



Board of Directors

Brad Adams, Chair
Michael Heinlen, Vice Chair
Lori Orta, Treasurer
Lisa Bednarz, Secretary

Pia Ackerman
Christine Albano
KC Ashmore
Christiane Baud
Edward Berbarie
Ronald Cresswell
Richard Cuccia
Kevin Curley
Richard Davis
William Didlake
Edward Fields
Amy Green
Clint Haggerty
Michael Haggerty
Mark Hanson
Cameron Kinvig
Melissa Hayward
Tracey Hull
Richard Levin
Bill Maxwell
Luckey McDowell
Leane Capps Medford
Gregory Mitchell
Michelle Morgan
Bobbi Pappas
Gary Powell
Deborah Reardon
Reggie Robertson
Gino Rossini
Kim Schlossberg
David Schulte
Gina Shearer
Andrew Skola
Colleen Sweet
Jason Sweet

Headquarters Office:

4210 Junius Street
Dallas, Texas 75246
214.828.4244
www.hccdallas.org

Kevin Curley
5949 Sherry Lane, Suite 1175
Dallas, Texas 75225

December 13, 2011

Dear Kevin,

In lieu of a form letter, I wanted to send you something more personal to let you know how much HCC appreciates the generosity of the recent Shamrock Shootout Golf Tournament. The check for \$18,000....well, let me put it in perspective.

As you may remember from the Board orientation, in 2005, the Housing Crisis Center started serving chronically homeless veterans. These are the people – often in camouflage – who you may see living under a bridge off I-30 or 635 talking to themselves, seemingly having broken with reality. Many times they have. Departing from what's real is often the only way to cope with the harsh truth of being homeless. Chronically.

What you probably don't know is that I am the child, grandchild, and cousin of both vets and active duty military, and this past August, our family lost my younger cousin, Michael Roberts, in Afghanistan. He had already served in Iraq and was honorably discharged...but Michael was so very good at what he did. This was clearly his talent, training soldiers, so he "re-upped" and went to Afghanistan to train the Afghan police. He got there in July 2011 and he was 23.

On a hot day at the end of August, Michael was standing outside the training facility – probably smoking a cigarette, much to his mother's chagrin – when a suspicious vehicle pulled up towards him. He instantly knew this was a suicide bomber, so he grabbed his gun and engaged the driver in arms fire. The suicide bomber set off the explosives, and Michael and the terrorist were both killed. But, because of Michael's efforts, the bomber didn't get as close to the training activities – and the American and Afghan soldiers – as was his intention. Michael saved 16 lives that day.

In the days and weeks following Michael's death, our family was flooded with attention from the VA, the State Department, and the military community around the country, the state, and here in Dallas. We got calls from very high-ranking staff in the army and, of course, got a letter from the President. Michael was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and other awards I can't remember. The support of my family's parish in Keller, Texas, was also moving. The commitment and love and loyalty we saw – and really continue to see – amazes and moves me.

I think about Michael a lot – for obvious reasons – but mostly when I have interaction with the veterans' programs we offer at HCC. Our vets aren't 23 like Michael was. They are in their 30s and 40s and have lived very difficult lives after discharge from the service. They are chronically homeless with disabilities and, until they reach HCC, they are slowly dying. I think about this because Michael's death – while a tragedy for my family – happened so quickly. And the response


from the military and the Catholic church and the community was so supportive and strong and fantastic. Our clients' journey to death is horribly slow and, until they meet us, is often without support from anyone. It's lonely. *That's where we have got to step in.*

So HCC has done just that for veterans since 2005. We take in vets who are chronically homeless, disabled, and broken. We house them, counsel them, and care for them with what I truly believe is the same zeal I saw from the military after Michael's death. This is our responsibility – to care for those who cared for us before we even met them.

At HCC, it costs \$8,000 to house a veteran, with support services like medication management, sobriety services, and intensive case management, *for one year*. I don't know about you, but I can't live for \$8,000 a year. Additionally, the average cost of a chronically homeless person living on the streets (not at HCC) – with trips to the emergency room and jail on and off – is around \$75,000. Housing a vet at HCC saves our City and tax payers approximately \$67,000 annually.

All of this to say, Kevin, the \$18,000 you helped to provide through the Shamrock Shootout can support two clients – and then some – for the next year. That means these two men, or women, won't worry about their next meal, won't be fearful at night while sleeping on the streets, and will always have a partner to help them through life (it's HCC!). All of this because of your thoughtfulness. Thank you. From our clients hearts to this very letter, thank you.

Very humbly yours,



Kathryn Jacob, LMSW
Executive Director