

# CABIN CLIPS

MAY, 2019

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# 2019 FAMILIES

Sitting here overlooking the snow falling on May 20th<sup>t</sup>, it is hard to imagine we will be welcoming our first family to the cabin in 6 days! There is so much to be done!

We will be sweeping, staining, raking, organizing, vacuuming, dusting, washing windows, washing linens, scrubbing toilets and floors,



stocking the cabin with food and supplies, and so much more! We are counting on the volunteer cleaning angels to appear.

We have two families from California as well as two from Arizona and two from Montana this year. Other states represented are Texas, Minnesota, Colorado, Missouri, Kansas, Wisconsin, Arkansas and Michigan.

Regardless of where they come from, WE WILL BE READY!



# NEW AT OBHC!



*A huge thank you goes out to Judy Baldwin and her collaboration with Dan and Priscilla Engen and their brainstorm idea of a Welcome Sign in memory of the Engen's son, Cody. They worked tirelessly with their friends, Jerry Gehrels of Wentworth, SD, who organized their efforts and installed the sign; Monte Alberston of Sioux Falls, SD, who donated all materials and constructed the sign; and Warren and Lawrence Swartz of Pringle, SD, who dug the holes for the posts. This was a combined effort of several very generous and thoughtful people who put their thoughts and feelings into action for the benefit of OBHC and our families! It is certainly a welcome site when our families who drive for many, many hours to reach Custer, SD, turn off of Montgomery Street and immediately are greeted by a very welcome OBHC sign that says, "We Are Here!"*



*"I've had to step away and cry several times this week, all of them happy tears. We had a feeling of love from strangers and warmth for a family you don't even know, all for a man who fought for his country." From a Florida wife*

**This year, our families will have the opportunity to ride along with Dave Ressler of DAVE'S WORLD TOURS!**

**This is such a blessing as many of our families are too overwhelmed with all there is to see and do in our beautiful Black Hills and they miss seeing some of our greatest sites. Thank you, DAVE!**



**Another happy memory for our families this year will be a 2x2 patriotic "Barn Quilt" donated by Connie Werner and the Barn Quilters of the Black Hills. How fun is that?**

**We have also been blessed with BOXES of new gift items collected by our friends at Custer Lutheran Fellowship and "painted rocks" for each family from the Master Gardeners. These are wonderful gifts to be included in the gift bags given to each family upon arrival. These special Black Hills items will be cherished and bring back many happy memories for each family**

**Madison is a Girl Scout Cadette with Troop 70022 in Spearfish, SD. The Girl Scout cookies were donated by her customers to Operation Black Hills Cabin during the Girl Scout cookie sale in February and March of 2019. She was very happy to donate these cookies to such a worthy cause to be enjoyed by Operation Black Hills Cabin participants and volunteers. Thank you, Madison!**



**WHETHER IT HAS BEEN A CASH DONATION, A GRANT RECEIVED, VOLUNTEER HOURS, OR A GIFT BAG ITEM, THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE GIVEN TO MAKE OUR FAMILIES FEEL WELCOME AND TO TAKE HOME A SMALL SAMPLING OF CUSTER'S HOSPITALITY.**

## BEHIND THE SCENES AT OBHC

**As you already know, OBHC is comprised 100% of volunteers. Volunteers are angel-like figures who just appear and do miraculous deeds to provide the recipients with a warm, fuzzy feeling. This is so true of our “Treat Committee”. At the helm of this committee is Steve Pischke, who has organized a group of locals who give of their time and efforts to provide home baked muffins, bars, cookies, cakes, cobblers, etc., every week to each of our families. From the evidence left of the empty dishes at the end of the week, these families gobble up every crumb. Apple struesel muffins, cookies and rice Krispy treats seem to be among the favorites!**



Sue Schabethal, Bill Young, Linda Young, Sue Sirois, Marcia Pischke, and Steve Pischke. Not pictured are Geri Johnson, Jan Thom, Duane Weber, Marie Curtin, Betty Compton and Cozy Dorton.

**When asked why they are involved with the Treat Committee, many responded they want to support and honor our veterans, make them feel welcome and recognize how much they matter. Many of the treat committee volunteers have had veteran family members and feel that their efforts are a small act for a great cause. Cozy Dorton related her experiences, “No matter what their injuries or circumstances are, each family is so appreciative and the impact on me is incredible, whether it is a simple thank you at the door or an hour-long visit. We get a glimpse of how their lives have changed and can now truly recognize what their sacrifice for us has been.”**

**Their efforts are best explained by the anonymous quote we use at OBHC:**

**“You’ve never lived until you do something for someone who can never repay you.”**



“This has truly been a healing week for us. Being in nature here really helps a person slow down relax and focus on what is important - family. Family can often take each other for granted and slowly lose each other. The great times we had this week, as well as the slow, quiet times, has certainly brought us closer together. We will have loving memories of our time in the Black Hills for years to come.”

From an Ohio family