

CABIN CLIPS

May, 2020

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AMERICAN HEROES MATT, DARCI, OWEN, WYATT and MACI

As previously reported, we were fortunate to be selected by American Heroes Outdoors for a segment highlighting Operation Black Hills Cabin on their television show that aired this past April on selected networks.

The Drinkwalter family from Billings, Montana was selected by OBHC as the epitome of true American heroes. Their story is also our story. They spent a week at the cabin, not enjoying the typical respite week that they enjoyed in 2015, but a week of



interviews, tears of sorrow and joy, and several days of filming for American Heroes Outdoors television show.

Yes, Matt was a typical man who made the commitment to defend his county.

Yes, Matt was combat injured in the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts.

Yes, Matt came home a totally different person.

Yes, Matt came home with life-changing injuries as well as the demons that continue to possess him.

Yes, Matt, Darci, Owen, Wyatt and Maci now must learn to deal with and adjust to their “new normal”.

Yes, this is the Drinkwalter story, the same story for over 60,000 other returning combat wounded veterans.

Yes, this is also the OBHC story - to provide an opportunity to heal, reconnect with family and adjust to the life changes they now experience during a no-expense week in the peace and beauty of the Black Hills that we call home. Watch the entire OBHC episode at: https://youtu.be/g9v_LXNGCzE.

OUR 10TH SEASON

In this crazy and unprecedented COVID-19 time, the Board of Directors has given an incredible amount of time and thought concerning the decision of what path OBHC should take for our 2020 season. On May 4th, the Board met via teleconference, and made the very difficult decision to close the cabin for this summer. While we know this will heavily impact the 18 families that were scheduled this summer, the decision came down to keeping those families, the multitude of OBHC volunteers and the participating businesses as safe as possible. Upon review of the CDC guidelines, it was determined OBHC could not possibly guarantee the families, volunteers and businesses protection from a COVID infection. Operating with 100% volunteers as well as the short, one-day turn around between families, we simply do not have sufficient personnel to adequately disinfect all surfaces as needed. In addition, due to the loss of income sustained by the supporting businesses, we felt the financial burden we would be asking of them would be too great. We will roll over all scheduled families to our 2021 season.

WHAT NOW?

In his corona virus song, Jon Bon Jovi said it best - "When you can't do what you do - You do what you can." There will still be a flurry of "behind the scenes" activity at the cabin. We will continue updating and maintaining the cabin. With no hosted families this summer, we will now be able to stain the cabin, as well as complete some long awaited and planned yard projects. We will keep paying the monthly bills and carefully process all new applications as they arrive. We will also continue our outreach efforts and continue to support our sponsoring businesses as much as possible. We will be working diligently to participate in any grant opportunities that arise. Most importantly, we will remain persistent in our never-ending task of "getting the word out" to the 60,000+ combat wounded returning veterans and families who desperately need the opportunity to begin their healing process at OBHC. We hope to open the cabin in 2021 with renewed excitement and a renewed economy. We hope you will be a part of it! Thank you for your continued support.