

CABIN CLIPS

November, 2024

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BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED

Here at Operation Black Hills Cabin we have helped 166 families from 38 states “bloom” while spending their respite week with us. This beautiful pot of flowers donated by Master Gardener Mary Swanson, was lovingly watered and cared for by each of our families every week. Just like these flowers that bloom so beautifully, our families bloom as well. Here are a few blooming comments:

“We had so much fun, your warm welcome made our experience here a trip to remember.”

“The Black Hills are unlike anything we’ve experienced before. Being able to disconnect and take in a spirit of healing in this landscape was therapeutic.”

“Thank you for the opportunity to step away from our hectic and busy lives and just be able to spend quality time together as a family.”

“My family sees how a community can support others and it shows my children how important it is to show respect and honor those who have served in the military for our country.”

This is very rewarding for us at OBHC knowing we are accomplishing our mission of providing an opportunity for reconnection, relaxation away from daily commitments, and the beginning of the much needed healing process within the family.

In these days, we are finding “family” can have many faces. Only those names listed on their award letter, in other words, just the immediate family, can enjoy the respite week. No friends, grandparents or other family members that do not live with the family on a daily basis are allowed. But, we do receive applications from single combat wounded veterans. Our policy allows the single veteran to bring 2 blood relatives with them to enjoy their respite week. We’ve had mother/daughter, father/son, sister/sister and this year we had sister/sister/veteran son. Regardless, we continue to offer our respite weeks each year to make a real impact on our families. What a fun, rewarding opportunity for everyone! We always welcome new volunteers and business sponsors. Come join us!

MEET LOYAL MARK



Since we are 100% volunteer, we rely heavily on our loyal volunteers. We can find Mark Geraets at the cabin nearly every Saturday morning all summer long. He rides his motorcycle in from his home in Hot Springs. Mark helps us with maintenance including the mowing, raking and anything else that needs to be done.

Mark is a 4 year Vietnam Era veteran who enjoys helping other veterans. In 2013 he was invited to join our volunteers by the late Loren Lyndoe, and has been faithfully helping us ever since. Mark helps us “get the word out” through his association with the American Legion as he is the commander of the American Legion Motorcycle Riders here in Custer. He also spreads word of OBHC to his family, friends and neighbors. **THANK YOU MARK**, for your committed service to OBHC.



CELEBRATING VETERANS DAY

In recognition of Veterans Day, we are honoring those who have served our Country. Every day is Veterans Day at OBHC. Each week we welcome a new veteran and family. From arrival to departure, we provide our families with lodging, food, rest, reconnection, quality time together, opportunities to have fun and create memories, and most importantly, respect and simple acts of gratitude. According to We Honor Veterans.org, here are some tips that can be used to engage, honor and recognize veterans:

Give Veterans an opportunity to tell their stories.

Respect Veterans' service, their feelings and any suggestions they might offer.

Thank Veterans for their service to our Country.

When approaching Veterans for their participation, consider bringing another Veteran with you.

Show appreciation for the families of Veterans.

Always be sincere, caring, compassionate and ready and able to listen to what a Veteran or his or her family member has to share.

Be supportive and non-judgmental and always validate their feelings and concerns.

Be honest, sincere, caring and respectful.

Accept, without judgment, the Veteran as he/she is.

Be patient and listen, expect the Veteran's sharing to occur over a period of time.