

CABIN CLIPS

May 2015

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WE ARE READY! WELCOME 2015 OBHC FAMILIES

The cabin is cleaned, windows are washed, grass is mowed, and the refrigerator is stocked. The Operation Black Hills Cabin is ready for the 2015 families! We are so excited to host our first family from South Dakota - actually there will be TWO families from South Dakota this summer. In addition, OBHC will host families from Utah, Illinois, Montana, Texas, Wisconsin,

Tennessee, Arkansas, Georgia, Arizona, Kansas, North Carolina, California, and New Mexico.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to the cleaning crew, outdoor maintenance committee, and the business involvement group. **Many Thanks** to the 40+ businesses and/or organizations who help us host the families.

It couldn't be done without YOU!

QUILTS OF VALOR

There is never a dry eye when representatives from the Custer and/or Hill City Quilt Guilds present a Quilt of Valor to a combat-injured veteran. This is a once in a lifetime gift, each sewed with compassion, humility and gratitude. Summed up by Susan P, "I am always hoping my quilt provides a little spot of joy in their lives and a special thank you for their service."

One of the combat-injured veterans expressed his feelings saying, "All of the various businesses and restaurants that donated meals and gifts, Thank You. The anonymous people who baked and delivered fresh goodies, the scavenger hunt for the kids, the beautiful quilt,

Handmade with love and delivered by the lady quilters - WOW! That brought us all to tears. A veteran never expects anything but to come here and to receive such wonderful thanks has been overwhelming and emotional."

THIS IS THE OBHC MISSION



THEY COME TO BEGIN THEIR HEALING



*MANY THANKS
MARY JO and BILL!*



SPIRIT OF HEALING

Mary Jo Marcy, a local Hill City resident artist, has graciously donated her bronze sculpture, "Spirit of Healing", to Operation Black Hills Cabin. This bronze piece is embedded into a rock monument and enhances the entrance to the Healing Hike.

HEALING HIKE

Seventeen additional inspirational rocks were added to the Healing Hike. These rocks were made possible by a generous grant from First Interstate Custer Area Fund. It is hoped that additional reflection sitting areas can be added in the future.

The Healing Hike will also welcome two large bird feeders in memory of Leonard Wood, a life-long resident of Custer who thoroughly enjoyed watching the many birds in the Black Hills.

It is our hope that the Spirit of Healing, the inspirational rocks, and bird watching opportunities, along with the benches and swing will touch all of our families in their daily struggles and help them to find the peace they desperately need.



DAR STATE PROJECT

Operation Black Hills Cabin is honored to have been chosen by the Daughters of the American Revolution as their "patriotism project". Each chapter of DAR throughout the State will conduct fundraisers and special events to say "Thank You" to our veterans. Any proceeds will go to Operation Black Hills Cabin. OBHC made a presentation at their Regional Meetings in March of 2015.

In addition to the various fundraising events being held throughout the state, our very own Custer DAR Chapter is providing a nine generation genealogy chart as well as patriotic potholders for the gift bag that greets each family upon arrival.

SOUTH DAKOTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION released a newly produced video telling THE STORY about OPERATION BLACK HILLS CABIN. Watch this video link from our Home Page - OUR STORY.

OBHC'S video was the first of fifteen videos to be released throughout the year. The South Dakota Community Foundation (SDCF) is proud to announce a new video series promoting philanthropists and philanthropic initiatives in South Dakota. The videos are the result of a partnership between the SDCF, OTA and Passenger Productions. A total of 15 videos have been created to inspire, motivate and educate the public about philanthropy in our state.

"South Dakotans have amazing stories to tell, but are sometimes too humble to promote the great work they are doing," said Buddy Seiner, Community Development Officer for the SDCF. "We believe that storytelling will not only inspire others to give back to their community or favorite cause, but will also prompt them to tell their own story and multiply the good in our state."

Watch the Video <https://vimeo.com/122006765>

HELP US

In an ongoing attempt to get the word out to the combat injured veterans, we have been very fortunate to tell our story to several organizations and groups throughout the area. These groups have included Rotary, Kiwanis, NAFRE, church groups, PEO groups, military groups, VFW's, and auxiliaries, to name just a few.

In the next month we will also make a presentation to the Military Affairs Committee of the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce.

OBHC has been invited to attend the Elizabeth Dole Foundation Hidden Heroes Coalition Summit in Washington DC (thanks to a previously hosted OBHC spouse). An Ambassador Program has been assembled enabling presenters to tell the OBHC story.

If you are aware of any group in your community that would welcome a short presentation about OBHC, please get in touch with a board member and we will do our best to accommodate the group.

As always, word of mouth is the best form of communication.

Eagle Scout Project - Storage Shed

Many thanks to David Sigdestad for the completion of a storage shed on the OBHC property. David organized his Eagle Scout Project by planning, designing, obtaining building materials, and construction of the shed. David did his own fundraising and the Eagle Scout Board of Review was impressed with his project. OBHC is impressed with his work as well and very grateful to have this storage facility which replaces a 4' crawl space under the cabin with very limited access.



Operation Black Hills Cabin offers a week long respite in the Black Hills to qualified combat injured veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. This enables the families an opportunity to unwind, relax and reconnect as a family. They experience smiles, laughter, and compassion, reminiscent of their previous life. The families take these good feelings home with them to resume everyday life, hopefully with a feeling of interconnection as a family. They are rejuvenated and stronger to go on with the challenges they face.

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