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/injuresupport

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL IS INJURED</th>
<th>WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL IS IN MEDICAL CARE</th>
<th>BEFORE AN INDIVIDUAL RETURNS TO THE COMMUNITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DoD COUNSELOR:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Assesses the needs of the individual and family</td>
<td>• Updates the assessment of need and shares it with the state officials</td>
<td>• Shares assessment with the designated community champion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STATE MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Tracks status of injured Service Members</td>
<td>• Informs communities of potential requirements</td>
<td>• Monitors progress to ensure needs can be met</td>
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<td>• Designates a state official to keep communities informed</td>
<td>• Requests an individual act as the community champion</td>
<td><strong>HEROES TO HOMETOWNS COMMITTEE:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Assesses local community assets and recruits a community champion</td>
<td><strong>LOCAL COMMUNITIES:</strong></td>
<td><strong>HEROES TO HOMETOWNS COMMITTEE:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NATIONAL-LEVEL ORGANIZATIONS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>LOCAL COMMUNITIES:</strong></td>
<td><strong>HEROES TO HOMETOWNS COMMITTEE:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inform their local chapters or affiliates of the need for communities to be prepared to assist returning severely injured Service Members</td>
<td>• The champion engages local community and business leaders to form a Heroes to Hometown Committee</td>
<td>• Coordinates with the severely injured Service Member and family</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Formalize roles and relationships</td>
<td>• Gains local support to meet their needs</td>
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</table>

Privacy Act and Family wishes are followed throughout the process.