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MEDIA CONTACT: Sara Neumann
(202) 414-0788
sneumann@susandavis.com

Lotsa Helping Hands Supports Nation's Military Families at Home and Abroad *This Independence Day, Public Encouraged to Create Open Community to Help*

Wellesley, Mass. (June 29, 2012) – As Sarah Miller's younger brother Joe received orders for his first deployment, the West Point grad put his men before himself, requesting that friends and family send care packages to his 12 platoon members in Afghanistan, not just to him. Unsure of how to manage something so important to her brother, Sarah turned to Lotsa Helping Hands, the no-cost online service that powers offline help, to organize and coordinate sending care packages abroad. The Lotsa Community, *Joe's Army Angels*, was up and running within a few days, and will send each soldier several packages while they are on the front lines defending our freedom.

On the homefront, the O'Neill family in Philadelphia is still adapting to father Michael's second deployment as an Army reservist. This time around, a friend created *Celine's Helping Hands* to support Celine and her three young daughters. More than 30 friends and neighbors deliver meals and provide babysitting, playdates, and carpooling, all to give Celine help and relief. "My Lotsa Helping Hands Community has been such a wonderful resource, helping me manage all of my responsibilities as a one-adult household again. During Michael's first deployment, I had a hard time asking for help, but now, Lotsa is the answer to the question I heard so often from my friends, 'what can I do to help?'" said Celine O'Neill. "I continually list tasks on the Help Calendar that my friends and family can sign up for – and complete – in a very easy, non-invasive way."

"We are thrilled that over the course of our history, more than 500 Lotsa Helping Hands Communities have been created to help military families across the country and are very honored to power helping Communities for those who sacrifice so much for our freedom," said Hal Chapel, CEO and co-founder of Lotsa Helping Hands. "We regularly hear from hundreds and hundreds of volunteers who want to help a military family, veteran, or active duty service member, and our new Open Community option is the ideal solution. This Independence Day, we're encouraging those who want to help our nation's service members and their families to take action and create an Open Community to support military families in their town or neighborhood."

Open Communities are often created to help more than one individual or family in a town or neighborhood where the members of the Community may not know all, or any, of the people being helped. Open Communities are searchable using the Lotsa Helping Hands location-based search form and enable volunteers to lend a hand and those in need to request help. Today, because so many military families live in neighborhoods across the country rather than on military bases, Open Communities can be a perfect solution to bringing able volunteers together to help our nation's military families.

Recently a community in San Diego hosted the first-ever "Day of Service," organized through Wounded Warrior Project's My Care Crew program and powered by Lotsa Helping Hands. More than 40 volunteers worked alongside two military families to rehabilitate their homes and yards. More than 15 truckloads of brush and debris were cleared from one yard, and essential deep cleaning, organization, drywall repair, and painting was accomplished at the other.

Lotsa Helping Hands is committed to raising awareness of its free service among our nation's military families, military support organizations, and volunteers interested in helping, and will host a free informational webinar on August 8 at 2 p.m. EDT. To register, please visit www.lotsahelpinghands.com/webinar.

To learn more about Lotsa Helping Hands, search for an Open Community, or create a Lotsa Community, visit www.lotsahelpinghands.com.

For interviews with spokespersons, contact Sara Neumann: sneumann@susandavis.com/(202) 414-0788.

About Lotsa Helping Hands

Lotsa Helping Hands powers Private and Open online caring communities that help restore health and balance to caregivers' lives. More than 65 million people serve as caregivers for aging loved ones and those with chronic disease or disability. The free service brings together caregivers and volunteers through online communities that organize daily life during times of medical crisis or caregiver exhaustion in neighborhoods and communities worldwide. Caregivers benefit from the gifts of much needed help, emotional support, and peace of mind, while volunteers find meaning in giving back to those in need. To date, nearly one million members have lent a hand through a Lotsa Helping Hands community and more than 50 national nonprofit organizations partner with Lotsa to support caregivers. For more information about Lotsa Helping Hands, visit www.lotsahelpinghands.com.

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