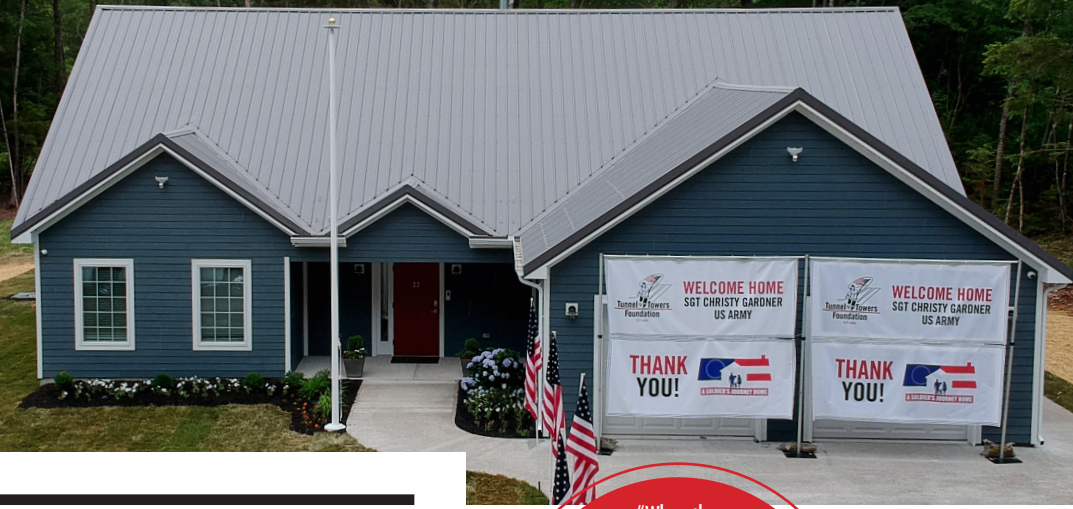


# A Soldier's Journey Home's Path to Success



**There are more than 2.5 million veterans who have served our country since 9/11. More than 80% have served in a combat theater of operations and 30% of veterans have disabilities as a result of their service.**

At a Soldier's Journey Home, we began 18 years ago by supporting a variety of disaster relief construction projects and have now devoted nearly a decade to building mortgage-free homes specially adapted for veterans with disabilities. ASJH is a 100% volunteer-driven 501(c)(3) comprised primarily of current and retired firefighters and veterans.

Each year we come together to build a home in only 12 days for a worthy veteran. Each build draws more than 100 volunteers from all over the nation who return year after year because of their belief in our mission.

We have built homes for disabled veterans in Georgia, Illinois, Tennessee, Texas, Ohio, and Maine. This year, we will focus our efforts in Kentucky for two weeks in June along with the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation. We rely on donations from corporate and community sponsors for materials, supplies, and other support.

*"When the alarm goes off in the firehouse it's because someone needs help. And that's what we're here for. Our mission is to make a disabled veteran's dream of owning a home, unencumbered by any burden, a reality."*  
 - Paddy Neville  
 President, ASJH



*"ASJH is an amazing organization, family! I'm very grateful for the home that they built. We feel truly blessed to wake up in a dream/forever home every morning. This has been one of the greatest honors of my life."*  
 - Alex Edwards  
 ret. LCpl USMC



Tim Andreason was born, raised and spent nearly his entire life – 41 years – in Mayfield, Kentucky.

Tim briefly left Mayfield in 1999 to serve his country. He joined the Army on June 13, 1999, and following boot camp at Fort Sill Oklahoma, and follow-on training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Private First Class Andreason was assigned to Fort Carson, Colorado, where he served as an Army General's personnel assistant. However, Tim's military career was short-lived. He suffered debilitating back injuries that resulted in him having to leave the Army with a 40% disability rating.

Tim returned home to Mayfield, where he settled into a nice brick rambler in a quiet neighborhood and worked a series of jobs: insurance claims, chicken plant, pizza delivery, and the Department of Corrections. He is currently employed at a local chicken hatchery.

But two weeks before Christmas, on Dec. 10th, Tim was in the house he shared with his disabled mother and disabled stepfather, and his children, Lane age 7 ½, and Lillie, age 9 ½, who live with him on the weekends every other week. They had finished dinner and were talking about the severe weather expected to come their way and the possibility of a tornado. Lillie had experienced a tornado before – she was in a carwash when one passed overhead.

Lane went to bed, and Lillie and Tim settled on the couch to watch television. At 9:25, Tim says the lights went out and he received an emergency alert. He got his daughter and put her with his parents in their room, then grabbed his sleeping son and ran into the hallway, where he pushed Lane's body against the wall with his. He thought, "if it is going to come down, it's going to come down on me." Glass started breaking all around and Tim felt his body being pulled by the tornado, but he miraculously held his ground. As it was happening, he heard

Lillie yelling, "Save my daddy, save my daddy, save my daddy!" While it felt like hours, Tim said the storm lasted about 10 minutes and then it was past. He went to his room and let his dog, Lucy, out of her crate, then went out to the front porch to survey the damage. At the time, he didn't look up, and didn't realize until four days later that his roof had been torn off.

Tim's friend came over to check on him, and it took them more than 2 ½ hours to cut the garage door cable with the only thing they had – garden shears – so that he could get his car out. They all left to stay with his friend, who lived 10 minutes away, but it took them more than two hours to get there because of the debris, power lines and phone poles everywhere. Tim said he stayed there for a week, then moved to his cousin's house for a few days. Eventually, the state provided housing in a small cottage, but only for a limited time. Tim isn't sure where he'll stay until his home is rebuilt.

The damage to the entire area was extensive. The tornado had severely damaged the city's town hall and records building, post office, water treatment plant, police department and jail, fire department and a number of other vital locations, nearly crippling the infrastructure. Residential areas of the city were devastated as well, with numerous homes being damaged or destroyed, including many that were leveled or swept from their foundations. Trees were completely stripped of their bark, while cars and semis were thrown hundreds of yards and mangled. Radar imagery showed that the tornado had lofted debris up to 30,000 feet into the air as it impacted the city. Items were later found hundreds of miles away in neighboring Indiana. Twenty-two people were killed in and around Mayfield, with hundreds more injured, many severely.

Tim is already suffering the effects of PTSD. He says any sound triggers a memory of the storm and the fear and emotions that came with it.



Photo Courtesy of Tim Andreason



A Soldier's Journey Home is a 501(c)(3), all-volunteer organization, and 100% of your tax-deductible donation goes directly towards helping the veteran.

## How Can You Help?

A Soldier's Journey Home welcomes any type of support you may be able to give. Checks can be mailed to: A Soldier's Journey Home, 106 Lavonia Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37415

If you would like to donate online or make an in-kind donation, please visit us at: [asoldiersjourneyhome.org](http://asoldiersjourneyhome.org)

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