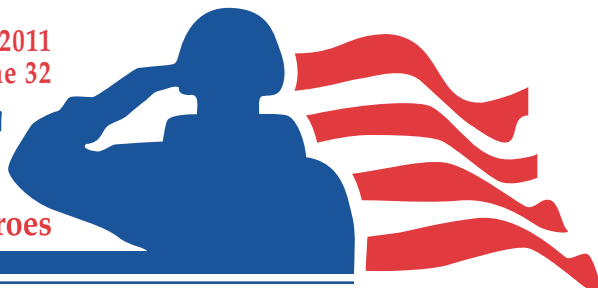


THE ROAD TO RECOVERY REPORT

April 2011
Volume 32



An Update for Supporters of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes

'Mother's Day miracle' needed for severely wounded troops and their families



Providing
Emergency Aid
to Troops Severely
Wounded in
Afghanistan or Iraq

KEY PROGRAMS:

Emergency
Financial Aid

Family Support
Network

Career Network

Road to Recovery
Conference & Tribute

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Rosalia Moody is not your normal mom. In addition to caring for her young child, Rosalia must tend to her husband Mark, who was seriously injured by shrapnel from a roadside bomb in Iraq.

Mark's injuries mean he may never work again, leaving the young family balancing on a financial knives' edge.

Unfortunately, there are many more mothers like Rosalia in the United States today – mothers who are raising young children and caring for their severely injured husband.

Carlos Labarca, one severely wounded serviceman who received emergency financial aid from the Coalition, says, "For my wife, I'm like another one of the kids. And my children have been affected a lot because they don't understand what Dad can't do."

With Mother's Day approaching, Coalition supporters recently received a letter (or e-mail) from Major General John K. Singlaub, U.S. Army (Ret.) outlining the financial crises facing these mothers, along with the Coalition's response: The 2011 Emergency Mother's Day Project.

Gen. Singlaub, a national spokesman for the Coalition, reminded supporters, "Our seriously injured troops are waiting an average of six months to receive their first government disability check after being released from the hospital and separated from the service."

He urged supporters to send a special Mother's Day gift to help rescue severely wounded servicemen and women facing evictions, car repossessions, utility cutoffs and other financial crises.

"Can you imagine a better Mother's Day gift than rescuing a worried mother with a wounded husband and small children from

losing her home and being thrown out into the street?" wrote Gen. Singlaub, who served in World War II, Vietnam and Korea.

Unfortunately the response is much less than expected. And to avoid turning away families who desperately need help, a "Mother's Day miracle" is needed, Gen. Singlaub says.

"These suffering women are heroes as well for standing by our severely wounded troops, tending to their disabilities and caring for their children under such incredibly difficult circumstances," he said. "So if you haven't yet responded to my letter or e-mail, please make a donation today. And if you did give, please consider giving again."

Another woman having a tough time is the wife of Sgt. Cory Lewis.

Cory was an Army mechanic in Iraq and suffered a traumatic brain injury when a bomb blast knocked him unconscious and changed his life. Moving off base made it hard to pay the bills and support his wife and three children.

"I've had financial problems with not being able to put food on the table," he says.

Fortunately Coalition donors sent emergency financial aid and now, "We seem to be doing all right," he says. "I'm very appreciative for the men and women who donate to this program."

Cory's injury has had an emotional impact on his family as well.

"The stress, my memory, and not being able to do simple things has been such a hard thing to overcome," he says. "My wife says the difficult thing for her is my attitude, my sense of distances – emotionally I'm not there. She feels she has to walk on eggshells." ■



The Coalition's 2011 Emergency Mother's Day Project, created to help rescue women like Rosalia Moody, appears to be falling short.

Providing Emergency Aid to Troops Severely Wounded in Afghanistan or Iraq

Coalition to Salute America's Heroes ★ PO Box 96440 ★ Washington, DC 20090-6440 ★ www.saluteheroesproject.org



By the numbers: Your generosity at work



Here's a brief sampling of severely wounded troops who have been helped by your generous donations to the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes.

- Spc. Jens H. of Nillsboro, Oregon needed \$925 in back rent to prevent eviction.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$925.00
- Master Sgt. Michael F. of Bakersfield, California had to choose between making overdue rent payments and car payments or buying groceries. He needed \$3,677.27 to get caught up.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$3,677.27
- Marine Cpl. Joshua A. of Grand Junction, Colorado needed \$4,264.89 to pay his back rent and to buy groceries for the month.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$4,264.89
- Cpl. Shane B. of Rollar, Missouri faced a blizzard of overdue bills including rent, auto insurance, utilities and phone. He needed \$1,842.76 to get caught up and prevent any evictions or cutoffs.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$1,842.76
- Cpl. Adam S. of Queen Creek, Arizona called the Coalition and told us he was \$1,350 behind in his rent.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$1,350.00
- Staff Sgt. Cynthia R. of Westminster, Colorado returned from serving with the Air Force in Iraq with a serious injury. She needed \$1,733.71 to pay for groceries and make an overdue mortgage payment.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$1,733.71
- Cpl. Daniel P. of Irondale, Missouri called the Coalition with overdue energy and grocery bills of \$1,240.01.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$1,240.01
- Sgt. Frank A. of Colorado Springs, Colorado contacted the Coalition when he found out he would need \$2,000 he didn't have to fix his car.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$2,000.00
- Sgt. Fred S. of Southaven, Mississippi suffered severe injuries while serving tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He needed \$2,309.01 for overdue rent, car and utility payments.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$2,309.01
- Cpl. Luke D. of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa returned from serving in Iraq with serious injuries. He needed \$1,376.80 to help with basics like gas and food.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$1,376.80
- Sgt. Marcus D. of Belleville, Illinois was facing a massive pile of overdue electric, car and mortgage payments. He needed \$4,246.33 to stave off financial collapse.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$4,246.33
- Petty Officer Raymond D. of Dewey, Arizona is recovering from severe injuries suffered while serving overseas. His mortgage was \$2,665.22 in arrears.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$2,665.22
- Sgt. 1st Class Rickey S. of Comanche, Oklahoma is suffering from the effects of a traumatic brain injury suffered while serving in Iraq. He faced a mountain of bills including overdue utility, car and mortgage payments of \$2,311.64.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$2,311.64
- Lance Cpl. Dustin A. of New Smyrna Beach, Florida needed \$1,215.04 to buy groceries and pay overdue utility and rent payments.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$1,215.04
- Cpl. Carl L. of Corpus Christi, Texas had bills for car repairs and utilities that totaled \$1,086.73.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$1,086.73
- A severe shoulder injury suffered while serving in Iraq left Marine Sgt. Scott M. of Kemah, Texas unable to afford a \$1,141.16 bill to repair his car.

▶ Coalition Paid: \$1,141.16



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Severely wounded troops urge Coalition donors to "Keep up the good work!"



If it wasn't for the Coalition and family members we'd probably have been in the streets.

— Jason Brunson, St. Augustine, Florida

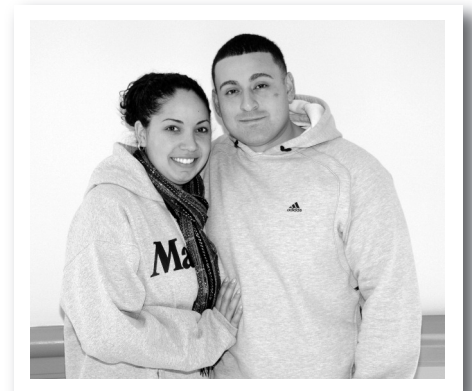


▲ Christopher Horman survived a bomb blast a mere 50 feet from where he was standing. The traumatic brain injury he suffered left him unable to provide for his family. He lost his three-bedroom house and lived with his wife and three children in a car until Coalition donors helped him finance a new place to live.



▲ Charles A. tells Coalition donors to "keep up the good work. The Coalition is doing wonderful things."

Gabriel L. has limited movement in his left leg and left arm as a result of multiple shrapnel wounds from combat action in Iraq. He says he can keep up with his current expenses, but he can't pay back all his overdue bills and he can't help his mother rescue her house from foreclosure. ▼



▲ Jeremiah Conner suffered a traumatic brain injury while serving in Iraq. Financial disasters resulting from his many injuries left him living with his wife and two children on an air mattress at his in-laws' house.

My eviction was just 72 hours away and the Coalition paid my rent for me. If it weren't for them my four kids would be out right now on the streets.

— Michael Jason Hrobar



▲ Stephen Miner is "very grateful to people who support veterans. It is very rewarding to know that people care about us."





IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Thank you letters from our severely wounded troops



Without Coalition donors, severely injured serviceman and family “would have been homeless and on the streets”

My truck exploded in my face. I suffered third-degree burns from the waist down and a traumatic brain injury. My legs are scarred and being in the sun is painful. I can't remember my childhood because of the brain injury. My wife couldn't handle my injuries so I've recently gotten divorced. I have custody of my daughter. What I've gone through takes a toll on my daughter because I can't do all the things other dads can do. I didn't want to ask for help out of pride, but I really appreciate the people who provide help to the Coalition.

— *James Wilson, Crystal Lakes, Missouri*

During heavy fighting on “Bloody Sunday” I was shot multiple times over the course of an hour. My ballistic vest stopped the bullet, but caused a severe back injury. Three bullets penetrated my right leg, and the bullet to the head left me unconscious, with a traumatic brain injury. The financial hardship of my disability and loss of wages have been significant. My vehicle needed major repairs that were not covered under warranty. I tried desperately to get a loan to make the repairs but was unable. My wife and I decided that I would have to drop out of school, until we were able to get the vehicle repaired. The closest school to my home is a 1-½ hour drive, and she needed the car to get to work. The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes helped us make the vehicle repairs. I have

continued in school, and I will soon graduate with my B.F.A. with a 3.96 GPA. The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes saved my education.

— *Pete Sutherland, Fernandina, Florida*

While my husband was in the hospital, his disability was pending so we had to choose: paying for his medical care or making our house payment. The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes paid four months' mortgage (praise God), paid utilities and gave us money for food. Thank God for the Coalition. They were also very comforting. They said, “Betina, you're not alone.” We would have been homeless and on the streets.

— *Betina Tanner (wife of service member Kim Tanner), Las Vegas, Nevada*

My wife called the Coalition because my VA pay was messed up and we weren't going to be able to pay our bills. We were two months' behind on our car payment and we had received final notices on our electricity and water bills. She spoke with Coalition staffers and they were able to pay the bills so we would still have a car and utilities and gave us a gift card so we could get food. Without the Coalition, I don't know what we would have done. My family is so grateful that they could help us.

— *Timothy Waddell, LaBell, Florida*

More creative ways you can help our troops severely wounded in Afghanistan or Iraq

Volunteer at a Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center near you. Your skilled hands and warm heart are needed by our patients to heal, progress and be comfortable. Hospital employees will also be grateful for your assistance and will pay careful attention to finding tasks to match your skills and abilities.

Other ways to volunteer include: Volunteering your time as a caregiver for a few hours to give the spouse of a severely disabled service member a much-needed break; offering to run errands for a wounded soldier or his/her spouse; or mentoring or tutoring wounded troops who need to develop new skills for job training.

Take a wounded serviceman or woman out to a movie, sporting event or other activity. You can help a seriously injured service member forget about their pain for awhile, and perhaps even help in their mental and emotional recovery, by getting them out of their home or hospital for an afternoon or evening.

