

## Local Artists join together at Thunder Valley Rally to help Homes for Our Troops Build a Home for Sergeant Jordan Maynard

Local artists are joining together to raise funds for Homes for Our Troops. The non-profit organization is building a home for Marine Sergeant Jordan Maynard who lost both legs in Afghanistan. Sergeant Maynard's family includes wife Jennifer and son Jay.

Local artist Brenda Strom has been collecting artwork by local artists. Cottonwood VFW Auxiliary President Pam Van Winkle and other local supporters of Sergeant Maynard and his family will sponsor a booth at Thunder Valley Rally in Old Town Cottonwood Sept. 20-22 where the artwork will be sold. More information is available at

<http://thundervalleyrallyaz.com/>. All proceeds from the sale of the art will support the building of Sergeant Maynard's home in the Verde Valley.



Artists who are donating include Janet Baser, Gini Goldie, Bonnie Jellison, Rita Elkins, Dawn Moffett, Harold Ullery, Linda Kahn, Jeanette Suggs, Vada Lovato, Debbie Gallagher, Elaine Bombay and Brenda Strom. Strom says, "The artists in this area are always generous in giving work to worthy causes. When I told them about building a home for Sergeant Maynard everyone quickly stated their support and were happy to help a wounded U.S. Marine through the Homes for Our Troops organization. Each one agreed to donate a piece of their work. There are a variety of items including jewelry, fabric art and really great paintings of all mediums."

Homes for Our Troops recently joined with the local community in breaking ground for constructing of a new home for US Marine Sergeant Jordan Maynard, his wife Jennifer and their son Jay. A national non-profit organization, Homes for Our Troops is dedicated to building specially adapted, no-cost homes for severely injured veterans. Only through generous donations and fundraisers can the organization continue to build these much needed homes. Sergeant Maynard is an Afghanistan veteran who was wounded on March 23, 2011. He has been in intensive physical therapy since then.

According to Van Winkle, "Their job was to defend and protect us, our job now is to help these wonderful heroes." For more information concerning the fundraiser, call Van Winkle at 300-6968 or Strom at 649-1705.

Homes for Our Troops is a national non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization based in Taunton, Mass. and founded in 2004 ([www.hfotusa.org](http://www.hfotusa.org)). All specially adapted homes are built at no cost to the veteran thanks to donations from thousands of individuals, foundation grants, corporate sponsors, professional trades people and generous support from countless volunteers.

Cottonwood Mayor Diane Joens says that additional fundraisers are being planned. "John Maddox of Rimrock is planning an event with Kathy of Vintage's Grill in Rimrock. There will be wine tasting with local wines and Hors d'oeuvres for \$10. There will also be gift baskets and a silent auction."

Anyone with questions may call Maddox at 760-964-2651. This event will be held Oct. 19 from 2 to 5 p.m. Vintage's is located at 5155 North Dave Wingfield Road in Rimrock. For advanced tickets call 928-592-9220 or 928-301-0608 or email [vintagesfresh@hotmail.com](mailto:vintagesfresh@hotmail.com). Vintages website is [www.vintagesfresh.com](http://www.vintagesfresh.com).

Joens says that Quince's is planning a big yard sale fundraiser in their parking lot on Sept. 28 and 29 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days. Residents who wish to help by donating items to sell can drop them off at Quince's at 747 S. Main Street in Cottonwood starting Sept. 23. For questions, contact Lenny Bloch at 908-500-0013.

A fundraiser is scheduled for Cottonwood's Rhythm and Ribs event Oct. 12 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.. Donate online at <https://thateventcompany.webconnex.com/sgtmaynard>. Learn about Rhythm and Ribs at <http://azrhythmandribs.com/>. This event will be held at the Cottonwood Kids Park next to the Verde Valley Fairgrounds. This year's featured musician is Southern rocker Jimmie Van Zant. For the first time, the Rhythm & Ribs cook-off is a KCBS-sanctioned event. There will also be a local restaurant ribs competition.

Still in the discussion stage is a fundraising idea from Cottonwood resident Debbie Cahorshak. A fundraiser at Brandi's Kitchen in August netted \$6000 for Sergeant Maynard's home. National Bank of Arizona featured Homes for Our Troops in their business of the week program to help spread the word.

Donations may also be made at the Homes for Our Troops website, [www.hfotusa.org/maynard](http://www.hfotusa.org/maynard).

Mayor Joens says, "The Verde Valley community has really stepped up to fundraise for Sergeant Maynard's home. We want to thank everyone who has volunteered their time or donated dollars." Anyone who would like to help with a fundraiser may call Joens at 634-4112 or email her at [mayor@dianejoens.com](mailto:mayor@dianejoens.com). The mission for Homes for Our Troops is "Building Homes, Rebuilding Lives."