



MISSOURI CREDIT UNION ASSOCIATION

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Missouri Credit Unions Reach \$100,000 Fundraising Goal for Homes for Our Troops Columbia Project

SSG Canine Receives Keys to Home on June 26

Columbia – Missouri credit unions have reached the \$100,000 fundraising goal for Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Robert Canine's specially adapted home in Columbia, Missouri. SSG Canine and his family will receive the keys to their new home on Saturday, June 26. Missouri credit unions teamed up with Homes for Our Troops (HFOT), a non-profit group that has built more than 50 specially adapted homes for severely injured service men and women across the country.

"This entire experience is almost too good to be true," says Canine, who lost both legs below the knee while serving in Iraq. "When I think about what Missouri credit unions and Homes for Our Troops are doing for me and my family, I just try not to cry. I am so thankful for everything."

The Missouri HFOT effort began in late 2008 when the Missouri Credit Union Association (MCUA) pledged to raise \$100,000, which covers the cost of one HFOT home. MCUA rallied Missouri credit unions to get involved and demonstrate the "people helping people" credit union philosophy. SSG Canine was selected to receive a home in September 2009. Construction began on April 9, 2010, with nearly 500 volunteers working at a three-day "Build Brigade" to bring the home from a concrete foundation to a weather-tight structure.

Across Missouri, credit unions have raised funds in a variety of ways including these examples. United Credit Union (Mexico, Missouri) and River Region Credit Union



SSG Robert Canine (center) raises the first wall of his specially adapted home with his wife and son on April 9, 2010. The Canine family will receive the keys to their completed home on June 26.

(more)

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(Jefferson City) both organized golf tournaments. United also held a holiday "shoptacular" sale. Arsenal Credit Union (Arnold) employees made jewelry and sold it in the credit union lobby. Southpointe Credit Union (St. Louis) held car washes and collected donations in its lobby. Anheuser-Busch Employees' Credit Union (St. Louis) and Alliance Credit Union (Fenton) held bake sales and employee dress-down days. Mazuma Credit Union (Kansas City) hosted a barbecue cook-off fundraiser and sold yellow "Support our Troops" ribbons. Electro Savings Credit Union (St. Louis) sold paper bricks for a \$1 donation to HFOT and assembled the bricks into miniature homes at each branch. Electro also hosted a HFOT trivia night.

"Even in an economic downturn, the Missouri credit union community maintains its priority of helping others! This project has energized all those who have participated," says Rosie Holub, MCUA president/CEO. "Robert has given so much and we all appreciate his sacrifice in our behalf. This home will give Robert and his family much deserved comfort and stability. We look forward to presenting the keys to Robert on the 26th of June!"

SSG Canine is currently undergoing physical therapy at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. SSG Canine, his wife, Jennifer, and their son, Sebastian, are anxious to return home to Missouri.

The Canine home is the first Homes for Our Troops house built in Missouri. Credit unions have committed to building a second home in Missouri, and fundraising efforts continue across the state.

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The Missouri Credit Union Association is the trade association that represents the state's credit unions and more than 1.3 million credit union members. Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives that exist to serve their members, not to make a profit. For more information, visit www.mcua.org. To learn more about the credit union HFOT effort, visit: www.mcua.org/Homes_for_Our_Troops_537.html. To learn more about Homes for Our Troops, visit their Web site at www.homesforourtroops.org.