SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT

@OPERATIONFINALLYHOME



SUNBELT

Hey, we know that guy!

Our founder Dan Wallrath (left) is showing new home recipient Will Makaafi his family's new spot on the Operation Finally Home backdrop.



HOTCHKISS HELP

Big thanks to Bryan Sykes, Sheena Beaver, Jessica Goehring (with Hotchkiss Helps), Dan Wallrath, Katie Herries and Richard Anderson for helping make the 5th Annual Hotchkiss Help Charity Golf Tournament a big win for Operation Finally Home.



SOUTHERN LIVING

What a day we won't ever forget! Our team was honored to celebrate the opening of the Southern Living Idea House, with proceeds benefiting our mission to serve our heroes. If you're in the Fredericksburg area, stop by to see their incredible work!



THERE'S STILL TIME TO MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN

As we move toward the end of another meaningful year, there is still work to be done and lives to impact. If you are a veteran, first responder or surviving spouse in need of support, we encourage you to take the first step and apply for assistance from Operation Finally Home.

And for those who believe our heroes deserve sustained support long after service, there is still time to help make that possible. An end-of-year gift can help us continue towards our goal of 100 projects this year, providing hope to our heroes who need it most.

Scan QR CODE or visit the link below to dontate today:

operationfinallyhome.org/donate

HOME FRONT

OPERATION FINALLY HOME

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR SUPPORTERS



A FEW WORDS FROM DAN

As we move closer to the end of 2026, we're reflecting on everything we've accomplished together and looking ahead to what's still possible.

When we set the goal of completing 100 projects this year, we knew it would take an incredible commitment from everyone who believes in our mission. Thanks to all the honorable work and immense generosity, we are on the verge of something truly amazing.

Every project we complete represents a veteran, first responder or surviving spouse whose life has been made safer and more secure. None of that happens without the blessings from our donors, sponsors and partners who continue to believe that those who have given so much deserve our support in return. For that, we are extremely grateful.

But as proud as I am of what we've accomplished, we aren't finished yet. With the end of the year approaching, every contribution gets us one step closer to the finish line of 100 projects in 2026. There are still heroes who need us, and we want to make sure we are there when they do.

Thank you for believing in what Operation Finally Home can accomplish when we come together. Thank you for helping us get this far. And thank you for standing beside us as we serve those who have sacrificed for our freedom.

God Bless,

Dan Wallrath,
Founder of Operation Finally Home

MAKING A SAFE SPACE FOR HOPE TO LIVE



Mendez's walkway before home modification.



Mendez's walkway after home modification.

For more than 20 years, Operation Finally Home has been turning gratitude into something tangible: house and living modifications that help veterans, first responders and surviving spouses finally feel at home.

For José Mendez, a 102-year-old Purple Heart recipient, that meant getting the help he needed to make his home safer and more comfortable. In 2025, Operation Finally Home had the honor of completing a home modification project for José. This year, he became one of the first four inductees into the permanent Purple Heart exhibit at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History.



Jose Mendez (102!) and Senior Project Manager James Gaylord.

During the exhibit's opening, Senior Project Manager James Gaylord presented José with an Operation Finally Home challenge coin, a small reminder that more than 80 years after his service, we are still finding ways to honor his sacrifice.

Today, we are working toward an ambitious goal: completing 100 projects in 2026. Reaching this goal requires more than gifts from generous donors—it takes brave applicants ready to ask for our support.

HELP US FIND OUR NEXT APPLICANT



Operation Finally Home applicant and recipient John A. Neeley.

We proudly serve veterans of all eras and branches, injured first responders and surviving spouses who need a safe, stable place to call home.

While every application is reviewed individually, qualified applicants generally demonstrate a qualifying service record, significant injury or illness, financial need and the ability to maintain homeownership.

Home modifications can address safety, weatherization and accessibility needs, helping recipients live safely and independently at home.

If you or someone you know may qualify, take the first step at OperationFinallyHome.org/apply.

Our community honors your service. Our mission is to return the favor by helping provide independence.

CREATING COMFORT FIT FOR A HERO

>> PROJECT STORY



Jay recently welcomed the entire Operation Finally Home team to his home, giving staff the opportunity to see firsthand the impact of the project and celebrate the comfort, security and peace of mind made possible through the generosity of our donors and partners.

When Navy veteran Jay Roquet and his family moved to Texas in late 2025, they were looking forward to a new chapter. But they weren't prepared for the challenge of keeping their home comfortable in the Texas heat. Living on a fixed income, Jay and his wife, Charlene, carefully budgeted their expenses, but an aging HVAC system quickly became a major concern.

Jay proudly served from 1985 to 1989 as an Optical Man Third Class (OM3), maintaining and repairing precision optical equipment used throughout the fleet. He spent two years at sea and completed one year of foreign service. His dedication earned him the Good Conduct Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and Navy "E" Award. He continued his commitment to the military by serving four additional years in the Naval Reserve.



Navy veteran Jay Roquet and Founder of Operation Finally Home, Dan Wallrath.

While serving in the Navy, Jay suffered injuries that would worsen during his 31-year career at Tyson Foods. He inevitably retired due to his aging injuries in both knees and his left hip, leaving him leaning on a cane to get around.



Jay Roquet, Senior Project Manager James Gaylord and Case Manager Chrystal Reynolds, whose dedication helped make this project possible.

Jay's resilience has overcome many things, but the summer heat in Texas overpowered his home's undersized HVAC unit, driving utility bills higher and impeding on his family's comfort. Combined with outdated single-pane windows, Jay knew the repairs were beyond what his pension could support.

> **"Working with OFH was great—I just think you all are a great organization."**

Seeking help, Jay contacted the Texas Veterans Commission, which referred him to Operation Finally Home. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and sponsors, we were able to replace the failing HVAC system, restoring comfort and peace of mind to Jay and his family.

"Working with Operation Finally Home was great," Jay shared. "James [OFH Senior Project Manager] was always on the ball talking to me and answering the phone anytime. I just think you all are a great operation."

The impact was immediate. With a smile, Jay joked, "I don't have to sit in shorts all the time!"



Navy veteran Jay Roquet outside his Conroe, Texas home following the completion of an Operation Finally Home HVAC replacement project.

Additionally, Jay has also been approved for a Phase II home modification project that will replace the home's 27-year-old windows. Many are cracked, damaged and difficult to open, contributing to energy loss and limiting the home's overall efficiency. Once completed, the upgrades will further improve comfort, safety and affordability for Jay and his family.

When asked what he would like to say to the generous supporters who made these improvements possible, his gratitude was heartfelt.

"Thank you. Thank you very much. Especially for veterans like us. We really appreciate this." Stories like Jay's are only possible because of donors like you. The comfort, security and independence we provide together reassure our heroes that their sacrifice will always be honored.

Thank you for helping us serve those who have served us.



PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

A strong community is built by those willing to show up for one another.

Regional supermarket chain H-E-B puts that belief into action through its support of Operation Finally Home. As part of the Roquet family's home modification project, H-E-B presented Charlene with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and provided the family with a gift basket and a gift card.

These thoughtful gestures are a reminder that meaningful support can take many forms. We are grateful for partners like H-E-B who go beyond the project to help veterans and their families feel appreciated and supported.

81 HOME MODIFICATIONS
[60 COMPLETED + 21 UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND PLANNING]

5 HOMES
[1 COMPLETED + 4 UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND PLANNING]

4 TRANSITIONAL HOMES
[2 COMPLETED + 2 UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND PLANNING]

IN THE MIDST OF A MONUMENTAL MILESTONE

***90* PROJECTS COMPLETED SO FAR**

100 projects in 2026 is still the goal, and we're getting closer every day. As the year winds down, we're excited to make a final push to complete what we set out to accomplish together.

If you're a veteran, first responder or surviving spouse in need of a home modification or whole-home solution, we encourage you to apply. There's still time to take the first step toward a safer, more comfortable home.

Let's band together to finish strong in 2026.