

CABIN CLIPS



A Way to Say Thank You

2013: OBHC'S FIRST YEAR WITH OUR VERY OWN CABIN!

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2013 BOARD MEMBERS

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- Jeff Baird, Treasurer
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Our "baby" arrived on a cool day in March, the 6th to be exact. Perhaps some of you remember seeing it coming down Hwy 16 or Montgomery Street. It was an awesome site! After a full day of work, it was finally safely placed on our foundation. Then came two months of work getting all of the utilities hooked up, inside cleaned, an open house and finally ready for our first family.

We hosted 12 families in 2013, from Nebraska, Texas, Illinois, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Oregon, Ohio and three from Minnesota.

Upon arrival, each family stared in awe at the cabin where they would spend their week. After their time of reconnecting, each family expressed their sincere gratitude to all. The Board of OBHC would also like to express our **THANK YOU** to all who helped so generously with time, talents and donations. The whole community has jumped on board, from individuals, business owners, church groups, service organizations, and local clubs and groups. Without each and every one of you, this project would not be the success it is today. **HELP US SPREAD THE**

WORD! Applications can be found on our website. We are currently taking applications for May through September of 2014 with the hopes of filling each and every week. Our best estimation of our costs run approximately \$500.00 per family which includes insurance, maintenance, utilities and basic food /snacks we provide. We look forward to your continuing partnership with OBHC!



CONGRATS PAT!

The Spirit of Dakota Award Society annually honors one woman, whose leadership qualities, courage, strength of character and community commitment illustrate the best of South Dakota womanhood. For the past 27 years, this prestigious

award has been given to one woman who is a role model and who promotes the social, civic, cultural, and/or education advancement of others. From 11 nominees throughout the State of South Dakota, our co-founder, Patricia Baird, was cho-

sen as the 2013 Spirit of Dakota Award recipient. A well-deserved honor as Pat has made a tremendous difference in so many people's lives, especially the 12 families hosted by OBHC this summer.

STORM CHASES FAMILY HOME

Our last family scheduled for this year, Tim, Sherri and Madison Bennington, from Lancaster, Ohio, spent most of their week-long stay shoveling out! Our devastating early October storm dumped nearly two feet of snow on the Custer area and caught us unprepared. With everyone snowed in, we could not even lend them a hand. Although they spent their snowed-in time reconnecting and shoveling, they were unable to enjoy the hospitality and fun graciously donated from all of the area businesses. They will be back next summer to experience the Black Hills

and all we have to offer them. Their experience has made the Board rethink our initial decision to host families at various times throughout the winter. In addition, many of the businesses that have donated meals or admissions for the season are now or will be closed. The activities for the families will be very limited. Therefore, we have "put the cabin to bed" for the winter. Minimal heat will be left on to prevent freezing.

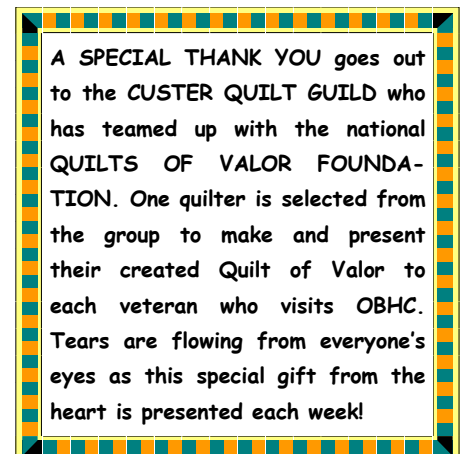
SEE YOU IN THE SPRING!



"HEALING HIKE"

Many feel the Black Hills is a sacred place—where they come to reconnect with their spirit world. OBHC families come to reconnect with one another. Trying to transition into their "new normal" our families need to find that "quiet" to begin the healing. Our "Healing Hike" will add a walking trail beginning immediately outside OBHC's cabin door and will meander through the trees and rock outcroppings. It will provide several locations for meditation benches with

inspirational messages upon which the "quiet" can be found. After a day of sightseeing, children with energy left to burn will be able to enjoy the rock outcroppings, build a fort, play a game of "hide and seek" and other imaginative play. **HELP US DEVELOP THE HEALING HIKE!** Contact us at 605-517-1830; or operationblackhills.cabin@gmail.com.



REST IN PEACE—ZACH WILLIAMS

During the week of August 23 through 30, 2013, Zach Williams and his wife, Neva, and family enjoyed the hospitality that Custer and the surrounding area has to give. In Neva's words, "We felt very blessed to be here." However, on September 20, 2013, Zach Williams passed away from complications of his combat injuries. Neva, has related to us her sincere thank you for providing them the opportunity to be together as a family and create memories. She and their children will forever remem-

ber the time they spent in the cabin enjoying the deer, Mt. Rushmore and the jeep ride in Custer State Park along with all of Custer's fine hospitality. Zach was 35 years old. He served in the US Army for over 10 years, with almost six of those being in Iraq and Afghanistan. He had been awarded two purple hearts. OBHC Board of Directors and all of our volunteers feel so fortunate to have been able to provide this time for them.

Good Bye, Zach and Thank You.



ZACH and NEVA WILLIAMS RECEIVING QUILT OF VALOR FROM MEMBERS OF THE CUSTER QUILT GUILD

1,000 WAYS

Operation Black Hills Cabin started as a project to say "thank you" to combat disabled veterans. Since its inception, community support in Custer, the Black Hills, South Dakota and beyond the borders of our state has been incredible.

There are many ways to thank a veteran or even extend Christmas wishes. During the months of November and December, we invite anyone to visit our facebook page and share a story about a special thanks to a veteran or any ideas about how to show our gratitude to the men and women who serve our country.

We are looking for one thousand ways to say "thank you." To kick it off, we would like to say thank you to the 100% volunteer group that takes care of all the details for our veteran and their family during their stay in the cabin. So far there are more than 150 individuals and 150 businesses who have donated their time, talent and money to our project. Only 700 to go!

Will you share your story by going to facebook/operationblackhillscabin during the months of November and December?

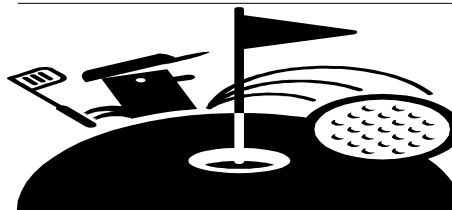


A veteran is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check—made payable to the United States of America—for any amount, up to and including their life.

2013 GOLF TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS!

We owe a big round of thank you to Rocky Knolls Golf Course in Custer for donating the green fees for our 2013 annual OBHC golf tournament. We had 17 teams who enjoyed the beautiful day on the course. We gave away many prizes and raffled off four rounds of golf at Arrowhead Golf Course in Rapid City as well as two rounds of golf at the course at Devils Tower. Fun was had by all and after all expenses, we netted approxi-

mately \$6,000! Thank you to all of our corporate sponsors, hole sponsors, team sponsors, donators and golfers! This money will enable us to pay for insurance, maintenance, utili-



ties and supplies for our hosted families. And a special thanks goes to Tammy and Jim Beach and Colleen and Marty Mahrt for organizing such a successful event!

OBHC has joined "GIVING TUESDAY." SEE BACK PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER for more information on how you can make a difference on DECEMBER 3, 2013!

BUT WHAT CAN I DO?

We hope you enjoyed receiving this, our first newsletter. We want to keep you all informed and felt this might be a way to do just that. If you do not want to continue receiving it, or if you know of someone else who might enjoy receiving it, let us know at operationblackhillscabin@gmail.com. **If you received this by snail mail, please supply us with your email address so we can keep our mailing costs down.**

June Johnston of Custer spent time with one of our families and said: "It was such a simple request: Can you take the cabin family for a hike? I cannot tell you how much I gained from the simple act of taking those

folks for a walk in our beautiful Black Hills. I cannot remember when I had such a sense of fulfillment. They came back with a bag of rocks and I came back with a heart full of thankfulness for the young members of our military and their families."

BUT WHAT CAN I DO, you ask? Our cabin families are so very grateful for all of the fun and opportunities we provide them. You will not be disappointed! Sometimes the most ordinary things can be made extraordinary, simply by doing them with the right people. We welcome anyone with a desire to help out. We are open to all ideas and all talents. COME JOIN US on **Friday, January**

17, 2014 at 7 pm at the cabin at 385 Dakota Lane in Custer for **OPERATION GET INVOLVED**. Let's put our heads together and explore the possibilities. Social media, anyone? Baking, cleaning, hiking, fishing, grant writing, marketing, advertising, landscaping, cutting grass, shoveling snow, committee involvement, business contacts, newsletter, fund raising, thank you writer, or whatever unique talents or creative ideas you might have are only a short list of areas of need. We will find a place for you!

JOIN US—Friday, JANUARY 17, 2014, 7PM. We want YOU!

Operation Black Hills Cabin

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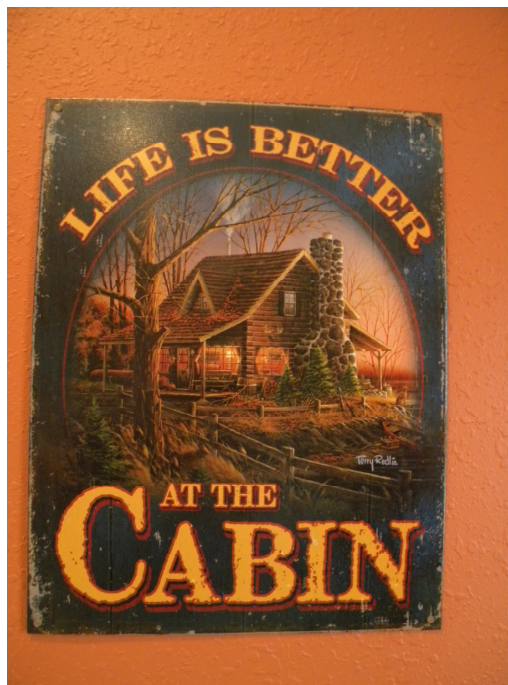
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www.operationblackhillscabin.org



To learn more about "GIVING TUESDAY", please visit:

Website: www.givingtuesday.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GivingTuesday



Operation Black Hills Cabin is a 100% volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. Every cent donated to OBHC goes directly back into our mission to serve combat-injured veterans and families. We know that there are 50,000 plus wounded veterans coming home from this war whose lives will forever be changed because of their sacrifice. Giving Tuesday is a movement to celebrate and provide incentives to give. It culminates with a global day of giving on December 3, 2013. This effort harnesses the collective power of charities, families, businesses and individuals to transform how people think about, talk about and participate in the giving season. Coinciding with the Thanksgiving Holiday and the kickoff of the holiday shopping season, Giving Tuesday will inspire people to take collaborative action to improve their local communities, give back in better, smarter ways to the charities and causes they support and help create a better world. December 3, 2013 will be a national moment around the holidays dedicated to **giving**, similar to how Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become days that are, today, synonymous with holiday shopping. PLEASE JOIN OPERATION BLACK HILLS CABIN AT GIVING TUESDAY ON DECEMBER 3RD!