter.

186 PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2021

with **KERRY LAWING**
Vice President of Operations

I hope all of you had a Happy New Year! 2021 was a busy and blessed time in the Purple Heart Homes (PHH) Operations Department, and we are working towards more of the same for 2022.

In 2021, we completed 186 projects for our Veterans, and 44 of those projects were completed by our PHH Chapters nationwide. In addition, we built four Veteran tiny homes. Recently, we had a Mission Complete ceremony to present the keys to the last two homes built for Fifth Street Ministries, a local organization that supports the housing and food insecure of our county. These homes will be used as part of the Fifth Street Ministries Veterans Transitional Housing Program to assist Veterans going from homelessness to independent living.

Currently, our manufacturing team is building our next Veteran tiny home, which has a projected completion date for March 2022. We plan to build at least ten tiny homes in 2022. Our Veterans Aging in Place (VAIP) team has a goal of com-

pleting 200 projects this year, and they are off to a great start! Alongside our project growth, we have a need for additional Project Managers. We are searching for two new people to join our VAIP team!

Our PHH Rental Program has two homes currently occupied and four more homes undergoing renovations. The Operations Department is very excited about the various opportunities to assist Veterans in 2022.

In January alone, we received 65 new Veteran applications. Additionally, we have over 300 Veterans already waiting for assistance. When we look at the numbers it can make the task seem overwhelming; fortunately, we are surrounded with great partners and citizens, like yourself, who assist us in our mission. The need is great – that is undeniable – but I feel certain that when the entire community comes together, we can provide assistance to the Veterans who have served each of us so honorably.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR HEARTS OF HONOR CLUB MEMBERS!

Your monthly gift truly makes an impact on the Veterans we serve!

In 2020, we believed the pandemic was going to cause a two week shut down across the country. However, almost two years later, we are still seeing the effects of COVID-19.

As Veterans had to remain within the confines of their homes, the need for Purple Heart Homes assistance became more urgent than ever. As COVID-19 impacted families across the nation, our Hearts of Honor members declined; however, our Veteran applications increased.

Purple Heart Homes is dedicated to continue improving the lives of our service connected disabled Veterans. In order to continue increasing the number of Veterans served, we need your help. The Hearts of Honor Club is one of the most vital ways that an individual can assist Purple Heart Homes and the Veterans we serve. Your dollars help provide freedom to those who served our great nation.

Have you joined our Hearts of Honor Club?
Visit www.phhusa.org to join today and spread the word!





DONOR SPOTLIGHT DONOR SPOTLIGHT DONOR SPOTLIGHT

with Paul Cockerham
Chief Development Officer

Greetings! This Donor Spotlight will be a little different, it will be about the community coming together to accomplish a great thing and it turning out better than expected. This will be a story of tiny homes, a homeless shelter, a Veteran transitional home, and a few Veterans focused charitable organizations.

Fifth Street Ministries is the local homeless shelter, and one of the programs managed by the shelter is the Veterans Transitional Housing Program. The physical home offers a 6-bed communal living environment with all ancillary services provided by Fifth Street.

This home was the vision of Pete (sadly, we lost Pete, a decorated Marine Corps Veteran of the Korean War, in November 2020) and Vivian Meletis and their organization, Piedmont Veterans Assistance Council (PVAC). PVAC, again with support from the community, made this vision a reality in 2016 and subsequently turned it over to Fifth Street to effectuate.

From the time Purple Heart Homes (PHH) built and delivered its first tiny home to a Veteran in 2020, the idea has been to build a home and provide it to Fifth Street for additional capacity for the Veteran Transitional Housing Program. Fifth Street owns some land and Purple Heart Homes can build the homes. Seems simple, right? It's not. There are many things that need to come together to make this happen. Things did. Building the tiny home is the "easy" part – these are built in a 23,000 sq. ft. dedicated manufacturing space at Purple Heart Homes headquarters.

The more difficult parts are site preparation for the homes, digging footers and building foundations, getting permits, scheduling inspections, scheduling transportation and rigging to set the homes, getting water, sewer, and power hook-ups from municipal sources, etc. Another difficult part, and oftentimes the most difficult part, is securing funding to make these efforts possible.

Not this time! This is the story of community. While there was funding from The Home Depot Foundation, The Elsa and Peter Soderberg Charitable Foundation, and Local Initiatives Support Corporation, all long time and continued supporters of Purple Heart Homes, the community funded most of this endeavor.

Funding from Energy United Foundation, JC Steele and Sons Charitable Fund via Iredell County Community Foundation, JD Wilson Foundation Fund via North Carolina Community

Foundation, William W. and Jean D. Wilson via The Rotary Foundation, and Piedmont Veterans Assistance Council with a matching donation from Patriot Military Family Foundation was crucial to bringing this project to completion. There were also many donations from individual donors specifically allocated for this project – too many to list.

Now for the best part – with the support outlined above, Purple Heart Homes was able to deliver TWO tiny homes to Fifth Street Ministries for the Veterans Transitional Housing Program!

On January 25, a Mission Complete ceremony was held and the keys to the homes were handed to the Executive Director of Fifth Street. In attendance were representatives from Purple Heart Homes, Fifth Street, and Vivian Meletis from PVAC. Also in attendance was the Mayor of Statesville, Chairman and members of the Iredell County Board of Commissioners, community leaders, local Veterans, donors, and US Army Veteran, Rockie Lynne, provided the music.

The first two Veterans are scheduled to occupy the Tiny Homes in the early second quarter. Many more Veterans will be served through the Transitional Housing Program over the life of the homes, and we hope to partner with Fifth Street Ministries again and provide more homes in the future.

A simple thank you never seems enough for those who support organizations like Purple Heart Homes and Fifth Street Ministries and the respective missions, yet we hope it conveys to you how very thankful we are. None of this is possible without you - our donors, supporters, and volunteers. Thank you.

Would you like to explore opportunities like this in your community? If so, please contact us. We believe we've built a model that can and will be replicated in many communities across the country.



LISTEN LIVE OR FIND US ON SPOTIFY!



PUTTING THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER

WITH JOHN GALLINA & BRAD BORDERS FROM PURPLE HEART HOMES

RADIO SHOW
LISTEN LIVE

TUESDAYS
8:00 AM EST
105.9 FM
WSIC

RAMPING UP FOR A BIG 2022!

Community Outreach Updates

with BRAD BORDERS

Vice President of Community Outreach

One of the most exciting things that we have established in recent months is a local radio program. It's something John and I have dreamed about for quite some time.

This past fall 1400 WSIC approached us with an opening, and we jumped at it. The show is called Putting the Pieces Back Together in reference to an analogy that John has used over the years.

Think of each Veteran as a piece in a jigsaw puzzle. The puzzle is the community that they live in. When service calls, the piece is taken out of its original place. Many times during service, traumatic things happen, sort of like that puzzle piece being dunked in some kind of hot liquid, like coffee.

The piece, in this case, the Veteran, is changed. Upon return, Veterans try to fit back in, but their experiences have made them unable to fit exactly like they used to. So the other pieces must adapt to allow for the piece to return to its proper place; that's what our show is about.

It seeks to provide a space where Veterans and communities can connect, be heard, grow, heal, and ultimately put the pieces back together.

We've had some awesome guests on the show and have many more lined up. We are live on Tuesdays from 8:00 am – 9:00 am on 1400 WSIC and live on the WSIC and PHH Facebook pages. You can listen or watch live or catch it later in the archives. We hope you'll tune in and share the show with others!



projectechelonracing

THE CHAPTER CHAT ROOM

with TIM PARKER

Chief Operations Officer

Purple Heart Homes Chapters are a collection of community members who have decided to help Veterans in their local area who have housing issues.

They combine their time, talent, and desire to serve with other like-minded individuals and form a Purple Heart Homes Chapter. These chapters exponentially expand Purple Hearts Homes ability to help more Veterans and are key to expanding our national reach.

To date, our chapters have completed 283 projects for Service Connected Disabled Veterans. That's 283 Veterans that Purple Heart Homes would not have been able to help and was done with local volunteers. This helps reconnect the Veteran to his community and is vital to reintegration.

The satisfaction the volunteers receive by their efforts to improve the quality of life for a Veteran is amazing in its depth and reach. The feeling you get as you watch a service connected disabled Veteran experience real freedom for the first time in years as they roll down a ramp that you helped complete defies description.

The need for Purple Heart Homes services is so vast it is difficult to comprehend. We receive an average of over 10 applications per week and already have a backlog of over 300 Veterans. The only way our charity, based in Statesville, North Carolina, will ever be able to help all these Veterans is through our chapter program.

We currently have 18 active chapter projects with many more in the works or being applied for. Our chapters stretch across the country, but we need many more to fully service the need. Our oldest chapter (Golden Corner SC) has completed over 120 projects while our newest chapter in El Paso, Texas is looking to do its first project.

Each chapter finds its own battle rhythm and space. They each do the things they feel they can best help Veterans with. Some are great at construction and take on some heavy projects. For example, we've had a chapter install an elevator for a Veteran. Others are exceptional fundraisers and put on some impressive events, resulting in significant revenue raised to assist Veterans. Each is vital and has a place at Purple Heart Homes.

Our new model has greatly simplified the process for forming a chapter and has drastically decreased the workload our volunteers experience. We have tried to make the whole experience much less stressful and more enjoyable for those who choose to give their time to help others.

Are there Veterans in your town struggling to live safe, barrier-free lives? Perhaps you know an older Veteran who doesn't have the means to fix that leaky roof and "just lives with it"?

Many of these Veterans lose heat in the winter or air-conditioning in the summer and have nowhere to turn, so they just endure. For me, the most heart-wrenching cases are those of Veterans who need a simple ramp to regain their freedom to just go outdoors. A Purple Heart Homes Chapter could easily provide that assistance.

Are you interested in learning how you can help? Are you willing to step up and be the leader that is needed to start a chapter and help Veterans where you live? Submit a volunteer request at PHHUSA.ORG, and we will help you get started. You and the Veterans who live in your community will be glad you did.

I AM A _____
OF A VETERAN

 @purplehearthomes

 @PHHTWEET

 @purplehearthomes

Tag us and tell us how you are connected!

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



"I felt hopeless.
I couldn't leave my house.
There were termites.
I was feeling suicidal."

We hear this... a lot.

That statement is just one of far too many hardships that happen to far too many of those who served our country. I have seen it firsthand, but I am one of the lucky ones.

My dad served in the early nuclear Navy, and he was fortunate to never experience the challenges that many Veterans face. Like you, I cannot accept that this is how we show our gratitude to those who served us. While I did not serve, I believe I can do my part... a sort of service of my own as a member of the Purple Heart Homes Board of Directors.

In 2021, Purple Heart Homes served 186 Veterans throughout the United States. Some of the projects were small, some were extensive. Additionally, we built and placed four tiny homes, a new and innovative approach to serve our Veterans.

We have big goals for 2022, and we are motivated by the words of those we serve:

"God heard my prayers. Words cannot describe how you made me feel. Purple Heart Homes saved me from a very dark place."

Join me in becoming a Hearts of Honor Member using the envelope in this newsletter! Our work is not done, and your generosity will help ensure that we continue to serve those who have served us.

DAVE STERNBERG, Chairman of the Board