



## “I wanted to help”

*Lennox and Wirth, Inc. work together to warm a veteran's home – and a volunteer's heart*



“As soon as I heard about the Thomases, I wanted to help,” said Ki Wirth, President and General Manager of Wirth, Inc. Mechanical Contractors in Geneseo, Illinois. Wirth heard about the story of the Sgt. Robert Thomas family from P.J. Sesker-Green, Director of Marketing and Public Relations for Operation First Response (OFR), a national volunteer veteran's aid organization. Wounded during fighting in Iraq, Sgt. Thomas returned home to deal with a flooded basement and furnace, as well as an aging air-conditioning system. With Sgt. Thomas wounded and his family in challenging financial circumstances, the prospects for comfort seemed bleak – and winter was fast approaching.

Lennox territory manager Mike Kennedy called Ki and said Lennox wanted to donate some equipment to a needy family. “They asked me if I wanted to help with the installation and labor,” Ki said. Even though the Thomas home was over 50 miles away, Wirth said yes. “To have a chance to give back to someone fighting to protect our freedom ... I was proud to do it.”

Wirth met Sgt. Thomas, his wife and two children at their home. “Their basement had been flooded and the furnace was in pieces,” Wirth said. “Plus, the air conditioning system was nearly 50 years old and leaking refrigerant, and the coil pan was shot.” Ki and the Wirth team went to work, driving 50 miles to and from the job site until the work was completed.

Thanks to Wirth and Lennox, the Thomases got some much-needed comfort relief from an expertly installed Lennox gas furnace and air conditioner. “It was a fantastic experience,” said Ki of working with the Thomases, OFR, and Lennox. “Ki was delightful, and the Thomases were just in awe ... so grateful,” said OFR's P.J. Sesker-Green of Wirth's assistance. “I love Lennox and the people at Wirth – it's so obvious they really care about the people here. This was one of the hardest cases I've worked on, and Lennox and Wirth just did everything right. “I can't sing their praises high enough.”

