

CABIN CLIPS

November 2015



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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

The Native Americans, who lived off the land we call home, were thankful for the buffalo. Tatanka, the Lakota word for buffalo, provided many things to sustain life. Their meat became food, their hides were used for clothing and shelter, and the bones were used for weapons.

Just like the Native Americans, we at Operation Black Hills Cabin are thankful for the support from our many volunteers, sponsors, and those who donate to this project. Since we are 100% volunteer, we depend on the volunteers who give so freely of their time and talent each week. Our volunteers log over 4,000 hours per year. We are so grateful for everyone involved.

OBHC depends on our sponsors who donate meals, entrance into local attractions, and free services for the veteran families.

“Why would they be so kind?” asked one veteran family. The reason, summed up by a volunteer is, “They have all been through so much and have given up so much for us. It is the least we can do. I cannot imagine not coming to welcome the family each week and get my weekly fix of happiness, tears, and gratitude. Gratitude is expressed by all. It is humbling and so very rewarding. I wouldn't miss it.”

We at OBHC are immensely grateful for all those who help out in any way and welcome anyone interested in becoming involved. Fresh eyes and ideas are always needed.

We wish you and your family peace, joy, and thanks throughout the upcoming holiday season.



“Your gift to families who have given so much is life changing for them. We are honored to live in your neighborhood!” Brian Boyer via Facebook

“Congratulations to OBHC and the City of Custer for your accomplishments honoring American heroes. What a blessing you are to so many! Kudos to each and every volunteer who helps make the cabin all that it is and what it stands for.” Donna Meier via Facebook

CUSTER HONORED AS 2015 PHILANTHROPIC COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR!

The City of Custer, South Dakota, was honored on National Philanthropic Day by the Association of Fundraising Professionals as the "Outstanding Philanthropic Community" for 2015. This recognition is due to Custer's unending support to all veterans and specifically to its support of Operation Black Hills Cabin. More than 200 volunteers and 40 area businesses have helped to honor and welcome our combat-injured veterans and their families who have visited from 27 states. The motivation for community members, as well as donors elsewhere, is to support the people who serve in the United States military, particularly those who have been injured during their enlistment. People agree that the sacrifices that these veterans and their families have made for the country should be recognized and honored. The simple gift of a Black Hills cabin to use for a week, free of charge, seems to most people "the least we can do". The mission itself is the motivation. Observing one's neighbors in action helping others, encourages other people to take action.

OBHC could not operate without this support! Thank you to all who generously give their time, talent and treasure.



OBHC FAMILIES

Since the inception of OBHC in 2011, a total of 27 states have been represented, including 2 from South Dakota this year. Fifty eight families have enjoyed the cabin.

It's Fun to watch the accumulation of state magnets placed by the families on the refrigerator.

2015 States Included:

Utah South Dakota Montana Arizona Georgia
Kansas Texas Missouri Tennessee California
New Mexico Iowa Arkansas

NEW

OBHC Ambassadors

**Spread the Word!
Become an Ambassador!**

If you would be willing to tell the story of OBHC to groups in your area, we have just the opportunity for you. We provide all the necessary materials to give a short 5-10 minute presentation and answer questions. For more information, call 605-517-1830.

WHAT'S NEW AT OBHC?

Welcome Bear greets each family as they arrive at the cabin. Many thanks to Dave Hanson, a local Custer artist, who carved and placed this wonderful addition.



Sarge, our bronze guard dog, is loved on by all the children! He carries out his duties faithfully each day by standing guard at the entrance of the Healing Hike. Sarge was donated by Christy Chamberlin of Custer.

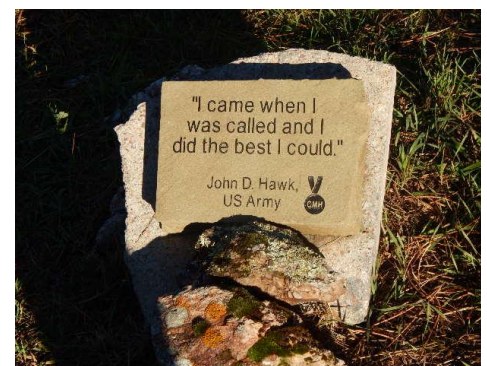
Students at the SD School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City made a metal sign for the cabin. Thank You!

Many of the veterans enjoy watching birds splash in the bird baths donated by Helen Flora of Custer. Bird feeders and bird food was donated in memory of Leonard Wood of Custer. Leonard enjoyed watching and learning about the many birds in the Black Hills. Oonaugh Wood also donated several educational bird books for the cabin.



A memorial bench in honor of Captain Benjamin P. Larson has been added to the Healing Hike.

Sixteen inspirational rocks have been added to the Healing Hike. These rocks give our veterans many hours of reflection and help in the healing process.



TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR VETERAN & FAMILIES

In honor of South Dakota's 125th anniversary of statehood, the Frontier Fund honored OBHC with a one-time grant for transportation costs for the families. Transportation assistance of 30¢ per mile was given to the 2015 families upon arrival at the cabin. Tears were shed by every family when they received this unexpected assistance.



Applications are being accepted for 2016. The application can be found & submitted directly from the OBHC website.

SOUTH DAKOTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION VIDEO

The South Dakota Community Foundation (SDCF) has announced a new video series promoting philanthropists and philanthropic initiatives in South Dakota. A total of 15 videos were created to inspire, motivate and educate the public about philanthropy in our state. OBHC is honored to be chosen as one of the video subjects. Watch this video link from the **ABOUT US/VIDEOS** tab on the OBHC website.

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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