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# Home Base: Healing Wounds, Helping Veterans

















Operating the nation's first and largest private-sector clinic devoted to finding new solutions to providing lifesaving, world-class clinical care for the invisible wounds of war.

Serving more than 25,000 Veterans, Service Members and Family Members from around the world and developing a groundbreaking model of evidencebased care.

Developing research programs that drive a stream of new, demonstrably more effective ways of delivering clinical care and wellness.

Training more than 80,000 clinicians, educators, first responders and community members to recognize and treat invisible wounds.

WE IMAGINE A FUTURE WHERE....
Any Veteran or Family Member

nationwide who needs mental health support can access Home Base's programming and services at no cost.

Home Base's evidence-based treatment programs become models used by national and international peer institutions.

Home Base serves as the international leader in training clinicians, educators, first responders and other community members to recognize and treat invisible wounds.

Founded in 2009,
Home Base is a
Red Sox Foundation and
Massachusetts General Hospital
program dedicated to healing the
invisible wounds of Veterans of all
eras, active Service Members, Military
Families and Families of the Fallen.

# Home Base: Healing Wounds, Helping Veterans

INTRODUCTION



**STORIES** 

**EVENTS** 









### INTENSIVE CLINICAL **PROGRAMS**

Home Base developed a model that compresses up to two years of treatment into four-day and two-week intensive clinical models. These evidence-based programs have made effective care available to countless U.S. Veterans and Family Members worldwide.



#### SKILLS-BASED **OUTPATIENT AND ADDICTION RECOVERY** (SOAR)

This evidence-based, intensive outpatient program helps individuals maintain abstinence or significantly reduce substance use while addressing underlying mental health symptoms, improving daily functioning and fostering resilience against future relapse.



#### THE HOME BASE **RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

We're committed to discovering and disseminating new treatments—and new systems for delivering those treatments —for the invisible wounds of war. This institute hosts a range of research projects, from basic science to clinical trials, that leverage the capacities of Harvard, Mass General, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and our research partners around the world.



#### **CUTTING-EDGE CARE FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS**

Members of Special Operations (SO) units face unique health challenges, including higher suicide rates that are caused by more frequent combat, significant concussive exposures and missions that more often result in trauma. Our Comprehensive Brain Health and Trauma program offers multidisciplinary diagnostic testing, treatment and rehabilitation services for SO Members with traumatic brain injury, chronic pain, sleep disorder, mood difficulties and/or orthopedic injury.



#### WELLNESS, RESILIENCE AND POST-TRAUMATIC **GROWTH**

This program offers an evidence-based holistic and integrative approach that uses exercise, nutrition, yoga, art, music and mind-body medicine to support the well-being of Veterans and Family Members who could be vulnerable to renewed stressors and symptoms in the future.



#### **INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION**

In the U.K., Home Base has partnered with The Royal Foundation as well as Walking With The Wounded, a U.K. charity that provides Veterans with independence through employment, to care for allied Veterans at our National Center for Excellence. We've also been working to establish new clinics based on our proven model of care in the U.K., Maine and additional sites in Florida.



#### SUICIDE PREVENTION AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY **AND INCLUSION**

At the Home Base Training Institute, we're taking on three key challenges in the battle against suicide: recognizing signs and symptoms, connecting at-risk Veterans to qualified care and training more clinicians to provide evidence-based trauma care. Our statewide suicide prevention campaign is aimed at creating a diverse, equitable and inclusive approach that builds the bench of expertly trained community providers and connects them to federally qualified community health centers and first responders to open up the path to care.



# Dear Friends,

Amid the ongoing battle against COVID-19, it's difficult to fathom the full extent of the fallout associated with the pandemic. With reports that the Veteran suicide epidemic has worsened in 2020, it is evident that Home Base's noble mission to bring healing and hope to Veterans, Service Members, and their Families is more important than ever before. While it's imperative we focus on what lies ahead, I would be remiss not to acknowledge some of the great milestones Home Base reached during a difficult 2020.

From the pivot to telehealth in the outpatient clinic to the reopening of our intensive clinical programs, the staff at Home Base has been nothing short of incredible. When stay-at-home orders were mandated across most of the country, the team immediately pivoted to develop new virtual and telehealth options to increase patient access across Massachusetts, growing from 1% to 100% telehealth visits for the Outpatient Clinic literally overnight. In April, the team launched Operation Health@Home, an online platform that brings essential coaching strategies in fitness, nutrition, mindfulness, and mental health. Home Base officially reopened in July, and within four weeks we welcomed our 100th Intensive Clinical Program cohort group to our National Center.

On the last day of March 2020, I was tapped by Governor Baker to lead the build-out and operations of Boston Hope, the 1,000-bed hospital for COVID-19 patients constructed inside the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. I was joined by more than 50 volunteers from the Home Base staff who went above and beyond their missional duties to serve on the frontlines of the pandemic and care for more than 700 COVID-19 patients.

We overcame a significant challenge to remain physically distanced, our first ever "virtual" Run to Home Base proved to be as inspiring as ever, with a total of 2,010 participants from 40 states raising \$1.2M in support of Home Base's mission.

Thanks to three generous Home Base volunteer leaders who provided matching gifts, our Veterans Day Televent raised a record \$433K to support some of our crucial and underfunded programs. Despite the difficulties of 2020, our annual No Shave campaign was a major success and our local police departments and first responders have now raised more than \$1M since 2015.

Most importantly of all, more than 1,357 Veterans, Service Members and their Families found healing and hope at Home Base in 2020.

Although the impact of the pandemic has been profound—Home Base sustained a 20% reduction in funding—we have been both honored and humbled by the outpouring of support. Despite the new challenges we have faced, together, we found a way to continue the mission. The road ahead may feel daunting—for Home Base, and for all those we serve—but when I reflect on 2020, I cannot help but feel hopeful. For all the physical distancing, this year has served as a poignant reminder that the community we have built together over the last 11 years is stronger than ever. Together, we will overcome any challenges we face, and we are already setting the stage for major growth and innovation in 2021.

On behalf of our esteemed partners, the Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital, and our entire Home Base team, thank you for all that you did to support our organization in 2020.

Sincerely,

Brigadier General (Ret) Jack Hammond

Jack X-

Executive Director

Home Base, a Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Program













# Pivoting During the Pandemic

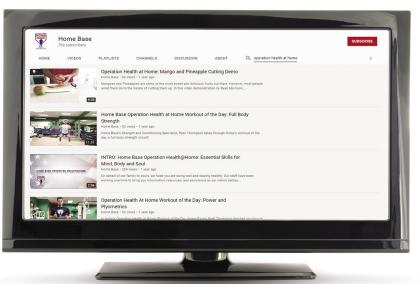
As COVID-19 began to spread, there was concern that the increased stress and anxiety associated with the pandemic, combined with existing mental health injuries, would have devastating results for Veterans. After making the difficult decision to suspend all in-person programs in March, Home Base quickly pivoted to ensure patients continued to receive vital mental health care services online, while simultaneously working to prepare its Boston headquarters for a safe reopening. While some of the operational changes Home Base has pioneered will be unnecessary once the pandemic ends, there have also been developments that the team hopes will extend beyond the COVID-19 era.





#### **TELEHEALTH**

One silver lining of this challenging time has been the explosion and proven effectiveness of telehealth. Home Base grew from 1% to 100% telehealth visits for the Outpatient Clinic literally overnight. Telehealth allowed Home Base to serve patients at a time when in-person visits were not an option. Telehealth continues to be an important, safe option that allows Home Base to decrease barriers to care even as some clinical services are resuming in-person care. Although there are still barriers to allowing licensed clinicians to provide critical care for Veterans across state lines, Home Base leadership is working to establish permanent interstate compacts that will allow Veterans anywhere in the country to access treatment.



### OPERATION HEALTH@HOME (OH@H)

When stay-at-home orders were mandated across most of the country, Home Base immediately recognized the need for virtual health and wellness programming. In April 2020, Home Base launched Operation Health@Home, an online



platform that brings essential coaching strategies in fitness, nutrition, mindfulness, and mental health. This exclusive content from Home Base experts has reached more than 8,500 people this year. Home Base staff members from both Boston and Southwest Florida worked together to contribute more than 200 pieces of content.















## Pivoting During the Pandemic







PATIENT STORIES









THE PANDEMIC
CONTRIBUTED TO
A 20% RISE IN
MILITARY SUICIDES
AND BECAUSE OF
WWP'S STEADFAST
SUPPORT, HOME
BASE WAS ABLE
TO CONTINUE
DELIVERING CARE.

# WWP LEADS FROM THE FRONT PRESERVING LIFE SAVING CARE DURING THE PANDEMIC

Home Base is honored to be a member of the Warrior Care Network® (WCN)—a partnership between Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) and four worldrenowned academic medical centers, providing Veterans and their families living with invisible wounds a path to long-term health and wellness. Throughout the pandemic, WWP continued its philanthropic support of Home Base and all WCN sites to ensure Veterans and their families had access to the critical care they needed. The pandemic contributed to a 20% rise in military suicides and because of WWP's steadfast support, Home Base was able to continue delivering care throughout the pandemic and even expand some services to include the distribution of bi-weekly health and wellness videos.

In April of 2020, Home Base made the decision to suspend all in-person clinical programs to align with state, federal and hospital guidelines. WWP worked with the Home Base team to adjust funding to allow the program to continue delivering services and pivot under these new guidelines. While in-person programs were suspended for a brief period of time, the Outpatient Program transitioned to 100% virtual practically overnight.

In July 2020, Home Base resumed our in-person Intensive Clinical Program (ICP) for veterans across the country and continued to offer individual therapy for PTSD, traumatic brain injury, depression, anxiety, and mild-moderate substance use disorders, pharmacological therapies, couples' therapy, and psychoeducation for family members. The program saw a 92.25% completion rate and a 77.21% participant satisfaction rate in 2020.

Home Base is incredibly grateful to Wounded Warrior Project for their continued support and partnership which has allowed us to continue providing this lifesaving care to our warriors and their families.

# Pivoting During the Pandemic



Weekly Virtual Drop-In

#### VIRTUAL MEET-UPS

Some of Home Base's "lighter touch" programs went virtual during the pandemic. The Veteran and Family Outreach team established "virtual meet-ups" for Veterans, Service Members and their Families. Held weekly and accessible to participants from across the nation, these meet-ups were a way for the military community to stay connected while remaining physically distanced. Home Base's Adventure Series also went virtual to ensure that military Families had access to free, family-friendly, and educational online activities. Events included arts and crafts sessions with the MassArt Art Museum, and virtual museum tours of the USS Midway Museum in San Diego.



#### REOPENING

By using lessons learned from Boston Hope and implementing important changes following CDC and Massachusetts General Hospital Infectious Disease guidelines, Home Base safely reopened several in-person offerings in July 2020. Within four weeks, the team reached full operational capability with 24 Veterans arriving from all over the country every two weeks. Home Base was one of the first national clinical programs to fully reopen at Massachusetts General Hospital. Fortunately, Home Base was able to continue outpatient care in its Southwest Florida clinic throughout 2020.

Veterans, Service Members and Families receiving care at Home Base now receive COVID-19 testing before and during treatment, and universal masking and temperature and symptom screening are required. In addition to limiting cohort sizes, Home Base continues to limit the number of employees on-site and has hired full-time cleaning support throughout the treatment day. To provide additional flexibility, some clinical visits are conducted on a HIPPA compliant secure telehealth platform and entire treatment programs can be converted fully to virtual if the need arises.















From the pivot to telehealth to the reopening of in-person programs, 2020 was transformative for Home Base. As the team looks to the future, it is evident that many of the lessons learned will inform a new era of healing and hope for Veterans, Service Members and their Families from across the nation, and that the Home Base team is poised to continue its mission—no matter the challenges.

## Hope & Home: Our Mission in Action





# INTRODUCTION





**PATIENT STORIES** 







#### **BOSTON HOPE**

On March 1st, Executive Director Brig. Gen. (USA ret.) Jack Hammond was tapped by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker to lead the build-out and operations of Boston Hope, the state's largest emergency command facility for undomiciled and hospital sub or post-acute patients who have been infected with COVID-19. The 1,000-bed hospital, housed inside the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, opened its doors on April 10th. A number of organizations mobilized to set-up this command hospital, including Partners HealthCare, Massachusetts General Hospital and Beth Israel Hospital, along with City, State and Federal Agencies. The field hospital served as a triage and step-down center for patients from all area hospitals and was staffed by clinicians from various schools, hospitals and health centers across the city.

General Hammond was joined by Home Base COO Michael Allard, who served as Deputy Commander, and by more than 50 Home Base staff members who went above and beyond their core missional duties to serve on the frontlines of the pandemic and care for more than 700 COVID-19 patients until Boston Hope closed its doors on June 2.

#### **BOSTON HOPE MUSIC**

Boston Hope Music emerged out of Boston Hope in Spring 2020. This initiative was co-directed by Director for Wellness at Home Base and Home Base Nation podcast host Dr. Ron Hirschberg. The project has lived on even after the field hospital closed, with Dr. Hirschberg and co-director Dr. Lisa Wong facilitating a six-week pilot collaboration between New England Conservatory (NEC) and MGH in Fall 2020. The Boston Hope Music Teaching Project connected teaching fellows from NEC with frontline health care workers for weekly private music lessons. The goal of these lessons was to provide frontline healthcare workers a refuge from day-to-day life on the COVID-19 ward.



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## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion







FEATURE:



PATIENT STORIES







Home Base is committed to providing a safe place for all Veterans, Service Members and Families to receive care.

In 2020, Home Base made promising progress in the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) space by formally establishing a Diversity Committee and developing goals and objectives. Home Base partnered with YWBoston as part of its InlusionBoston DEI program to identify how these goals contribute to the overall mission.

Through InclusionBoston, YW will work with Home Base over 18 months to: 1) Strengthen culture and staff retention, 2) Increase diversity of staff, and 3) Effectively serve patients from BIPOC communities. The partnership incorporates didactic trainings, experiential workshops, and data measurement to track progress over the course of 18 months. The partnership was formalized in late 2020, with the first staff trainings and workshops scheduled in January and February of 2021.

#### SOLDIERS' HOME IN HOLYOKE

As COVID-19 swept across the world in Spring 2020, it took a devastating toll on the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, Massachusetts. In the wake of the tragic loss of more than 76 of the home's residents, Home Base began providing much needed support to the Families of those lost to COVID. As part of this support, Home Base started facilitating 1:1 and small group virtual bedside concerts for the Veterans at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke. With help from a Harvard Medical School group that specializes in music therapy, "on call" professional and amateur musicians held concerts to help the Veterans work through anger and sadness. Home Base also provided curated special Operation Health@Home content for these older Veterans.

### Project 20-0

"WE'RE EXTREMELY
GRATEFUL FOR THE
SUPPORT OF ELECTED
OFFICIALS AND
STAKEHOLDERS
ACROSS THE STATE "



**2020**Hosted five roundtable discussions across MA.



Since 2010, more than 65,000 veterans have died by suicide—more than the total number of deaths from combat during the Vietnam War and the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. This alarming statistic highlights the acute need for new and innovative solutions to reach at-risk Veterans and connect them to care.

In November of 2019, Home Base launched the 20-0 Project, a statewide suicide prevention campaign aimed at raising awareness about the invisible wounds of war. Our mission: eliminate stigma and create a community-driven ecosystem to identify at-risk veterans and get them help within their local communities.

In 2020, we expanded our efforts, hosting five roundtable discussions across the Commonwealth. Home Base partnered with State Senator John C. Velis, Ludlow Veterans' Service Officer Eric Segundo and Veterans of Foreign Wars State Commander Jeffrey Najarian to co-host a roundtable at Western Massachusetts Hospital in Westfield, and with State Senator Walter F. Timilty and Congressman Stephen Lynch to co-host a roundtable at Braintree Town Hall.

#### **FALL 2020**

Co-hosted virtual roundtables for the Cape and Islands.





As the COVID-19 pandemic intensified, creating growing stress and isolation, Home Base ramped up our campaign efforts transitioning our outreach to a virtual platform. In the fall, Home Base co-hosted virtual roundtables for the Cape and Islands with State Senator Julian Cyr, Congressman Bill Keating and State Representative Tim Whelan, for the City of Worcester with Congressman Jim McGovern, Mayor Joseph M. Petty, State Senator Harriette Chandler and Worcester City Manager Edward M. Augustus Jr., and in November, Home Base partnered with Congressman Seth Moulton and State Senator Joan Lovely, to host a North Shore roundtable.

After each roundtable discussion, we provided participants with regional mental health guides, community training opportunities, a referral list of 50 providers trained by Home Base to deliver gold standard, evidence-based treatments for Invisible Wounds of War. Throughout 2020, over 250 elected officials, first responders, health professionals, veterans' service officers and suicide prevention advocates joined Home Base to make this vision a reality.

"We're extremely grateful for the support of elected officials and stakeholders across the state who can help identify the gaps in treatment and connect Veterans to the care and resources they need," said Home Base's Executive Director Brigadier General (USA ret.) Jack Hammond. "We look forward to growing this initiative going forward and doubling down on our efforts to connect at-risk veterans to critical care."

#### **PARTICIPANTS RECIEVED**

- Regional mental health guides
- Community training opportunities
- Referral list of 50 providers













### Podcast Season 2



7,117
Unique
Listeners

14,173

Downloads





#### LISTEN:

https://homebase.org/homebasenation

The second season of Home Base Nation was greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as the season and its recordings faced delays. These new challenges, however, enabled us to engage with our guests and subscribers in a new way and helped spark creative flames on how we could leverage content to be more present in the digital space. While our launch date was delayed by COVID-19, the themes of resilience in the face of adversity, being agile in support of the military community and COVID response were consistently present throughout our conversations in season 2.





Featuring Jake Tapper, CNN Anchor and Author



**LOVE LIVES ON** Featuring Bonnie

Featuring Bonnie Carroll, Air Force Veteran and TAPS Founder



WOUNDED BUT NOT BROKEN

Featuring Kevin Flike, Green Beret

#### **HBN 2020**

- David Ortiz and Col. David King, Trauma Surgeon
- Kevin Flike, Green Beret
- Kevin Flike, Green Beret, and Alan Price, Director of the JFK Presidential Museum and Library
- Bonnie Carrol, CEO of TAPS
- Jake Tapper, CNN Anchor and Author
- Ericka Coutts, ICU Nurse
- Robert Irvine, Chef
- Ken Fisher, CEO of Fisher House
- Dr. Emily Silverman, Host of the Nocturnists Podcast
- Boston Hope Leadership
- Alisa Johnson, Dogs of Deployment CEO
- Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Michael Linnington, CEO, Wounded Warrior Project
- Amazon Employee Resource Group
- 2020 Recap, General Hammond

#### **"BONUS" EPISODES**

- Seema Reza, Presidential Scholar, Veteran and CEO of Community Building Art Works
- Dr. Wes Sanders, Marine Veteran, Home Base Psychologist and CEO of Frost Call
- General Hammond COVID-19 update
- Col. David King COVID-19 update
- General Hammond year-end review
- Run to Home Base promotional episode



RECIPES FOR SUCCESS FROM THE KITCHEN TO THE PENTAGON

Featuring Chef Robert Irvine, British Navy Veteran



DOGS ON DEPLOYMENT!

Featuring Alisa Johnson, Marine Veteran and CEO of DoD



RUNNING FOR STRENGTH AND SERVICE

Featuring Ericka Coutts, ICU Nurse









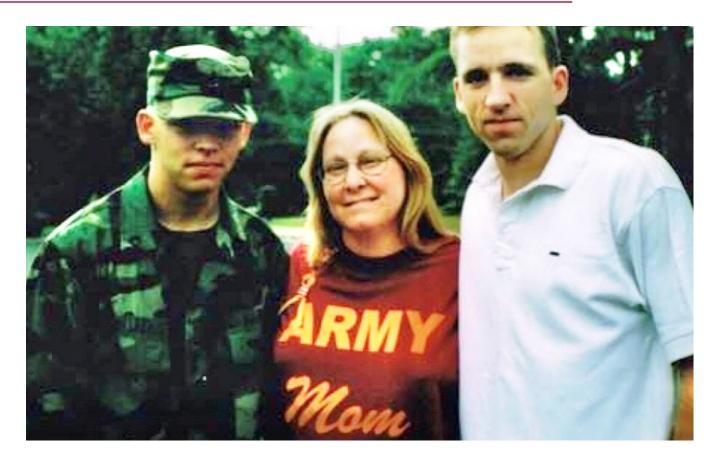


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# Families of the Fallen: Kathy's Story



66 BEFORE HOME BASE, THERE WAS GUILT-DRIVEN DIALOGUE IN MY MIND. I LEFT THE PROGRAM FEELING LIGHTER. 99 Kathy Colley was prepared for the worst when her sons Alan and Stephen deployed to Iraq within a week of each other in 2005. But for all the sleepless nights she spent during the year her boys were in combat, nothing could have prepared her for the tragedies that would strike upon their return home.

In May 2007, six months after his return from Iraq, Stephen died by suicide. And a decade later in 2017—with the Colley family still grappling with Stephen's death—Alan took his own life.

When Kathy speaks about her sons, it is with pride. She describes Alan, her eldest, as a nurturer: a protective, smart, natural leader who once asked his parents to mail hundreds of copies of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* to Iraq at Christmastime so he could provide his soldiers with a respite from war. She remembers Stephen as fun-loving and adventurous—the family clown who would do anything to make them laugh.

As the rates of suicides among Service Members and Veterans have risen, so too has the number of survivors impacted by the loss. In 2017, Home Base collaborated with Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) to establish a first-in-the nation (and only) two-week intensive clinical program specifically for the Families of the Fallen like Kathy. These survivors of traumatic loss require a clinical program that combines evidence-based treatment for post-traumatic stress (PTS) and complicated grief. Home Base has demonstrated the ability to deliver evidence-based treatment for those at-risk family members and set the conditions for them to reclaim their lives.

Kathy became interested in Home Base after her daughter-in-law, Marcela—Alan's widow—graduated from the two-week program in January 2020. "She came home smiling," Kathy recalls. "She was hopeful—and before Home Base she was only pretending to be."

Inspired by Marcela's transformation, Kathy completed Home Base's two-week program in September—days before the third anniversary of Alan's death. Kathy, a military spouse and devoted mother of six, credits Home Base with changing her life and giving her hope. "Before Home Base, there was guilt-driven dialogue in my mind," she explained. "I left the program feeling lighter. Instead of isolating and blaming myself for Alan and Stephen's deaths, I can celebrate their lives and the love and happiness we shared."

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is profound and continues to grow. Here at Home Base we sustained a 20% reduction in funding for some of our crucial and underfunded programs to

include our Traumatic Brain Injury programs and the Families of the Fallen program Kathy just completed.













# Chris Gemmer: A SEAL's Struggle and Success

### In his own words....

"I started my 25-year Naval career in 1989 after graduating high school in Ohio. I enlisted to be a Hospital Corpsman and serve my country as my father did. I guess you could say it is part of the family's service to our great nation. My grandfather was an Army veteran of WWII, my father was in the Navy and my uncle was in the Army. Both saw service in Vietnam. My Sister-In-Law, Retired Army Sergeant First Class Tine Gemmer served in the Gulf War and Operation Iraqi Freedom. I have one son currently serving in the Navy and one son who served in the Army.

In 1992, I attended Basic Underwater Demolitions/ SEAL training and graduated with class 184. I retired in 2014 as a SEAL Master Chief. In that time, I served with numerous Naval Special Warfare commands including Team TWO, Team EIGHT, Developmental Group, Advanced Training Command, Basic Training Command, and Group TEN.

> "HOW WAS SOMETHING FROM SO LONG AGO AFFECTING ME SO MUCH?"

As a SEAL, I deployed multiple times before and after 9/11. I completed combat deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. I am comfortable saying only that I did my job to the best of my ability and had the privilege of returning home to my family.

I don't think I noticed any personal change myself. The hardest part was being so far away from my family and not being able to do anything about it when the kids were ill or had to go to soccer, football, wrestling, dance or gymnastics events. Any stressors I may have experienced were likely suppressed by focusing more on the job. Being a SEAL was just another job to me. One I had fun at.

One I valued and felt was important.
But I was gone often leaving the care of my kids to my wife. She is exceptionally independent and is a great Mom. I never imagined the wars would go on for so long. I never imagined my sons would carry on the same fight.



I didn't notice any negative effects outside of family strain while I was active. After I retired, I went back to school and became a Physician Assistant. While working as a PA, I started to struggle. My family noticed that I became engulfed in my work. I was becoming more forgetful, dismissive, irritable, depressed, and isolated. I suffered from regular headaches, lack of sleep, and weight gain. I experienced chronic pain in most of my joints. As a healthcare provider, I understood what was happening yet I was too proud to seek help. I thought I had gotten out unharmed. Wasn't I supposed to be strong? I didn't and still don't want to show weakness. If I acknowledged I had a problem, I felt I'd be less of a man. As much as we try to reduce the stigma... it is still present and very real to each individual.

Memorial Day of 2018, I hit a low and broke down emotionally after re-experiencing events from 16 years earlier. I couldn't wrap my mind around what was happening. How was something from so long ago affecting me so much? I had lost my balance in life. I lost my confidence. Something new and very daunting to me. Worst of all, due to my isolation and being emotionally unavailable, I was hurting







PATIENT STORIES







my wife and kids. And I wasn't willing to recognize it. Finally, I was shaken to the point I actively sought out help. I attempted to get care through the VA, but it wasn't enough. It wasn't as accessible as Home Base. This is why Home Base and other Veteran outreach programs are invaluable. With the assistance of some great friends and former Teammates, and the support of the SEAL Legacy Foundation and UDT/SEAL Association, I was introduced to Home Base. To my Teammates, Long Live The Brotherhood.

I LEARNED WAYS TO RECOGNIZE
AND REGULATE MY EMOTIONS
AND ENGAGE IN MORE EFFECTIVE
DECISION-MAKING BEHAVIORS."

When I inquired about Home Base, I was immediately contacted by one of the Home Base Veteran Outreach Coordinators. Within weeks, I met and spoke with him near my home in Virginia Beach. I was invited to attend a 4-day Traumatic Brain Injury evaluation.

During the course of the 4-day TBI evaluation I underwent numerous clinical evaluations, several x-rays, three MRIs, and multiple blood draws and laboratory studies. I met with clinical experts in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Neuropsychology, Physical Therapy, Sports Medicine, Neuroendocrinology, Internal Medicine, Sleep Medicine, and Behavioral Health.

Based on this evaluation, I was recommended to attend the 2-week Intensive Clinical Program, which I attended a month later. I participated in individual therapy, group therapy, and integrative therapies, including yoga, tai chi, fitness, and expressive art therapy. I learned ways to recognize and regulate my emotions and engage in more effective decision-making behaviors, and how to manage my mood and improve my social skills. I learned to confront the emotions and situations I typically avoided to reduce my anxiety. Just so you know, they did not cover how to speak to large crowds.

I was in a 10-person group of active Service Members and fellow veteran service men and women. Some with quite different experiences and some with surprisingly parallel paths as I had within Special Operations. I don't know how to explain this, but I simply never felt alone or isolated in the company of these other Veterans. I think this is a critical aspect of the program and truly one of Home Base's unique strengths.

I don't know the number of healthcare providers I saw or the total number of hours I spent being cared for. Along with the exceptional care I received, and with the support of the other Veterans and active duty Service Members in my cohort, I was able to look into the mirror, face many of my issues, and begin to deal with them. I have even been provided with a case manager that continues to follow up with me to see how I am doing.

Home Base provided a path to healing I struggled to find on my own. My physical pain has diminished, my quality of sleep has improved. My confidence has been restored. My relationship with my family is stronger than before. Home Base has given me hope."

- Chris Gemmer







"HOME BASE

TO HEALING

PROVIDED A PATH

I STRUGGLED TO

FIND ON MY OWN."

INTRODUCTION



PATIENT STORIES

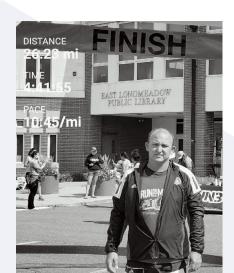






Marathons

In 2020, Home Base was proud to participate as part of the Run 4 MGH Marathon Team in the Boston Marathon™, and as part of the Marine Corps Marathon.









124TH BOSTON MARATHON VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE



John Hancock





#### **2020 BOSTON MARATHON**

124TH BOSTON MARATHON

Home Base participated as part of the Run 4 MGH marathon team in the Boston Marathon™. Special thanks to sponsor John Hancock for the opportunity to give back to the Mass General community by running the Boston Marathon.

Like many events in 2020, the Boston Marathon was held virtually. Team Home Base had a total of 20 registrants, with 13 completing the race virtually during the week of September 7th-14th. The team collectively raised \$183,694.



### **2020 NYC MARATHON**

Given the impact of the pandemic, the 2020 TCS New York City Marathon did not take place. All registered runners were deferred over the next three years. Team Home Base is poised to participate again in 2021.



#### **2020 MARINE CORPS MARATHON**

The 2020 Marine Corps Marathon was held virtually. 3 runners from Home Base—including Chief Operating Officer Michael Allard—participated and raised \$7,300.

\$190,994



Raised for marathons during 2020













### Run to Home Base























**#RTHB2020** 





On September 26, 2020, Home Base held its 11th annual Run to Home Base presented by New Balance 5K/9K as a virtual fundraising event. Originally scheduled for Fenway Park in July, Home Base made the difficult decision to postpone and "reimagine" the event out of health and safety concerns amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Although the 2020 Run to Home Base looked—and felt—different than years past, the reimagined event proved to be as inspiring as ever. A total of 2,010 participants from 40 states raised \$1.2M in support of Home Base's mission to heal the invisible wounds of war for Veterans and their Families.

Included in the participants were more than 522 Service Members and Veterans, 338 Military Family Members, and 1,150 civilians. At a time of social distancing, the day served as a poignant reminder that the community Home Base has built over the last 11 years is stronger than any challenge faced.

"The turbulence associated with the last several months has affected us all tremendously, and we are incredibly grateful for your continued support," said retired Brigadier General Jack Hammond, Executive Director of Home Base. "Wherever you chose to run or walk this year, we hope you took pride in knowing you did so in unison

with hundreds of other members of 'Home Base Nation.'
On behalf of our entire team, a heartfelt thanks to all of those who supported the Run this year! We encourage others to consider making a donation so that we can continue to provide this lifesaving care."

Participants were mailed a race package containing their official Run to Home Base shirt, camo hat, bib, bottle of water, and a mock "home plate" to take photos with. The day kicked-off with a special motivational message from retired Brigadier General Jack Hammond. Participants were encouraged to share photos and videos from their run or walk using "#RTHB2020." From Boston to Hawaii —and nearly everywhere in between—the day was filled with powerful and inspiring messages from runners and walkers as they navigated their reimagined race routes and crossed home plate from afar.

At 5:30 pm on race day, participants were also recognized during the Run to Home Base TV Special on NESN before the Red Sox game that evening, featuring interviews with Red Sox Chairman Tom Werner, Home Base Executive Director Brigadier General (ret.) Jack Hammond, Governor Charlie Baker, Mayor Martin J. Walsh, a patient speaker, top fundraising team captains, and corporate sponsors.

## Beyond the Battlefield



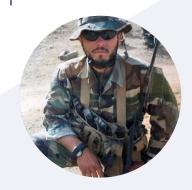
#### WATCH:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZn66S5QGWM

On Thursday, May 19th, 2020, Home Base held a LIVE storytelling event designed to bring emotional awareness and generate discussion and interest in understanding the Service Member and Veteran experience. With remarks from former Navy SEAL and New York Times bestselling author Kevin Lacz, the event featured stories of four Veterans from the U.S. and Israel as they remember, reflect and honor the sacrifices they have made through their service.



#### **VETERAN STORYTELLERS**



#### **Kevin Trujillo**

Kevin is an active duty Army Special Forces Officer. He recently served as the Deputy Commander—Operations at the 75th Ranger Regiment and is currently serving as a National Security Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School.



#### Yehonatan Herbelin

Yehonatan is a former special forces infantry soldier in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Yehonatan is the author of a published book "םש יתייה ינא םג (I Was There)," a memoir based on his military experience.



#### Jessica Rivera

Jessica is a U.S. Army combat Veteran who has served two tours to Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom, as a combat medic. She now works for the Department of Veteran Affairs in Downtown Boston with the hope to heal her wounds and others by serving other Veterans.



#### Rami Yulzari

Rami Yulzari is a Veteran of war, father for three sons, and marathoner. Rami served in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) Airborne Unit during the 80's both in active duty and reservist roles. He served as a commander in the first Lebanon War as well as Gaza Strip.



#### **Kevin Lacz**

Kevin Lacz is a decorated SEAL who served with SEAL Team THREE as a sniper, breacher, and medic during two combat deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He received a Bronze Star with Valor, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medals in addition to others for his service. He is the author of the New York Times bestselling memoir The Last Punisher; a SEAL technical advisor; a co-star of the blockbuster smash American Sniper; a certified Physician Assistant and co-founder of Lifestyle and Performance Medicine; and spokesperson for Hunting for Healing, the charity he co-founded with his wife.















## No Shave Campaign



Founded and championed by MBTA Transit Police/Boston Gang Unit Detective Kurt Power, U.S. Army Veteran, Purple Heart recipient and proud graduate of Home Base, the Home Base No Shave campaign raised awareness and funds for the critical, life-saving care that Home Base provides to Veterans and their Families to heal from the invisible wounds.

Participants pledged \$100 to forgo shaving or wear a No Shave face mask or neck gaiter in order to evoke conversation, raise awareness and break the stigma associated with post-traumatic stress (PTS) and other invisible wounds of war.

In 2020, 163 departments participated and raised \$250,000.

To date, this campaign has raised over \$1 MILLION to fund critical mental health and brain injury care—all at no cost for our nation's wounded & injured Service Members and their Families.



\$15,500

Copperleaf Golf Tournament

\$298,669

Home Base No Shave Campaign

\$103,090

Kensington Golf Tournament

\$20,100

Marsh & McLennan Moments that Matter Campaign

\$16,405

MPA Roof Deck Celebration

\$12,620

Naples Lakes Army vs. Navy Game Fundraiser

\$158,110

Pelican's Nest Golf Outing

\$14,000

Pocasset Golf Tournament

\$79.920

Quail Creek Veterans Day
Golf Tournament

\$6,000

United States Naval Academy (USNA)
Parents Club Holly Ball

\$428,170 WCVB Televent













### WCVB Televent

INTRODUCTION











In a year like no other, Home Base knew Veterans Day would look—and feel—different than ever before. Since 2015, Veterans Day at Home Base has been marked by an annual TV Special hosted by WCVB Channel 5. As one of Home Base's most important fundraising events, the annual Veterans Day special generates funds for the life-saving clinical care and support Home Base provides to Veterans, Service Members, and their Families. Most importantly, it raises invaluable awareness of the invisible wounds of war and Home Base's noble mission. With reports of military suicides up as



much as 20% in 2020, this year's event was an important opportunity to raise awareness of the increased need for mental healthcare amid the ongoing pandemic. Despite the new challenges associated with COVID-19, the 2020 WCVB "Helping Veterans Heal" Televent proved to be the most successful yet—raising more than \$428K.

"In addition to bringing attention to the mental through this event helped fund surviving spouses and parents to complete our Families of the Fallen Intensive Clinical Program (ICP), Special Operators to complete our Comprehensive Brain Health and Trauma (ComBHaT) program, and more Veterans to complete the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) track of our two-week Intensive Clinical Program," said Executive Director retired Brigadier General Jack Hammond.

crisis and the Veteran suicide epidemic, funds raised

20

In the months leading up to November 11th, Home Base and WCVB Channel 5 in Massachusetts worked tirelessly to overcome logistical challenges and reimagine the event for 2020. Social distancing mandates meant the "live phone bank" would need to be redesigned. This also meant the "live interviews" featuring community leaders and supporters were conducted virtually.

TO DONATE: CALL 866-615-8387, OR VISIT HOMEBASE.ORG/TELEVENT

With tremendous help from several former Home Base patients who courageously volunteered to share their stories, the 2020 "Helping Veterans Heal" event became a reality.

"These stories provide great insight into the challenges these warriors and their Families have faced, as well as the impact of the programs we are raising funds for this year," explained Michael Allard, Home Base Chief Operating Officer "We are incredibly grateful for the entire team at WCVB for all they do to create more awareness around the invisible wounds and the mission of Home Base. We are also deeply thankful for the Veterans and Family Members who bravely shared their stories of perseverance and healing."

WE ARE INCREDIBLY **GRATEFUL FOR THE** ENTIRE TEAM AT WCVB FOR ALL THEY DO TO CREATE MORE **AWARENESS AROUND** THE INVISIBLE WOUNDS AND THE MISSION OF HOME BASE "

# Reimagining Commitment in Southwest Florida



While it would have been easy to relinquish 2020 to the pandemic, Veterans and their Families need critical programs like Home Base SWFL now more than ever. The Southwest Florida community understands that necessity and has accepted the challenge. Patriotic Americans like Kensington Golf and Country Club, Quail Creek Country Club, Naples Lakes Country Club, Pelican's Nest Golf Club and Copperleaf Golf Club reinvented and reimagined their traditional events so that they could safely raise the funds necessary to provide Veteran and Family care during a global pandemic.

From the socially distanced American flags that spaced out guests during the opening ceremony at Naples Lakes to the month-long virtual tournament at Kensington, communities adopted a "do-something, not-nothing" attitude and participants embraced the innovations.









PATIENT STORIES







# Community Foundation of Collier County Grant

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF COLLIER COUNTY

FOR GOOD. FOREVER.

Home Base SWFL is responding to the needs of local Veterans facing increased levels of post-traumatic stress, depression, anxiety and co-ocurring substance use as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic by seeking community support for training clinicians on evidence-based trauma therapies.

The COVID-19 pandemic created a "perfect storm" that threatened the mental health of many Veterans, particularly those with pre-existing mental health conditions. Isolation as a result of quarantine and social distance measures are symptoms of many of the invisible wounds Home Base treats. These stressful and uncertain times can aggravate and exacerbate the mental health challenges Home Base SWFL participants already face. There is also a real concern that increased mental health symptoms, coupled with a sense of isolation and lost employment

> or wages, can increase the veteran suicide rate, which is already elevated relative to the general population.

Grant funding recently received from the Community Foundation of Collier County helped realize the goal to train 15 SWFL clinicians and oversee the delivery of prolonged exposure and cognitive process therapy to local Veterans and military Families.

The COVID-19 relief grant from the Community Foundation's Collier Comes Together Fund are designed to rapidly deploy resources to healthcare nonprofit organizations to support their operations as well as their staff at the frontlines of Collier County's coronavirus outbreak.

Collier and Lee County clinicians who complete the training will become a certified Mass General Hospital Development Clinician and join an official national register of providers. These clinicians will



be equipped with the highly specialized tools needed to treat trauma victims with what is considered the gold standard for trauma therapies – skills that are lacking and difficult to access in SWFL Florida.

The goal of the training program is to help meet the demand for the greatly underfunded and under-resourced mental health care system in Florida —especially for the large population of military Families in the state which, according to the Census of 2018, represents nearly 14% of the population.

Home Base SWFL was financially impacted by the pandemic due to the cancelation of fundraising events during the peak fundraising season, however, through donor support we have continued to help SWFL Veterans and military Families through virtual access to fitness, mindfulness, mental health and nutrition tips for Warrior Health and Fitness participants as well as treatment services through the Home Base Outpatient Clinic at Lee Health. The total funding needed to realize the training program is \$53,800. The \$15,000 Community Foundation grant is a great start. If you are interested in supporting this life-saving training and treatment program to help better treat SWFL Veterans and military Families, please donate online and help us.







**PATIENT STORIES** 









# Kensington Community Hits \$1M Fundraising Milestone

















Despite the global coronavirus pandemic dramatically impacting all of our lives, it didn't stop members of Kensington Golf & Country Club in Naples from continuing their longstanding, generous support of local Veterans' health and wellness—

support that is critical now more than ever.

For the last eight years, Kensington Golf & Country Club has hosted a scramble-format golf tournament with all proceeds from fees and sponsorships supporting the Home Base mission. When their 9th Annual Home Base Golf and Family Day scheduled for April 4th, which was in full swing with sponsorships and golfer registrations secured, was canceled due to COVID-19, organizers shifted their focus to generating additional event day funds through a virtual raffle. Despite the cancelation, the event raised \$103,000, including \$13,140 from the successful raffle.

The Kensington community is very special to Home Base. It was after the success of the 2014 Kensington Golf & Family Day, that Home Base had enough

funds to efforts in SWFL. To date, the Kensington community has raised over \$1 million for Veterans, Service Members, and Families living in the Southwest Florida community.

"THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY HAS

RAISED OVER \$1 MILLION FOR VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS, AND FAMILIES LIVING

IN THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COMMUNITY."

Kensington residents aren't stopping at the golf tournament. In the latest creative endeavor, one resident, Stan Schoenewald, a certified fitness instructor at the YMCA and avid runner, wanted to use his love for running to support Home Base. Thanks to the generosity of John Hancock, Home Base received 20 entries to the Boston Marathon as part of the larger Mass General Marathon Team. Stan was excited to take on this iconic race in April, but alas, COVID-19 hit and the race was postponed.

Stan rallied members of his community to support his effort to run virtually and trained and ran the race throughout his neighborhood. The day of the virtual marathon, Stan's neighbors could see his progress and cheer him on from the comfort of their own front porch. Stan raised an impressive \$14,188!

\$101,777 \$188,047
2014 Kensington Golf 2015 Kensington Golf

\$119,162 \$44,025
2016 Kensington Golf 2016 Gala

\$134,065 \$160,498
2017 Kensington Golf 2018 Kensington Golf

\$149,575 \$103,090

\$11,975

2013 Kensington Golf

\$2.300

2012 Kensington Golf

\$1,014,514 Kensington Totals

# Healing at Home: Coleman's Crusade

Coleman and Christin Plummer's love story began in high school in Naples. When Coleman enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduation, their love grew stronger and she followed him to California where he was stationed after basic training. They married at just 19 years old.

Coleman served 12 years in the Marine Corps. During that time, he was "shot at a lot, was hit by explosives, lost friends, and had to do things that the military requires of you." As a young man fresh out of high school, Coleman was called upon to shoot to kill—some were women and children. "Nothing can prepare you for that," said Coleman.

This left lasting emotional scars. Coleman had angst about being deployed again, experienced post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and drank heavily to cope. The physical wounds he endured during his service included hearing loss, a traumatic brain injury, migraines and shoulder, knee, foot and hand injuries that made life more difficult as well.

As Coleman faced these challenges, his family was also impacted. While stationed in the "Triangle of Death" in Iraq, Coleman missed the birth of his first child and during another deployment to Japan years later, he spent a year apart from his growing family which now included four children.

"Deployments were some of the most difficult times for Coleman and I," said Christin. "We had to learn to communicate better and have trust in our relationship —skills I continue to use today."

When Coleman was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps and moved back to Naples with his family in 2015, his physical and mental health had suffered greatly. It took him two years to get on

disability with the VA, which meant no PTSD medications and no surgery for his shoulder injury so he drank, smoked cigarettes and marijuana, didn't work out and sought comfort in food.

At 5' 8", Coleman had not only developed unhealthy coping strategies for his PTSD symptoms, he gained nearly 80 pounds since leaving the military weighing at his highest 253 pounds. When he finally began receiving VA benefits, they referred him to the Home Base Warrior Health & Fitness program where he and his wife's journey to a healthier and happier lifestyle began.

Today, with the help of the entire Home Base wellness team, Coleman is down to 150 pounds, he eats a vegan diet, gave up alcohol and cigarettes, and now maintains his PTSD solely through the use of prescribed medical marijuana. Best yet, Christin and Coleman became partners in the program, motivating and supporting each other as they grew closer and stronger together.

In addition to building her physical strength and becoming more aware of her body and eating habits, Christin credits Home Base for helping her marriage grow stronger. Christin added, "The Warrior Health & Fitness program has increased our communication, time together while in the gym, and time apart to work on ourselves and our individual health goals."

Coleman credits Home Base and the personal attention they received with changing he and Christin's life for the better—support Home Base feels all military Families deserve for the price they pay defending America's freedoms.





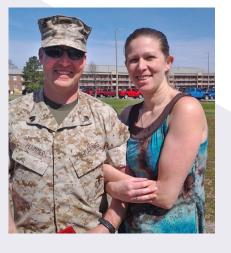












THE WARRIOR
HEALTH & FITNESS
PROGRAM HAS
INCREASED OUR
COMMUNICATION,
TIME TOGETHER
WHILE IN THE
GYM, AND TIME
APART TO WORK
ON OURSELVES
AND OUR
INDIVIDUAL
HEALTH GOALS.

#### SOUTH WEST FLORIDA

## Clinical Program: Celebrating a Year of Successful Partnership









"IT TAKES TREMENDOUS
COURAGE FOR A
VETERAN TO STEP
FORWARD AND ASK
FOR HELP."

In November of 2019, Home Base Southwest Florida (SWFL) formally announced its expansion and clinical partnership with Lee Health, the largest healthcare system in Southwest Florida, to offer mental health services for Veterans and Military Families who call the five-county region home—at no cost. Although COVID-19 hit shortly after the start of the new partnership, the pandemic did not stop the Home Base SWFL clinical services, and more than 72 Veterans have received care and support since the launch.

The clinical program at Lee Health offers a multidisciplinary approach to care and complements Home Base SWFL's Warrior Health & Fitness Program, which has served as a platform for more than 250 local Veterans to come together, reconnect with other members of the Military community and embark on a path towards long-term wellness. Through the Warrior Health & Fitness Program, physical health goals like losing weight, gaining muscle, eating healthier, and managing pre-existing injuries and health issues are common, but the program also includes mental health and wellness goals.

Previously, those seeking clinical care could access mental health services through Home Base's two-week Intensive Clinical Program headquartered in Boston, MA. Thanks to the clinical partnership with Lee Health, accessing world-class outpatient mental health services has become easier for local Veterans and their Families.

"Although COVID-19 presented new challenges for our team, we were able to continue seeing Veterans and their Families through telehealth while in lockdown and have made it safe to still attend sessions in person once lockdown ended," explained Home Base SWFL Program Director Armando Hernandez.

For Home Base SWFL Honorary Director, four-star General (USA ret.) Fred Franks, helping "the next greatest generation" of Veterans readjust to life back at home, is a matter of fulfilling an implied trust.

"It takes tremendous courage for a Veteran to step forward and ask for help—not all trauma of war or service is physical or apparent, and many of our returning Service Members need care and support," said Franks. "The establishment of these clinical services is the fulfillment of a trust between our Nation, our communities and our Veterans that when their mission and duties are complete, we will be there for them at home."

Now that the clinical partnership has been operational for a year, the Home Base SWFL team has plans to expand.

"Within the first few months of the new year, we will train up to 15 local clinicians and oversee the delivery of cognitive process therapy to local Veterans and Military Families," said Hernandez.













### FY20 (10/1/19 – 9/30/20) Donors

# INTRODUCTION



FEATURES



PATIENT STORIES







### \$100,000+

The Challenger Foundation

Digital Federal Credit Union

Ferri Family Foundation

**Fisher House Foundation** 

Hanscom Federal Credit Union Charitable Foundation, Inc.

John Hancock

Home Base No Shave Campaign

Nancy S. and Richard M. Kelleher

**Kelleher Family Foundation** 

Kensington Golf & Country Club: 9th Annual Home Base Golf and Family Day New England Sports Network (NESN)

Pelican's Nest: 5th Annual Home Base Golf Tournament

Red Sox Foundation Inc.

**SEAL Legacy Foundation** 

Ms. Jean C. Tempel

WCVB PROJECT COMMUNITY: Helping Veterans Heal Televent

Mr. Thomas C. Werner Werner Family Foundation

Wounded Warrior Project

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### FY20 (10/1/19 – 9/30/20) Donors (continued)

# INTRODUCTION



FEATURES



PATIENT STORIES



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



### \$10,000+

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Paula Zavrl

# Financial Summary





In-Kind Support \_\_\_\_\_\_2,064,031



new social

media followers

100
news stories
featuring
Home Base







PATIENT STORIES







### Veterans and Families Served in 2020

**1,347** Clinical\*

**5,200** Education\*

645

Adventure Series

<sup>\*</sup> Individuals trained online or in-person

## How to Support Home Base



Other ways to give:

DONOR ADVISED FUND PLANNED GIVING WIRE/STOCK TRANSFER MAJOR GIFTS EMPLOYER MATCH One-Time Donation

DONATE NOW

Monthly Donation

DONATE NOW

Honorary & Memorial Tribute

DONATE NOW

Donate via MAIL

Make checks payable to "Massachusetts General Hospital" and designate "Home Base" in the memo line.

#### Mailing address:

125 Nashua Street, Suite 540 Boston, MA 02114

#### For more information:

 $\underline{mghdevhomebase@mgh.harvard.edu}$ 





INTRODUCTION



**FEATURES** 



PATIENT







# THEIR MISSION IS COMPLETE. OURS HAS JUST BEGUN.

Follow us on social @homebaseprogram











homebase.org





