



The Mason Family

Gary and Shay Mason and their four kids were facing the very real prospect of homelessness when they learned about the Operation Homefront Village in Gaithersburg, Md., one of three rentfree transitional housing communities for wounded warriors. At the time, they were staying at a hotel because their water-damaged condo was uninhabitable.

Gary medically retired from the Army as a captain in 2015 after 15 years, including one deployment to Iraq and two to Afghanistan. In addition to back and ankle injuries, he suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder. Shay, herself an Army veteran, serves as his primary caregiver.

All Village residents must attend support groups, workshops and financial counseling sessions to help ensure their success as they move forward. For Gary, that also means attending American University to pursue a second master's degree in radio, television and video with hopes of graduating in May 2017.

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"Living at Operation Homefront's Village is an opportunity — a tremendous blessing and stress relief," said Gary. "We can save money, repair our credit, re-stabilize our children and focus on getting healthier as a family."

# TRANSITIONAL HOUSING VILLAGES

Provides rent-free transitional housing to wounded warriors and their families as they leave the military. When a service member is injured, the whole family suffers. Our Operation Homefront Villages are designed to enable families to heal together, while bridging what can be a 12-month gap between when military pay stops and veteran benefits begin.

Veterans' disability claims can take as much as two years to be reviewed. In the meantime, families already facing the challenges of lengthy and complex recovery and rehabilitation processes are further stressed by daunting financial burdens.

Our Villages relieve the financial stress and provide a comprehensive package of individualized family support and financial planning services. Each participating family is provided with:

- Rent-free, utility-free, fully furnished apartment
- Case management and customized transition plans
- One-on-one financial planning

- Employment coaching
- Medical referrals
- Support network

The injured and their families experience a supportive environment among understanding peers, and most make impressive financial progress during their stay, leaving the Village debt free or nearly so with an emergency savings plan in place.

### AT A GLANCE...

Operation Homefront Village capacity	3 Villages, 45 apartments
Locations	Gaithersburg, MD; San Diego, CA; San Antonio, TX
People served in 2016	108 service members, 407 family members
Average length of stay	8-18 months
Total value of defrayed rental costs	\$629,034



Number of months of rent-free housing provided in 2016



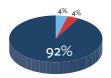
Number of months of rent-free housing provided since program inception

# WITH YOUR SUPPORT

With the support of Genentech Foundation, ESPN, the Texas Veterans Commission and other donors and partners, Operation Homefront continues to provide transitional housing and comprehensive support services to wounded warriors and their families. The need is great. Find out how you can help us serve more at www.operationhomefront.org.

# **WHO WE ARE**

Operation Homefront builds strong, stable, and secure military families so they can thrive in the communities they have worked so hard to protect.



## **Expenses**

- Program Services
  Fundraising
- Management and General