



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

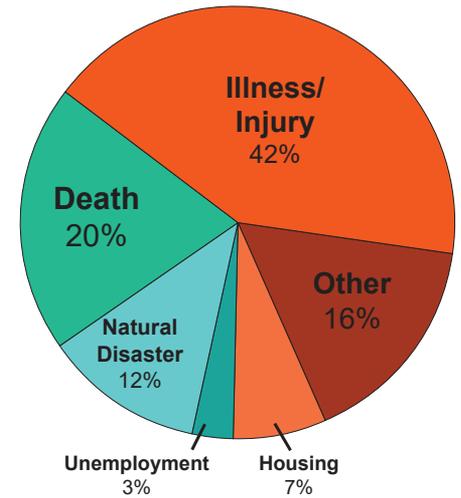
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What is The Homer Fund?

The Homer Fund is a non-profit charity established in 1999 for The Home Depot associates and their families. It provides financial assistance to qualifying Home Depot associates in need through two types of grants - Direct Grants and Matching Grants. Over the years, more than 130,000 associates have received support totaling over \$165 million.

The **Direct Grant** helps associates through tragic events such as death, natural disaster, fire, illness or injury, and a spouse's lay-off or company closure. Illness is the most common reason associates request help from the Fund, followed closely by natural disaster or fire. The maximum grant amount for a Direct Grant is \$10,000.

Matching Grants are a unique way the Fund recognizes the generosity of associates toward one another. When associates "pass the hat" to collect money for an associate in need, their collection is matched by The Homer Fund up to \$5,000.



Where can I find more information on the qualifications for the Direct Grant and Matching Grant?

The Homer Fund's website is THDHomerFund.org and is your best resource for information on The Homer Fund. Associates can review grant guidelines and the supporting documentation needed, sign up to donate or manage payroll donations. Access to online resources such as The Homer Fund's financial education partner, ClearPoint, is also available. Managers will use this site to submit the online application for a qualifying associate in need.

Who is eligible to apply for Grant assistance from The Homer Fund?

All associates of The Home Depot (salaried, hourly or temporary) are eligible to apply for assistance through The Homer Fund. Eligibility begins on the first day of employment; however, the circumstance causing the hardship must have occurred while the associate has been employed with the company, not prior to employment.

Why should I help?

Giving to The Homer Fund allows 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 will make a meaningful difference in the life of another associate.

I give to the Fund. Do I automatically qualify to receive assistance?

It is not required to donate to the Fund to receive assistance. Similarly, donating to the Fund does not automatically qualify you for assistance. The Homer Fund reviews each grant request solely based on the guidelines of the Direct and Matching Grants and awards assistance if a situation meets the qualifying guidelines.

How can I contribute to The Homer Fund?

Donations can be made online by visiting The Homer Fund's website at THDHomerFund.org > **Donate**. Donations can be made in one of the following ways:

- Recurring payroll deduction (minimum \$1 per pay period)
- One-time payroll deduction
- Check donation
- Credit card

THDHomerFund.org

Is my gift tax-deductible?

The Homer Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity, and donations from U.S. associates made directly to the Fund are tax-deductible. Payroll contributions (per pay period and year-to-date) will appear on your pay stub. You may use your year-end paystub as documentation of your donations when filing taxes.

NOTE: Donations made to a co-worker to be matched by The Homer Fund's Matching Grant are not tax-deductible. Only those donations made directly to The Homer Fund are tax-deductible.

Donations from The Home Depot Canada Associates are NOT tax deductible.

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

The Homer Fund staff sends acknowledgement letters to donors each year by January 31. This letter should be saved with your personal records for tax filing purposes.

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

Yes. The Home Depot Foundation's Associate Matching Gifts Program automatically matches gifts between \$25 and \$1,000, up to \$4 million. You do not need to register your donation to have it matched.

What percent of donations go towards operating expenses (such as staff payroll, campaign materials, professional fees, educational resources, etc.)

Every dollar of associate donations goes to an associate in need. Operating expenses are covered by donations from The Home Depot.

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

Yes. Due to the generosity of our associates, the Fund, through the guidance of The Board of Trustees, has made the following program enhancements:

- 2005 - added coverage of essential funeral expenses to the Direct Grant program
- 2006 - expanded the Direct Grant guidelines to include ALL illnesses or injuries that cause a financial hardship for an associate and their family
- 2007 - created a partnership with CredAbility (formerly Consumer Credit Counseling Services) to provide financial education for associates of The Home Depot; Includes a dedicated phone line, interactive website, and live financial education classes
- 2009 - the Direct Grant increased the maximum amount able to be awarded from \$5,000 to \$10,000
- 2016 - expanded qualifying criteria around the Direct Grant's death circumstance and enhanced the Matching Grant process to ensure associates in need receive the most assistance possible per their situation.

Do other companies have programs like The Homer Fund?

Not many. The Homer Fund is one of a few charities across the country associated with corporations whose sole purpose is to assist that corporation's employees in times of financial need.