

# HOME FOR A HERO

*Join with your community  
to build an accessible home for  
a Wounded Warrior Family*



# The story of a heroic soldier and his loving family



In 2003 at age 20, Army Reservist, Jay Briseno, was shot in the back of his head at point-blank range in Baghdad. His spinal cord was shattered and subsequent cardiac arrests led to extensive brain damage. While Jay survived, he sacrificed his ability to walk, talk, see or eat and is now totally dependent upon his parents, Joe and Eva. They take care of everything, from bowel and bladder care to bathing to dressing to administration of medicines and intravenous feedings. They constantly monitor him as he suffers seizures and requires frequent maintenance of his breathing tube.

This Wounded Warrior Family lives in Prince William County in a multi-level home. Before they brought Jay home, a non-profit organization modified their basement to meet Jay's needs. Joe and Eva soon realized that caring for Jay in the basement left him too isolated from the rest of the family. There was little natural light and it was difficult to monitor Jay's condition when they were upstairs fixing meals or handling other household responsibilities.

Jay seemed to fare better with frequent touch and voice interactions with his parents. Eva was torn between taking care of things that needed to be handled in other areas of the house and being near enough to interact with Jay and monitor his condition.

Joe and Eva decided to move Jay upstairs into their dining room. Now, he spends his days in the sun-filled main level of the house. His parents can go about their daily routines while Jay listens to his favorite music and television shows. Though

Jay cannot speak, they can tell he is happier now and Eva is much more at peace. However, this is not an ideal situation. While the dining room conversion brought Jay back into the heart of the home, the hallways and openings are not accessible and it is difficult to move Jay from room to room in his specialized wheelchair. Since Joe and Eva's bedroom is not on the same level as Jay, they take turns sleeping on the couch in the adjacent living room in case he requires attention in the middle of the night.

According to one of Jay's physicians, most patients in his condition could not live at home. Joe and Eva cannot imagine leaving the intense care needs of their son to anyone else. They have been by his side 24 hours a day, 7 days a week since he was brought back from Iraq and plan to care for Jay in their home as long as possible.

Jay laid down his ability to live independently on a battlefield in Iraq – a warrior's sacrifice. At that moment, his parents' lives were also changed forever. Their own plans and dreams for their only son turned into the reality of a lifetime of care giving. They have forfeited their jobs, their income, and drained their retirement savings to care for their hero, Jay.



# Working together to build a special home

The Northern Virginia Fuller Center for Housing, Azalea Charities and the Quality of Life Foundation have joined forces to provide a home for the Briseno family that meets their needs for the foreseeable future, including an accessible bathroom for easy bathing, wide doorways and hallways for easy transport, a master suite with sufficient space for Jay's life sustaining medical equipment, and a second master suite proximate to Jay's so his parents can once again sleep in the same room. We expect construction to start in May, 2011.



## Building a new home for the Briseno family

*The Northern Virginia Fuller Center for Housing is a non-profit organization that seeks to eradicate poverty housing by promoting partnerships with individuals and community groups to build and rehabilitate homes for people in need. We were established on March 11, 2008 in Alexandria, VA as a Covenant Partner to The Fuller Center for Housing. Our service area includes Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William counties. Over the past three years we have completed eleven projects, with our twelfth underway in Dumfries.*

*This is now the second project to be started under the Military Builders Program that will enable the military – and other members of the local community – to give back to one of their own.*

[www.fullercenter.org/northernvirginia](http://www.fullercenter.org/northernvirginia)



## Spearheading community and business fundraising

*Azalea Charities is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Prince William County, Virginia. The organization is staffed entirely by volunteers who donate their time, talent and money because they believe in the causes. Funds are raised for community charities and Aid for Wounded Warriors through private donations, sponsorship of Team Azalea Charities in the Marine Corps Marathon and the Azalea Classic Pro-Am Invitational. Beyond minimal expenses, all the funds raised go to their charitable core causes.*

*Support for caregivers who sacrifice so much to take care of a loved one injured in the line of duty is a major area of interest for Azalea Charities. We are reaching out to our local business and community to help us raise \$100,000 for this project.*

[www.azaleacharities.org](http://www.azaleacharities.org)



## Supporting the caregiving efforts of the Briseno family

*The Quality of Life Foundation was established in November, 2007. We are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charity located in Woodbridge, VA with a mission to improve the quality of life of those struck by misfortune.*

*Our Wounded Warrior Family Care Program focuses on family members as their lives revolve around the care of their wounded warrior. Our services supplement existing government wounded warrior programs by leveraging community and national non-profit resources to meet underserved or unmet needs. We also have a modest fund to purchase items or services as appropriate. Solutions are tailored to each family's unique situation.*

*We are proud to work with the Northern Virginia Fuller Center for Housing and Azalea Charities to provide a home that will improve the lives of every member of the Briseno family for years to come.*

[www.qolfoundation.org](http://www.qolfoundation.org)

**HOME**  
**FOR A HERO**

*Never leave a  
fallen comrade*

**DONATE  
NOW**



**HOME**  
**FOR A HERO**

## Cash or In-kind Sponsorship Levels

### **Title Sponsor \$50,000 (1)**

- Your organization's name associated with project "Your corporation name – Home for a Hero"
- Solo press release announcing Title Sponsorship
- Invitation to speak at Key Ceremony, and attend all project press events and photo opportunities
- Permission to place business sign on lot during construction
- Recognition as Title Sponsor on work shirts, project signage, participating charities' websites and the Key Ceremony Program
- Countertop recognition award

### **Dream Makers \$25,001 - 49,999**

- Invitation to speak at Key Ceremony and attend all project press events and photo opportunities
- Check presentation and photo opportunity for inclusion in project press releases
- Permission to place business sign on lot during construction
- Recognition on work shirts, project signage, participating charities' websites, and the Key Ceremony Program
- Hanging recognition plaque

### **Wall & Roof Raisers \$15,001 - 25,000**

- Check presentation and photo opportunity for inclusion in project press releases
- Permission to place business sign on lot during construction
- Recognition on work shirts, project signage, participating charities' websites, and the Key Ceremony Program
- Framed certificate of appreciation

### **Founders of Hope \$5,001 - 15,000**

- Permission to place business sign on lot during construction
- Recognition on project signage, participating charities' websites, and the Key Ceremony Program
- Framed certificate of appreciation

### **Helping Hands \$250 - 5,000**

- Permission to place business sign on lot during construction
- Recognition on participating charities' websites and in the Key Ceremony Program
- Letter of appreciation