



CAMPAIGN FAQs

Why is The Homer Fund having a fundraising campaign? Doesn't The Home Depot provide financial support for The Homer Fund?

The Homer Fund is a nonprofit charity that receives its funding primarily from associate contributions. Over the years, the Fund has experienced a large increase in requests for assistance. It's important that associates invest in the Fund so that it can continue to help associates for many years to come. From 1999 through 2004, demand for the Fund's assistance grew at an annual rate of 35 percent on average. Since 2006, the rate of demand has increased by almost 300 percent. In 2009, The Homer Fund awarded more than \$11 million, the same amount distributed in 2007 and 2008 combined!

Why should I help?

Giving to The Homer Fund is a way for each of us to support one another. Lives can change in an instant because of one unforeseen event. By supporting the Fund, you can reach out to your fellow associates when they need help the most and be confident that your donation has made a meaningful difference in the life of another associate.

Is my gift tax-deductible?

Yes. Donations made to The Homer Fund are tax-deductible as the Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity.

Payroll deduction contributions (per pay period and year-to-date) will appear on your pay stub, which can be used as documentation when filing your taxes.

NOTE: Donations made to an individual ARE NOT tax deductible (such as a cash donation made to a co-worker that will be matched by The Homer Fund), as gifts to individuals are not recognized as charitable donations according to federal guidelines. Only those donations made directly to The Homer Fund are tax-deductible.

Will the Company's Matching Gift Program match my gift to The Homer Fund?

Yes. Through The Home Depot's Associate Matching Gift Program administered by The Home Depot Foundation, gifts between \$25 and \$1,000 to The Homer Fund are *automatically* matched; you do not need to fill out any paperwork. The Matching Gifts Program will match all eligible donations up to a total of \$4 million annually.

How can I contribute to The Homer Fund?

Visit www.THDHomerFund.org and choose one of three ways to make a donation to the Fund:

- ◆ Payroll deduction (minimum \$1 per pay period)

- ◆ Check donation
- ◆ Credit card

How will I know if The Homer Fund received my gift?

The Homer Fund sends acknowledgement letters to each donor. This letter should be saved with your personal records for tax filing purposes.

If you are donating through automatic payroll donations, it typically takes two pay periods from the time you send in your pledge card until you start seeing the donations taken out of your check. Payroll deduction contributions (per pay period and year-to-date) will appear on your pay stub. If after two pay periods your donation is still not being taken out of your check, see your Campaign Captain.

I would like to have a one-time donation to The Homer Fund taken out of my paycheck. I don't see that option on the pledge card this year. Why not?

Due to numerous errors with the one-time payroll donation option, the Fund has eliminated this option as a way to donate. Associates can still give through recurring payroll donation (minimum of \$1 per pay period; donations will continue until cancelled by the associate), check or by credit card through our Web site www.THDHomerFund.org.

What percent of donations goes towards The Homer Fund's operating expenses (such as payroll, campaign materials, professional fees, educational resources, etc.)

About 6 percent of donations go toward the operational expenses of The Homer Fund. Many charities often use 25 percent or more of their donor's gifts towards operating expenses.

I had a situation that I needed help from the Fund, but I didn't qualify. Why not?

The Homer Fund's direct grant helps in the event of a natural disaster, illness, injury, involuntary unemployment or death. In some cases, an associate's need for relocation due to unforeseen foreclosure or sale of a residence where they are currently paying rent or if said home is deemed uninhabitable or condemned, are considered. Circumstances outside of these areas do not qualify for Direct Grant assistance. Direct grants are only available to pay basic living expenses (housing, utilities, food, clothing and funeral expenses) and are not available to pay other expenses such as medical bills, credit card bills, car repair expenses and insurance premiums.

The Homer Fund's board of trustees determines the criteria for grants and selects these criteria based on what they believe to be the greatest financial impact an event may have on an associate's life. Catastrophic events such as a natural disaster, an illness (such as cancer or a heart attack), or the death of a spouse or child can take a huge toll on an associate's finances. While car repairs or not receiving child support can impact an associate's finances, due to the limited resources of the Fund (just like our own personal financial resources), guidelines are essential to make sure the Fund is available for many years to come.

Has The Homer Fund changed any of its programs to help associates?

Yes. Due to the generosity of our associates, in July of 2005 the Fund was able to add the coverage of essential funeral expenses to its Direct Grant program. In 2006, the Fund expanded the Direct Grant to include ALL illnesses or injuries that cause a financial hardship for an associate and their family. In 2007, the Fund partnered with Consumer Credit Counseling Services to extend its focus to include financial wellness in an attempt to help our associates maintain or regain their financial freedom. The Homer Fund expanded the Direct Grant criteria again in 2008 to include associates who needed help with moving to a new place as a result of the unforeseen sale or foreclosure of a property where they paid rent. Additionally, in 2009 the Direct Grant amount was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The Fund also launched a scholarship program in January 2006 that offers scholarships to help our associates send their children to college.

The Homer Fund will continue to seek ways to enhance its programs, based on the financial response from our associates. If the Fund is able to remain financially stable, expansion of its programs is possible. But, the board of trustees will continue to respect Fund donors by carefully choosing to expand its programs that will assist where the need is great without totally depleting the Fund for future needs of our associates and their families.

What area does The Homer Fund provide the most assistance?

Hardships resulting from illnesses, death and unemployment are the top categories where we award the most money.

Where can I find more information about The Homer Fund?

To find more information about The Homer Fund, visit our Web site at www.THDHomerFund.org. Access to the Web site is also available through myApron > The Homer Fund un Quick Links . You can contact The Homer Fund staff at the Atlanta SSC by phone at (800) 654-0688 ext. 12611 or e-mail Homer_Fund@HomeDepot.com.