

# HOME FOR A HERO

*Join your community to build  
a special home for a wounded hero  
and the family who cares for him*



# 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

HelpingHero.org, the Quality of Life Foundation, and Azalea Charities 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 Fall 2012.



## Building a new home for the Briseno family

*Helping a Hero is a 501(c)(3) non profit, non-partisan organization providing support for military personnel, severely injured in the war on terror. Our principal activity is to provide specially adapted homes for qualifying service members as well as engaging the community to provide services and resources for our wounded heroes and their families. – to give back to one of their own.*

*HelpingHero.org is based in Texas and is the 2nd largest homebuilding organization in America for our OEF/OIF heroes. We also are the only organization with NO PAID STAFF. HelpingHero.org has awarded 60 homes in 15 states for severely wounded heroes injured in Iraq and Afghanistan.*

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



## Spearheading community and business fundraising

*Azalea Charities is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Prince William County, VA. It is staffed entirely by volunteers who donate their time, talent and money because they believe in the causes. Through Aid for Wounded Warriors, Azalea Charities provides help for our service people and the families who stand behind them. Support is adapted to the need – ranging from mortgage and rent payments, utility payments, gas cards and Wal-Mart cards to special needs such as the training of service dogs and provision of services to caregiving families. Azalea provides day-to-day support for these heroes in ways that address their lifetime needs. Beyond minimal expenses, all the funds raised go to their charitable core causes.*

*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 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 HelpingHero.org 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)

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## Donation Form

Reserve your opportunity to show a Wounded Warrior Family that their sacrifices will not be forgotten.

I want to make a cash or in-kind donation at the following level:

- \_\_\_ Title Sponsor \$50,000 (1)
- \_\_\_ Dream Makers \$25,001 - 49,999
- \_\_\_ Wall & Roof Raisers \$15,001 - 25,000
- \_\_\_ Founders of Hope \$5,001 - 15,000
- \_\_\_ Helping Hands \$250 - 5,000

*Description of In-kind Donation*

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*Contact Information*

Organization Name

Contact

Street Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email

*Return completed form to:*

The Briseno Blitz Build Project  
c/o Azalea Charities  
P O Box 579  
Dumfries, VA 22026

*For further information contact:*

Contact Frank Lasch  
(703) 670-5238  
AzaleaCharities@aol.com

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Azalea Charities EIN number is 54-1973354

A financial statement is available upon written request from the Office of Consumer Affairs, Commonwealth of Virginia



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**www.AzaleaCharities.com**