



2023 SUMMER EDITION

# PURPLE HEART HOMES

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120 Projects Already  
Completed This Year!

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Mr. Robert Pyron

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 MANGUM**  
Chief Administrative Officer

**PAUL COCKERHAM**  
Chief Development Officer

**KERRY LAWING**  
Chief Operations Officer

**BRAD BORDERS**  
Executive Vice President of Donor Relationships

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**Contributors:**  
John Gallina, Paul Cockerham, Durant Haire,  
Matt Stevenson, Ashley Speece

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## CO-FOUNDER'S CORNER



with **JOHN GALLINA**  
Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder

The fact that we have been assisting Veterans for 15 years is incredible. There are over 2,000 Veterans who have benefited from more than 1,150 projects, and over 5,000 family members have been impacted. I've always understood that it would require a community, including you and your community, for us to succeed. 'When hearts come together, great things happen,' was one of our marketing slogans. However, the truth is that when hearts come together, lives are changed! In addition to the tens of thousands of contributors who have given over \$34,850,600 to the mission of Purple

Heart Homes and the hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours, you are all to thank for our accomplishments, which date back to the original \$25 donation made by Col. Ret. Harold Bankirer that set us on the path to success.

I've come to understand that while we are constructing and renovating homes, the main work we are doing is saving lives in addition to granting freedom of movement. Being in a house where your needs aren't being met or where you feel confined and alone can be quite stressful. It can change your life and give you hope and motivation to keep going when donors and volunteers stand by you and lend a helping hand. The Veteran is not the only one who benefits; his or her children and spouse also see a reduction in stress and load at home.

Only this past week did I get a note from a Veteran named David F. who had been tent-bound and homeless. David now has a new home thanks to the assistance of numerous volunteers, partner NGOs, and a nearby church. For the first time since December 31, 2022, he remarked, "I give up the unique distinction of being a homeless vet, living in a tent or yurt, on the formerly twenty-acre farm of my ancestors. I have a sturdy metal roof over my head tonight. I am not sleeping tonight on a cot in the yurt, with raindrops occasionally hitting my head. I slept tonight on top of a double bed with a pillowtop cushion."

You may not be able to hear the relief and thankfulness in his words, but I can. This is what you've done, and it's thanks to you that things have changed. Purple Heart Homes depends on your generosity, so please inform your friends and family about the mission and encourage them to support it as well. More than 1,400 Veterans are on our waiting list, and they require your assistance. You will, I can promise you, be giving a Veteran and their family the gift of freedom whether you join Hearts of Honor, our monthly giving club, make a one-time donation, or leave a legacy gift in your will to support Purple Heart Homes' purpose.



WITH JOHN GALLINA & BRAD BORDERS FROM PURPLE HEART HOMES

Join us each Thursday at 3:00 pm EST on News/Talk WSIC (1400 AM – 100.7 FM – 105.9 FM) as John Gallina and Brad Borders talk with Veterans about their service and their return to the civilian world. You can also listen and watch live on our Facebook page.



## OUR 15TH ANNIVERSARY

with **PAUL COCKERHAM**  
Chief Development Officer

August 26, 2008 is the day Purple Heart Homes received its IRS Determination Letter formalizing the 501(c)(3) status as a public charity. August 26, 2023, will mark the 15th anniversary of Purple Heart Homes and its mission of serving Veterans by addressing their housing needs.

We feel this is quite an accomplishment. From formalizing the organization in 2008 to completing the first project for a Vietnam Veteran of the United States Navy in Hickory, NC in 2010 (and this being the only project completed that year), to August 2023 having completed almost 1,200 projects and served over 2,000 Veterans is cause for celebration.

We want to say THANK YOU to all of you who've supported these efforts along the way. You made this possible with your donations of time, money, materials, encouragement, and other support. You shared our message, you attended our events, you took love offerings at your church, you fundraised for us with your kid-run lemonade stands, your bake sales, your golf tournaments, your motorcycle rides, and any number of other ways you thought of to support. You rallied behind us when we encountered Veterans with such great needs that we weren't sure we'd be financially able to address all the issues of the Veteran's home to make sure it was healthy, safe, and accessible. You stepped up and stood fast and made sure we did not fail in our mission – a noble thing.

I would ask that you continue to support Purple Heart Homes and the Veterans we serve so that we can serve thousands more, their families, and caregivers over the next 15 years and beyond. Tell everyone in your circle about us, introduce us to the companies you work for, help us spread our message in any way you're able. We cannot help Veterans without you, nor would we want to. You are our way. Again, a sincere thank you on behalf of the entire Purple Heart Homes team for past, present, and continued support. Semper Fidelis.

Visit [www.phhusa.org](http://www.phhusa.org) to help.

## EXCITING RECENT HAPPENINGS AT PHH



### MILITARY MAKEOVER

We are excited to announce that Purple Heart Homes is the Official Nonprofit Partner of Military Makeover with Montel Williams airing on Lifetime Television for the 4th quarter of this year until the 3rd quarter of next year! Join us on November 10 for the first episode.



### KATHERINE BAICH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Cameron Sanders on winning our 2023 Katherine Baich Endowed Scholarship awarded in July. The Scholarship is for \$2,500 to be put toward student housing.



### A VOLUNTEER DAY

Thank you to the guys from the Charlotte office of Cleveland Construction, Inc. for volunteering their time recently to help us begin a new tiny home build!



### RECENT PROJECT

Thank you to the MSC Industrial Supply volunteers and to Cross Cannons Construction for building Vietnam Veteran Mr. David G. a new deck to replace his damaged one.



### TWO NEW TINY HOMES

We recently raised the first walls on Tiny Homes 14 and 15!





# TORNADO DESTROYS VETERAN'S HOME

with DURANT HAIRE  
Digital Marketing Manager

On the night of March 24, an EF3 tornado with winds up to 155 mph ripped through Winona, Mississippi. One of the homes in its path was that of 90-year-old Korean War Veteran, Mr. Robert Pyron. Mr. Pyron was in his home with his dog, Teddy, when the tornado hit. It completely leveled two outbuildings, destroyed his roof, and lifted the entire house and moved it off its foundation. The Veteran's home was a total loss and had to be torn down.

**“The tornado moved the house about three feet south and about three feet east. It picked it up, and I thought I was going to take a ride.” - Mr. Pyron**

Thankfully, Mr. Pyron and Teddy made it through the storm without injury.

Mr. Pyron was born in his family home in Winona, Mississippi on July 4, 1933. The room he was born in predated the Civil War. Mr. Pyron was drafted into the Army in 1953. He served in Korea and then in Germany as a radio operator. He is also a cancer survivor, but sadly lost his wife to the disease two years prior on the very day the tornado struck.

Scott Burns of the charity ‘7 Days For The Troops,’ who also

lives in Mississippi, posted on social media after the tornado, asking if anyone knew of a Veteran who might need assistance. A few people reached out to him about Mr. Pyron. Scott then contacted Purple Heart Homes to see if it would be interested in helping Mr. Pyron by providing him with a new tiny home, which we build here at our headquarters in Statesville, NC. The Purple Heart Homes team was touched by Mr. Pyron's story and immediately began planning and preparing to bring him a tiny home from Statesville to Winona.

We set the 32-foot-long home on a trailer, hooked it up, and on the morning of May 15, after a TV interview and sendoff from Costi Kutteh, Statesville Mayor; and Cindy Sutton, Executive Director of the Statesville Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Purple Heart Homes crew headed out.

Two days and four states later, and at no cost to him, we delivered Mr. Pyron his new tiny home and placed it right where his previous home was located. Now he and Teddy are moved in and enjoying their new home.

Without the help of The Home Depot Foundation; Scott Burns' 7 Days For The Troops charity, that raised over \$37,000 for the project; Wyatt's Transport; Quick Lift Crane Hoisting and Rigging Services; Rozier Construction; ChristSong Ministries; the community of Winona, and many others, we couldn't have completed this amazing project.





# CONSTRUCTION ZONE 120 PROJECTS COMPLETED THIS YEAR

with **MATT STEVENSON**  
Program Services Director

As always, we have many projects in the works. Here are a couple that you may find of interest. For starters, a ramp project for Vietnam era Veteran Mr. Kenneth V. was recently completed in Wisconsin. A group of realtors from Remax Property Pros had heard about this Veteran in need and had contacted Purple Heart Homes regarding assistance. The Veteran and his spouse live in a rural area in northern Wisconsin and his spouse is not physically able to assist him in getting up and down stairs. Once Kenneth was shown to meet eligibility requirements, Project Manager Devin Alexander contacted the family and the local realty company, whereby it was determined that a 30 ft. ramp was needed.

Purple Heart Homes sent Devin and Construction Assistant Valerie Black to Wisconsin to assist in the ramp build. Volunteers from Remax Property Pros and the local communities assisted in the completion of this project. From the successful installation of the new ramp, Remax Property Pros determined that they wanted to start a new Purple Heart Homes Chapter to serve other Veterans in their area. Congratulations are in order for the Northwoods Wisconsin Chapter! Purple Heart Homes looks forward to working alongside those in Wisconsin on future Veteran projects.



David F. Project

Another interesting story involves homeless Veteran, David F. who lives in Puerto Rico. Yes, Purple Heart Homes now has a presence and is doing projects in Puerto Rico! Approximately 105,000 U.S. Veterans live in Puerto Rico (2020 Census). Purple Heart Homes received a request for assistance from this homeless Veteran through a local Pastor. Project Manager Lamar Austin visited the location. Ultimately, with the volunteers from our newly formed "Chapter 1, Arroyo Puerto Rico," local church members, Marcelino Caro (OIF Veteran), and his team of volunteers, David now has a safe and accessible place to live.

With a total of 120 projects complete to date for the year, changing lives could not have happened without your support and generosity. Would you like to be involved with Purple Heart Homes? A great way is to start a Chapter in your local community and let's continue to help Veterans together.



David F. Project



Kenneth V. Project

Consider starting a PHH Chapter in your area!

To find out how, visit [phhusa.org/chapters](http://phhusa.org/chapters)



## HEARTS OF HONOR MONTHLY GIVING MEMBERSHIP REVAMP

with **ASHLEY SPEECE**  
Donor Relations Admin Specialist

The Donor Relations team at Purple Heart Homes is expanding! We have three new Donor Relations team members, led by Executive VP, Brad Borders. The growth of this team will give Purple Heart Homes a chance to reach more people across the nation.

One of the first areas of focus is revamping the Hearts of Honor Membership Program for sustained monthly giving. This ensures the long-term success of Purple Heart Homes and allows us to complete more Veteran projects each year. We want to express appreciation for both of our new members as well as those who have given for years.

We are also striving to offer new giving levels in the Hearts of Honor program to make it easier for donors to give each month, quarterly, or yearly, as it works best for them. We are also discussing the need for donor testimonials for those who are comfortable explaining why they give to Purple Heart Homes. Recognizing donors in future newsletters is also something we would like to see; a shoutout to those who sacrifice in order to give to those who gave for their country.

Krisitie Darling and her husband are monthly givers. This is their testimonial:

**"My husband, Charles Page, and I have been associated with PHH for over a decade. During that time, we have observed a rare level of mission focus and commitment to the Veteran Community, not only by the leadership but also, the entire dedicated team at PHH. They demonstrate vision, growth, and service in all they do. We are proud to support a Veteran-led organization that serves Veterans of all eras and addresses the most critical issues facing heroes across our country."**

We want to give this program a serious face lift to show our gratitude to our monthly donors, such as the two above. Hearts of Honor donors sustain Purple Heart Homes year-round. No matter the time of year, whether it's during the leaner months or not, we can always count on you and your support. Purple Heart Homes' mission honors those who served by providing housing solutions to qualified Veterans. The Hearts of Honor program is a great way to support those who sacrificed for their country.

If you'd like to get involved in any way, please email [aspeece@phhusa.org](mailto:aspeece@phhusa.org) or visit [www.phhusa.org](http://www.phhusa.org).

## TOP 10 WAYS TO GIVE TO PURPLE HEART HOMES

Here are 10 ways that you can make a vital difference in the lives of our disabled Veterans. We thank all those who've supported us and will support us in the future. The simple truth is that we couldn't do this important work without you!

### 1. HEARTS OF HONOR CLUB

This is a monthly recurring donation program that anyone can sign up for right from our website. For as little as \$25 per month you can become a Hearts of Honor member.

### 2. SPONSORSHIPS

There is an Events tab on our website where all events scheduled for the year can be seen. These are fundraising events hosted by PHH and for which sponsorship opportunities are available. Does your company want to be the title sponsor for a golf tournament, a 5k run or another event? We can make that happen.

### 3. ESTATE PLANNING

Purple Heart Homes has been willed homes, cars, stocks, bonds, and other assets that might be part of an estate. This is a great way to leave a legacy of helping Veterans. This process will need to begin with your attorney.

### 4. EMPLOYEE GIVING AND COMPANY MATCH

Does your company offer a way to give to a charitable cause? Many companies do and many of those companies will match all or a portion of what the employee gives. This is a seamless way to give through payroll deductions and if the company offers a match, that's a bonus.

### 5. DONOR ADVISED FUNDS (DAF)

Many money management firms and banks have a charitable arm. If you have investment accounts, and want to donate a portion to charity, the DAF is a way to have your charitable assets professionally managed and distributed to your designated charities. Ask your financial advisor about this program.

### 6. COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (CFC)

There are 9.1 million federal employees and contractors. Are you one of them? Every fall there is a CFC solicitation period where charities are selected for federal employee giving. If you or anyone you know are federal employees and want to give to Purple Heart Homes our CFC number is 96852.

### 7. IN KIND DONATIONS

These are non-cash donations of materials or services that fit our mission of providing critical home repair for our Veterans in need. Examples would be lumber, plywood, roofing material, flooring, etc. It could be professional trades services like plumbing, electrical, or HVAC services. Donations of this type are of great assistance.

### 8. GRANTS

Ahhh, Grants! Careers are built around writing grants. Does your company, organization, or charitable foundation offer grants for Veterans, Housing, or Human Services? Do you know anyone who works for a charitable foundation? If the answer is yes to either, please give us a mention or contact us with the opportunity and we'll take it from there.

### 9. CORPORATE AND VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Many businesses contact us and want to make a donation. As part of this donation the business and a group of employee volunteers want to work on a project as a teambuilding event, a community service effort, or for community outreach. These are great ways for PHH and the partner organization to come together to do good in the community while learning about and supporting each other.

### 10. INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Want to set up a lemonade stand, hold a raffle, organize a golf tournament, bike ride, motorcycle rally, or any other event you can think of that will raise money? Your imagination is the limit for individual fundraising events. These are great ways to not only generate financial support, but to have some fun while doing so.





## Donate And Make A Difference Today

Join us in helping ensure that America's disabled Veterans have a safe and sound place to call home. Together we can make a difference!

Scan the code or text PHHUSA to 801801 to donate.



OR CURRENT RESIDENT



SEE YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK!

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
IN THE LIVES OF VETERANS**

