



The Purpose of David's House

It's honestly hard to describe in a brief statement what the mission of David's House is. To understand, you have to have a bit of "back story."

Since 2007 my own family, and the many others (now more than 500 heroes and loved ones) with Family Of a Vet have been serving others like us - Veterans, spouses, parents, children, siblings, grandparents, friends, and many others involved in the day to day life of a hero - those who are part of the lives of the 400,000 - 600,000 estimated warriors faced with the life changing effects of PTSD and TBI after service in Iraq or Afghanistan (not to mention the hundreds of thousands impacted by service in Vietnam, Korea, World War II, and other conflicts). We have served these heroes and families not only without time (we are all volunteers), but with our hearts, and passion, and pure stubbornness. We spend days and nights listening, helping, trying our best to help fix mounting problems - homelessness, divorce, suicide, domestic violence, hopelessness, and desperation - one person at a time, one family at a time.

It is an act of will... of loyalty... of heart. And it is honestly, in many ways, a losing battle. The gaps in the available resources and programs are getting larger and larger... many with not nearly enough resources, many others that fail to address the whole issue - the whole warrior - the whole support system. With those gaps and missing pieces have come more and more wounded hearts and ailing minds... people giving up, people who don't know where to start much less HOW to begin putting their new lives with the injuries on the right track.

For almost five years the dream of David's House has been in the works. The time for that dream (and the ever growing need for it) is now. Literally our inbox fills each day with families who are homeless, days from being homeless, falling apart, desperately alone, and giving up. What was a trickle of "bad" situations a few years ago is now a flood - and that flood is only getting worse.

David's House is unique in that it, its design, its programs, its community as a whole has been designed and planned by heroes and families to address that very gaps that we know exist because we have lived them. It is designed to be economical, fiscally responsible, and a good use of resources. It is designed to address the whole of a hero - which in order to be successful must not only address that warrior's mind, body, sense of self, sense of community involvement, and sense of purpose, but must also offer whole family "rehab." A chance for everyone to learn how to navigate their new life together in an environment which is safe, supportive, and has built-in mentors and peers who have "been there and done that."

David's House isn't about a short term fix - it's about individual timelines. It is about setting heroes and families on a better path - about changing their stories - about giving them not only a leg up and a roof over their heads while in desperate places, but about creating an environment in which they can learn by example HOW to move forward. It's about the "nitty gritty." It's about life, acceptance, hope, and learning to live in life after combat.

There is an undeniable comfort that comes with knowing that you and your family are not alone in dark places. There is a resilience that is found in shared experience and hearts that understand you because they've walked the same path. There is hope - desperately needed hope - discovered in the seemingly tiny moments when a veteran and those who love him or her finally are able to see that the challenges they face have been faced by others.

At its core, David's House in one simple word, is hope.

Please help us offer heroes and families (like our own) this opportunity.

Thank you,
Brannan Vines
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