



NEWS RELEASE

Southern Delaware Rotary Clubs' Donation to Help Fund Operation FINALLY HOME Project in Milton *Seven clubs donate \$5,000 in proceeds from their annual Flags for Heroes fund raisers*

(Milton) (April 11, 2018) — On April 11, 2018, six Rotarians representing five of seven Southern Delaware Rotary Clubs, were on hand at the Operation FINALLY HOME construction site in Red Fox Run,



Southern Delaware Rotary Clubs present their donation to the Operation Finally Home project. Pictured From left to right:

- Steve Grossman, Rehoboth Beach Sunrise Rotary
- Regan Deck, Southern Sussex Rotary
- Sharon Marshall, Long Neck Sunrise Rotary
- Kathleen Leebel, Lewes Building Company
- Jason Bentley, Lewes-Rehoboth Rotary
- Jack Donovan, Milford Rotary
- Reid Beveridge, Georgetown-Millsboro Rotary
- Ray Bryant, Georgetown-Millsboro Rotary

Not pictured: Rob Harman, President of the Nanticoke-Seaford Rotary Club and Jack Riddle Assistant Governor Area 41

Milton to present Lewes Building Company Principal, Kathleen Leebel, a \$5,000 check for the project. Leebel gave the attending Rotarians a tour of the home which is scheduled for a dedication ceremony May 18, 2018. Lewes Building Company is serving as the general contractor for the project and is working with local and regional company donations to make this mortgage-free home for Veteran Shaun O'Brien and his family a reality.

The \$5,000 check was donated by seven area Rotary clubs: Lewes-Rehoboth, Rehoboth Beach Sunrise, Southern Sussex Delaware, Long

Neck Sunrise, Milford, Georgetown-Millsboro and Nanticoke-Seaford. The clubs used proceeds from their respective annual Flags for Heroes fund raisers held for Memorial Day or Veteran's Day for the donation.

"This was an AWESOME project in which Rotary could work to support our community," noted Assistant District Rotary Governor Jack Riddle. " This just shows what people can do when they get focused on making something happen. This is what Rotary is all about."

About Rotary

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over

200 countries and geographical areas. Their work impacts lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit [Rotary](#).

About Lewes Building Company

The Lewes Building Company, owned by John and Kathleen Leebel, is Delaware's exclusive member of the Southern Living Custom Builder Program. The company is honored to partner with Operation FINALLY HOME on this project. This project would not be possible without the support of hundreds of individuals, organizations and local and national businesses who have made significant donations of time and material. Visit <http://lewesbuildingco.com>

About Operation FINALLY HOME

Operation FINALLY HOME provides mortgage-free homes to service members and their families who have become wounded, ill, or injured as a result of their service in the defense of our country. While their support has primarily been to wounded, ill or injured service members returning from current campaigns, they also support any and all service members regardless of the campaign in which they served. Operational Finally Home has delivered more than 130 homes since 2005, with 100 of them in the last four years. This is their first project in Delaware. Visit operationfinallyhome.org.

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NEWS RELEASE

Southern Delaware Rotary Clubs Award an Honorary Paul Harris Fellow to Recipient of Operation FINALLY HOME *Home furnishings and a swing set were also donated by the Clubs*

(Milton) (May 18, 2018) — Despite a heavy downpour on Friday, May 18, 2018, spirits ran high at Red Fox Run community where Operation FINALLY HOME's project to provide a mortgage-free home for veteran Shaun O'Brien and his family was ready for the final ribbon cutting and dedication. As part of the dedication ceremony, Ray Bryant, Georgetown-Millsboro Club, presented Shaun with an Honorary Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of his "service above self" to his country. O'Brien was an Army medic serving in Afghanistan where he worked to save his fellow soldiers after an attack when he, himself, was severely wounded. Bryant expressed Rotary's appreciation for O'Brien's service and how delighted the area clubs were to be part of the project.



Rotarian Ray Bryant affixes the Paul Harris Fellow pin to the collar of Shaun O'Brien.
Photo courtesy of KAM photography.

and 4 chairs for the outdoor porch. Although the O'Briens knew they were receiving a completed house, they did not know it would be furnished. This was kept a surprise and was only made known when they first entered the home after the ribbon cutting. Emotions ran high when the O'Briens first saw the inside of their new home, and son Chase queried as he tugged on his mother Jesyka's sleeve: "Are you crying, Mommy?"



Rotarian volunteers building the swing set.
(See Editor's notes for names.)

In addition to the furnishings, Rotary spent \$700 to purchase another surprise – a wooden swing set, which was assembled by a group of Rotary volunteers the week prior to the dedication. Regan Deck, President, Southern Sussex; Tyler Murray and Harold Sheerer of Custom Mechanical; Michael Hall, President Elect, Long Neck Sunrise; Jack Donovan, President Elect, Milford; Dan Tabler, Past President and Ray Bryant, President Elect, Georgetown-Millsboro; and Jay Headman volunteer provided about 50 total service hours to assemble the swing set and prepare the surrounding area. The

mulch for the playground area was donated and installed by SHORETHING Property Services (owned by two members of the Southern Sussex Club) and American Cedar and Millwork donated the 4'x4's framing the area. Milford Rotary is donating a Weber Grill. Despite pouring rain, Chase was quick to explore his new playground with the help of Rotarian Ray Bryant.



Rotarian Ray Bryant assists Chase O'Brien try out his new slide.

"The Rotary clubs in Southern Delaware were happy to be engaged with such a special project," noted Ray Bryant. "In recognizing the men and women of our armed forces for their service, Operation FINALLY HOME's mission closely ties to that of Rotary. We have already contacted other Rotary districts to let them know about Operation FINALLY HOME so they can get involved as we have here."

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Editor's Notes: Pictured in photo of Swing Set Build (left to right) Left to right: Tyler Murray and Harold Sheerer, volunteers from Custom Mechanical; Mike Hall, President Elect of the Long Neck Sunrise Rotary Club; Dan Tabler, Past President of the Georgetown-Millsboro Rotary Club; Jay Headman, former Mayor of South Bethany Beach and community volunteer; and Jack Donovan President elect of the Milford Rotary Club.

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