

Heroes to Hometowns

Helping severely injured Service Members and their families connect with their hometowns or new communities

IMPORTANT POINTS OF CONTACT

Military Severely Injured Center

24/7 Family Support with Military Severely Injured

Phone: 1-888-774-1361

For miscellaneous information on establishing Heroes to Hometowns committees (e.g., download brochure, state military organizations, local chapter/affiliate information, sample committee charter, video, briefing slides, etc.) please go to www.MilitaryHomefront.dod.mil/troops/injuredsupport

To post local information on the national site, send your submissions to severelyinjured@militaryonesource.com

You can be a part of this meaningful program.

Show your support.

Strengthen your community.

Be a part of Heroes to Hometowns today.

► OUR MISSION

The recuperation time after hospitalization and rehabilitation is crucial to an individual's recovery. Knowing that they are welcome in their new community and that there is a new life ahead can be the most significant part of this process.

The purpose of the Heroes to Hometowns Program is to help communities:

- Recognize the severely injured and embrace them as part of the community
- Assist them in making a seamless transition into their new hometown
- Provide a support network they can access when needed

This program will promote community growth and:

- Bring in a "champion" to support your community, or reach out to assist another community in need
- Rally the community to provide what is needed
- Connect the community with nation-wide efforts and nationally accessible resources
- Keep the community informed of severely injured Service Members interested in becoming a member of the community
- Comfort all active duty and reserve military and their families by knowing that their communities support them



All photos courtesy of DoD, Walter Reed & Eparent Magazine



► *Heroes to Hometowns is designed to welcome home Service Members who, because of injuries sustained, can no longer serve in the military. In creating a positive transition home, Heroes to Hometowns inspires community growth and establishes a support network for Service Members and their families that allows them to ease into their hometown or new surroundings.*

► **WHAT CAN A COMMUNITY DO TO HELP?**

Every veteran and family needs something different. Some may not want any tangible assistance or a welcoming celebration, but knowing that there is support and recognition in the community can make an enormous difference in their lives. A sample of the types of assistance they may need:

- Organize a welcome home celebration
- Help secure temporary and/or permanent housing
- Assist in adapting a home or vehicle to accommodate their physical or mental challenges
- Assist with finding employment and educational opportunities
- Assist with obtaining veteran benefits

A community can help provide:

- Childcare
- Entertainment options
- Financial support
- Counseling
- Transportation
- Spiritual support
- Family Support

► **HOW DOES A COMMUNITY GET INVOLVED?**

In the Heroes to Hometowns model, local community leaders link their efforts with national-level organizations (Department of Defense, Department of Labor, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veteran Services Organizations, and national-level non-governmental organizations.) State-level military organizations are also involved and assist in identifying community leadership and in communicating the potential needs of a severely injured Service Member coming to the community. Here is a basic overview of the chain of events that can connect a community to the national effort to support the severely injured. This process can span 1-2 years depending on the Service Member's medical condition.

TIMELINE FOR SERVICE MEMBERS RE-CONNECTING WITH A COMMUNITY

WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL IS INJURED	WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL IS IN MEDICAL CARE	BEFORE AN INDIVIDUAL RETURNS TO THE COMMUNITY
<p>DoD COUNSELOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Assesses the needs of the individual and family <p>STATE MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Tracks status of injured Service Members ► Designates a state official to keep communities informed ► Assesses local community assets and recruits a community champion <p>NATIONAL-LEVEL ORGANIZATIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Inform their local chapters or affiliates of the need for communities to be prepared to assist returning severely injured Service Members 	<p>DoD COUNSELOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Updates the assessment of need and shares it with the state officials <p>STATE MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Informs communities of potential requirements ► Requests an individual act as the community champion <p>LOCAL COMMUNITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► The champion engages local community and business leaders to form a <i>Heroes to Hometowns</i> Committee ► Formalize roles and relationships 	<p>DoD COUNSELOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Shares assessment with the designated community champion <p>STATE MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Monitors progress to ensure needs can be met <p>HEROES TO HOMETOWNS COMMITTEE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Coordinates with the severely injured Service Member and family ► Gains local support to meet their needs ► Forwards requirements that cannot be filled by local organizations to national organizations through state officials ► Keeps state officials and national organizations informed of requirements, progress, etc.

Privacy Act and Family wishes are followed throughout the process.

