



In 2005, Geraldine Ferraren joined the Navy and embarked on what would become a 14-year career. She deployed to the west Pacific in 2006 and a year later in South America for a humanitarian mission. Service-related trauma resulted in her medical retirement in 2018.

Once she retired, she knew that she needed to move out of military housing but, as a single mother to two children, and living paycheck to paycheck, her options were slim. Through an internet search, she found Operation Homefront and the Transitional Housing (Villages) program. Geraldine was accepted and moved into the San Diego Village.

“It took a very heavy weight off of my shoulders,” she said. “I was able to think straight. I was able to establish my goals, able to transition to private sector successfully. For my kids and I, that’s when we started our thriving journey in life. It really paved the way to get me going in actually taking action in my purpose in life.”

In July 2020, after a little more than a year in the program, she moved out and into a house in San Diego. At the Village, she worked with financial counselors and caseworkers to help build up savings, reduce debt, and prioritize goals. She is currently studying business administration and wants to move to San Antonio, Texas, in the future to get a master’s degree in nonprofit management. Her time at the Village helped her pay debt and learn how to manage her money, while being able to focus on her family.

“Thank you for believing in us,” she said. “Thank you for being our stepping-stone and rock even in hard times when we truly need it.”

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (VILLAGES)



OVERVIEW

Operation Homefront’s Transitional Housing (Villages) provides rent-free, two and three bedroom apartments to wounded, ill, and injured warriors and their families as they leave the military.

Transitional Housing (Villages) is designed to enable families to heal together, while bridging what can be a lengthy gap between military pay ending and veteran benefits beginning, or when veterans’ disability claims are reviewed and received.

Transitional Housing (Villages) relieves the financial stress and provide a comprehensive package of individualized family support and financial planning services. Each participating family is provided with:

- Rent-free, utility-free, fully furnished apartment
- Assistance with medical referrals
- Case management and customized transition plans
- Employment coaching and educational guidance
- One-on-one financial counseling
- Support network

Families experience a supportive environment among understanding peers, and most make impressive financial progress during their stay, leaving the program debt-free, or nearly so, with an emergency savings plan in place.

AT A GLANCE

Locations	Gaithersburg, MD; San Diego, CA; San Antonio, TX
Capacity	30 apartments
Who is eligible	Wounded, ill, and injured veterans and their families as they transition out of the military
Average length of stay	8–18 months

RESULTS

195 FAMILY MEMBERS SERVED IN 2020	5,797 MONTHS OF RENT-FREE HOUSING PROVIDED SINCE 2008	\$460K RENT & UTILITY EXPENSES SAVED IN 2020	\$6.7M RENT & UTILITY EXPENSES SAVED SINCE 2008
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WITH YOUR SUPPORT

With the support of the **A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation, The Coca-Cola Foundation, DAV Charitable Service Trust, The Home Depot Foundation, Texas Veterans Commission, Veterans United Foundation**, and other donors and partners, Operation Homefront continues to provide transitional housing and comprehensive support services to wounded warriors and their families. The need continues.

Find out how you can help at OperationHomefront.org.

PROGRAM EFFICIENCY

90%

of Operation Homefront’s expenditures go directly to programs supporting military families.

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