

The chance to change lives doesn't come along every day, so when that opportunity knocks, you'd better open the door.

At City National Bank, we have always been proud of the men and women of the US Armed Forces. That's why, when we were presented with the opportunity to change the lives of a wounded combat veteran and his family, we jumped at the chance.

In May of this year, Colin Hawkins, a local builder, approached us with a unique opportunity: a chance to work with him and Operation FINALLY HOME to provide a mortgage-free home for a wounded veteran in the area.



Paul Ellwanger, Executive Vice President of City National Bank, talks about how the bank got involved with Operation FINALLY HOME.

Hawkins spoke with long-time friend and City National Bank Executive Vice President, Paul Ellwanger, about the project. "Colin came to me with this project he thought we might be interested in because we do so much in the community," Ellwanger said. "He told me he had been approached by a group called Operation FINALLY HOME, and they wanted to build a mortgage-free home for a local veteran. He said all they needed was a sponsor that could help raise money and help secure a residential lot for the project. I immediately thought of one of our lots in the Dove Creek addition and knew it would be perfect for the project."



The Garcia family celebrates the groundbreaking on their new home.

Ellwanger said it didn't take long to get others on board with the project too. "We did our research on Operation FINALLY HOME, and we saw how much good they were doing for veterans and their families across the country. This was definitely something we wanted to be a part of. After just a couple of meetings, we decided to donate the lot to the project. Working with the folks at Operation FINALLY HOME was really a no-brainer for us."

Operation FINALLY HOME is a nationally recognized non-profit organization that works with local contractors and financial institutions, as well as national vendors to provide custom-built, mortgage-free homes for wounded veterans and their families. The organization relies solely on monetary and in-kind donations to complete each project. They have already completed more than 100 homes across the country, with nearly 100 more in the planning, permitting or construction phases.

Hawkins Custom Homes is donating its services to the project, and has secured in-kind donations from several subcontractors and vendors.

In addition to donating the residential lot, CNB is working to secure monetary and in-kind donations for the project. If you would like to donate, please visit OperationFinallyHome.org/LawtonOK or text LawtonOK to 41444.

City National Bank has proudly supported our communities since 1901. With your help, we give this local veteran a real homecoming. Stay updated on upcoming events for this project by following us on our Facebook page. Search City National Bank and look for our red icon today!



Colin Hawkins, whose father was part of the D-Day invasion in Normandy, discusses his motivation for donating his services to the project.

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