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Maid Brigade and Operation Homefront Announce Partnership To Support Military Families, Wounded Warriors

Defense Department's America Supports You key to corporate 'adoption' of top military charity

Partnership shows how franchise businesses can work with charities to support troops

SANTA ANA, CA – The Acosta family has a lot on their minds. Daniel returned to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, from a deployment to Iraq with severe injuries that ultimately cost him an arm. Shortly thereafter, his wife Sandy delivered their third child. To ease their burden, Maid Brigade is lending a hand with weekly household cleaning as part of a national partnership with Operation Homefront to serve military families in need.

"This is the best baby gift ever!" said Sandy. "Maid Brigade and Operation Homefront have relieved so much stress from our lives, and the weekly cleaning allows me to spend precious minutes with my children and help my husband recuperate."

"Our work with Operation Homefront is our way of saying 'thank you' to our troops and families who have sacrificed so much," said Josie Rangel, the San Antonio Maid Brigade franchisee who is assisting the Acostas. "It's nice that Operation Homefront gives regular businesses an opportunity to show their support."

After being introduced by *America Supports You*, a Department of Defense program that connects Americans supportive of the troops with organizations that are devoted to helping the troops and their families, Operation Homefront and Maid Brigade announced in January their partnership to support military families in crisis by offering free cleaning service. With a mission to provide emergency assistance to troops, military families and wounded warriors, Operation Homefront anticipates many scenarios like this where Maid Brigade will make a genuine difference to military families.

"The work these two *America Supports You* groups are doing is truly outstanding," said Allison Barber, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs and architect of the *America Supports You* program. "Something as simple as cleaning a house or an apartment can make a huge difference in the lives of our wounded veterans and their families. Operation Homefront and Maid Brigade are a perfect match, and we're so happy we were able to connect them."

In Arlington, Texas, another family is being helped by Maid Brigade and Operation Homefront to relocate to San Antonio where they can be closer to their recuperating wounded warrior. Marvin Williams was an Army National Guard soldier activated to an Austin-based unit when he was injured in a training accident. Operation Homefront is relocating his wife and 11-month-old daughter, and Keith Clem from the Fort Worth franchise of Maid Brigade has agreed to clean the apartment once the household items have been moved out.

"Our daughter was born one month after I was activated, and she won't even come to me" said Marvin. "Because I am being treated for injuries here at BAMC, I could not help my wife with the burdens of packing our entire household to prepare for the move. Operation Homefront and Maid Brigade helped my wife in ways I could not, I can't say thank you enough!"

"Military families need every bit of help they can get, and Maid Brigade is bringing genuine peace of mind to families who have sacrificed so much," said Meredith Leyva, founder of Operation Homefront.

"Our many offices throughout the country have eagerly volunteered to help our wounded warriors in many different ways, and we are proud of the way our people have stepped up to assist our very needy, wounded military who have sacrificed so much," said Don Hay, chairman of Maid Brigade.

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About Operation Homefront & CinCHouse.com

What is today Operation Homefront began in 2001 as a military spouse-generated idea. In response to the shortcoming of support for the families of deployed service members, *CinCHouse.com* members (military wives and women in uniform) created the project that has evolved into a major nonprofit charity serving 26 military communities in 25 states. Today *CinC*House.com operates as a program as part of the nonprofit Operation Homefront family. From a good idea, to a great organization, Operation Homefront understands and takes care of the needs of the military community.

About Maid Brigade

Headquartered in Atlanta, Maid Brigade offers professional residential cleaning and superior customer service through more than 400 service areas in the United States, Canada and Europe. Maid Brigade offers franchisees the chance to be part of a company focused on success, growth, and giving back to the community. For more information, visit <u>www.maidbrigade.com</u>.

About America Supports You

America Supports You is a Department of Defense program recognizing citizens' support for our military and communicating that support to members of our Armed Forces and their families, at home and abroad. *America Supports You* connects Americans supportive of the troops with organizations that are devoted to helping the troops and their families, while also providing a one stop location on the internet at <u>www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil</u>. Currently 250 homefront groups and over 30 corporations have joined the *America Supports You* program.