

TRANSITIONAL HOMES FOR VETERANS



As Air Force veteran Christian Gerhart and his family celebrated his graduation from college and welcomed a new baby, they reflected on their journey as they transitioned to civilian life from military service.

Christian joined the Air Force in 2012 to serve his country and continue a family tradition. His grandfather served in World War II. He deployed to Niger, a western Africa country with significant U.S. military presence to combat Islamist militants. His last duty station was in Italy.

The arrival of Christian and wife China's third child, Magnus Bjorn, coincided with the family's graduation from Operation Homefront's Transitional Homes for Veterans (THV) program and their purchase of a home.

Christian, China, and their three children – son Warrior, 8; daughter Lilah, 6, and baby boy Magnus – moved into a three-bedroom, two-bath home they purchased in Florida. The accomplishment came just three years after the Gerhart family resettled from Italy to the United States after six years in the military.

While living in the THV house in Ruskin, Florida, for 2½ years, the family increased their savings and paid off debt. The couple saw their credit scores increase, too.

Now, Christian looks forward to starting classes toward a master's degree in dietetics. China is pursuing a bachelor's degree in health information management.

"Thank you (to Operation Homefront) for supporting us and making our transition to civilian life much smoother and more manageable," Christian said.

PROGRAM EFFICIENCY

88%

of Operation Homefront's expenditures go directly to programs supporting military families.

OVERVIEW

For many veterans and their families, the transition to civilian life can be a challenge. Some do not have the funds for the down payment on a home or they are unable to sustain home ownership. In 2018, Operation Homefront launched the Transitional Homes for Veterans program, which offers families the opportunity to live in a rent-free, single-family home for a period of two to three years while receiving financial counseling and community reintegration support.

In collaboration with caseworkers and financial counselors, veteran families gain the knowledge they need to become successful homeowners, and work to improve credit scores, pay off debt, and accumulate savings in order to own their own home in these communities.

AT A GLANCE

Who is eligible
Operation Homefront provides
Counseling services focus on

- Veterans who have served honorably and are within one year of discharge
- Supportive services
- Case management
- Debt reduction and emergency savings
- Credit score improvement
- Homeownership guidance/education
- Employment counseling

Program participants will have minimal monthly costs to help them understand the home ownership experience. These fees will then be refunded at the end of the family's participation in the program.

RESULTS

\$468K+
IN HOUSING
COSTS SAVED
SINCE 2018

28
FAMILIES
SUPPORTED SINCE
PROGRAM INCEPTION

7
FAMILIES
GRADUATED FROM
THE PROGRAM

WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Thanks to the generous investment of the **A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Pillsbury, The Home Depot Foundation, Wells Fargo**, and other partners and donors, Operation Homefront continues to provide transitional housing and comprehensive support services for our veteran families. The need continues.

Find out how you can help at OperationHomefront.org/transitional-homes-for-veterans.

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