

CABIN CLIPS

June, 2018

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WE KEEP ON ROLLIN'

Wow - 2018, our 8th summer season!
Where have the years gone and where did they take us?

2011 was our first season. It all began with Oprah's TV challenge, "This isn't right, what can you do to help these returning wounded veterans and families?" We hosted 3 families from Colorado and North Dakota that season with donated weeks from generous vacation homeowners.

In 2012, again, these vacation homeowners provided 4 families with life-changing weeks, adding Illinois and Vermont. By now it was evident, we needed our own cabin.

That dream came true in March of 2013 when a 1,200 square foot, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, handicap accessible cabin was delivered from the Springfield Correctional Facility in Springfield, SD. We hosted 11



families that summer from 7 new states.

2014 was a very good season. The news of OBHC was beginning to spread, and we were able to provide 18 families from 8 more states with healing weeks.

2015 was a season of "firsts". We had our first family from South Dakota, received our first transportation grant, and our first professional video made by the SD Community Foundation. In addition, Custer was named "Community of the Year" at the Governor's Philanthropy Luncheon due to its unending support to our veterans and OBHC. This season added 16 more families and 8 new states.

2016 saw 13 families and 3 new states.

2017 added 14 more families for a total of 79 families from 30 different states.

So here we are at 2018. Currently, 15 families are scheduled with just a few open weeks in late August and September. Many of our families have school-aged children, making those weeks difficult to fill, but we have high hopes of still filling them. The farthest families come from New Jersey and Florida and the closest from right across the border in Nebraska.

These years have taken us all on a memorable and gratifying journey made possible by the many volunteer hours and business support received. **THANK YOU** for rollin' along on our journey!

SO, YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT IT ROUGH?

Here are just a few of the things we hear from our wounded veterans and families explaining what they experience on a daily basis:

- Multiple injuries
- Can not be in crowds
- Inability to function
- Paranoia
- Never-ending worries
- Anxiety
- Physical therapy
- Emotional roller coaster
- Light sensitivity
- Depression
- Hearing loss
- Cognitive issues
- Memory loss
- Night sweats
- Feel like they are a burden

- Constant medical appointments
- Dizziness
- Loud noises mistaken for bombs or gunshots
- Disoriented
- Inaccessibility due to wheelchair
- Medication, medication and more medication
- Financial stress
- Learning to walk again
- Psychotic episodes
- Wife/Husband/Children are afraid of them
- Sleep apnea
- Nightmares
- Constant counseling sessions
- Ringing in ears
- Thoughts of suicide



HOW DOES OBHC HELP?

As with anything, one always questions, "How is this helping or are we making a difference? Our only answer comes in these words from the families:

It's truly a healing place.

You have blessed us with a life-changing experience.

We were able to bond like never before.

Thank you for making me look like a hero to my children.

This week has brought new meaning to my life.

This respite has allowed us to recharge, reconnect and focus on what is truly important.

We felt normal again.

Seeing my daughter's face on a scavenger hunt is something I will cherish forever.

My husband is playing blocks with my children, laughing and smiling - something I cannot remember the last time I saw.

Thank you for giving my husband the opportunity to not simply get through the day, but enjoy it.

OBHC definitely fills a need for veterans and their families.

This priceless opportunity has given us a break from the weekly counseling and treatment.

This week gave me a new perspective by stepping away from home. I went beyond my comfort zone which will bring positive change in myself and my family. Now, I know I can do it.

We had lost sight of living and were simply existing. Now we will take this week with us in our hearts and continue to heal.

Thank you for showing me how to live again.

And, in these words from the Custer community and volunteers:

I am proud to be from Custer SD, a place that honors our veterans.

Glad to help OBHC.

I gain so much more than I ever give by volunteering at OBHC

The highlight of my day is when the OBHC family arrives.

I am a retired USAF Msgt and I understand what it takes to be brave enough to put your life on the line for the country you love.

It is with a humble heart filled with appreciation for the service and sacrifices of all Patriots that I choose to honor a current Patriot/veteran with a Quilt of Valor.

Tears are shed by all when we present the unexpected transportation reimbursement.

You've never lived until

you do something for

someone who can never repay you.

GENEROUS DONORS!

- *Black Hills Federal Credit Union of Custer donated the proceeds from a basket raffle.*
- *Lake Area Technical Institute Automotive Department chose OBHC as recipient of their October Car Care Clinic and April Car Show proceeds for the third year!*
- *The Combat Vets Motorcycle Association made a donation along with a standing offer to help with additional projects as needed.*
- *The Box Butte County Soldiers Support Group donated their funds in memory of their founder, Donna Meier.*
- *Several individuals have donated personal funds, and many times, they have donated year after year!*
- *Several groups and individuals have provided various fun and unique items from the area to fill a Gift Bag waiting for each family upon arrival. There are items for every age and gender and they are always a big hit! Also included is \$50 in "Custer Bucks" so our families can visit Custer's merchants and purchase a few souvenirs.*

*We are very appreciative of all these donations, big or small. Whether it be a personal check, a business or organization check, a memorial to a loved one, a raffle, a fundraiser or any other event, or a gift bag item, we use 100% of these donations to provide for the families, to maintain the cabin and to help defray transportation costs as well as hotel and meal expenses incurred by our families on their way here and back home. No wonder Custer was named "Community of the Year" by the Association of Fundraising Professionals for its unending support of veterans and OBHC! **Thank you to all!***

Operation Black Hills Cabin
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TO: