

Winter/Spring 2011

FROM ONE to ONE THOUSAND

Message from the Executive Director

“Your greatest gift is what you give of yourself.” —Reel Recovery Founder Stewart Brown

When Stu Brown offered us that message in June 2003, he was our Founder and **first man** at a Reel Recovery Retreat, one of four participants at our inaugural event in Loveland Colorado. Just days away from life-threatening surgery on his brain tumor, this was quintessential Stu, always thinking of others, even as he faced his own greatest challenge.

All of you who are reading this have in some way heeded Stu’s wisdom and have “given of yourself” to Reel Recovery. Thanks to everyone, Reel Recovery has been able to come so far and achieve so much, reaching a momentous milestone in November: **our 1000th Man!**



*“First Man”
Stu Brown*

Our One Thousandth Man. He attended our 19th Retreat of 2010, in the Texas Hill Country, and the participants decided to hold a fishing contest to determine who would be the actual 1000th. Fittingly, the contest was a tie! Read the enclosed letter from David Messersmith, who along with Johnny Mott, is our symbolic 1000th Man. David beautifully conveys the meaning and power of the Reel Recovery experience and why it’s so important that we continue to “give of ourselves” to do this good work.

It is a privilege to serve and support these courageous men and we are honoring each and every one of them on Page Two of this Newsletter.

Stu passed away shortly after our first Retreat, but he would be so very proud.

Since that first Retreat in 2003, Reel Recovery has grown through the contributions of hundreds of donors, volunteers and healthcare partners. We are grass roots through and through, wholly donor supported, and rely on all of you to sustain and expand the program. Thanks to your support, in 2010 we were able to add four new Retreats. Now, our new goal is to **add at least four Retreats per year**, so we can hit our **2,000th Man** in less than four years.



Johnny Mott & David Messersmith

We need your help to do it.

Reel Recovery is launching the **One Thousand Men Giving Campaign** to take us to that goal. Please see Page Four and give whatever you can to help. We know we can reach our second thousand with your generous support.

As Reel Recovery brings life-changing experiences to more and more cancer survivors across the country, we hope you will continue to hear Stu’s words and be a part of this good work.

Be Well! Fish On!



Stan Golub, Executive Director

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1000 Men.

We are honored to serve and support these men. Some of them are no longer with us, but *all* of them live in our hearts. A river of strength and courage runs through this page, the powerful legacy of Reel Recovery....



Sharing Their Stories....



Alex Kastrul, center, at his Fun Run

“Bart Dean (Loveland 2008 participant) was a man who, even in the face of yet another weakening chemotherapy treatment, was contagious in his positivity and inspiration. In his passing, Bart has left behind the idea that even the smallest act of kindness can have the biggest impact imaginable. In honor of Bart’s life, I’ve decided to organize a fun-run to raise money for Reel Recovery, a non-profit organization that has a significant meaning in the lives of the ones it touches and that helped Bart continue his positive nature through his battle with cancer. In organizing this race it is my goal to make an impact of my own.”
Alex Kastrul, 13-year-old volunteer who initiated the “Deep Sea Dean Memorial Fun Run,” raising over \$5,000 for Reel Recovery.

It has been almost two years since I was diagnosed with aggressive, high grade prostate cancer. The surgery and after effects had really beaten me down. This wonderful retreat has changed my life in very positive ways. I didn’t realize that life, even after battling cancer, could be so joyful! I left the retreat feeling such joy and peace, even in the face of cancer. No matter how long I live, this experience will live on in me forever.”
Randy M., Participant, Utah 2010



Randy M. & Catch



“I was deeply moved by what transpired at the Clearwater retreat. Both the fly fishing and the opportunity to share my experience and hope with such a great group of caring and genuinely compassionate individuals; it was an experience I will never forget.”
Chuck W., Participant, California 2010

Chuck W. (r) with fellow participant David

“What this event was—in a simple word—was powerful. Uniquely so. I left the Retreat humbled, exhilarated, proud, awe-struck, and committed to doing more with Reel Recovery.”
Paul K., Fishing Buddy, Utah 2010

Fishing Buddy Paul K. (l) with participant Randy F.



“This Retreat was super, fantastic, unbelievable! The fellowship and sharing brought me a long way to understanding what I’m dealing with. Reel Recovery has given me a part of my life back!”
Milt R., Participant, Kremmling, CO 2010

Milt R. on the Colorado River

One Thousand Men Giving Campaign

Help us reach our goal of serving our next One Thousand Men!

92 cents of every dollar you give goes directly into our Retreat Program, so you can be sure that your donation, whatever size, is helping these courageous men.

We have special gifts at the giving levels listed below but we are grateful for your donation of any amount. These gifts are available for a limited time. You can mail your form in the envelope provided or, check out through our special **One Thousand Men** page on our website: www.reelrecovery.org/1000MEN.php



Spring Creek Level: Donation of \$75. Provides commemorative fly boxes for all participants at one Retreat. You'll receive our Reel Recovery logo hat.



Blue Ribbon Level: Donation of \$150. Provides fishing supplies for all participants at a Retreat. You'll receive our Reel Recovery logo wallet and CHUMS brand sunglass retainer.



Gold Medal Level: Donation of \$350. Pays half the cost of sending a man to a Retreat. You'll receive a Reel Recovery/Ex-Officio Fishing Shirt (men's or women's).



Trophy Level: Donation of \$700. Pays the full cost of sending one man to a Retreat! You'll receive a Reel Recovery/TFO 4pc, 5wt Fly Rod and case.

Donation Form

Here is my gift of:

- \$75 Please send me a Reel Recovery logo hat.
- \$150 Please send me a Reel Recovery logo wallet and CHUMS brand sunglass retainer.
- \$350 Please send me a Reel Recovery/Ex-Officio Fishing Shirt. *Circle size below*
Men's Size: M L XL 2XL
Women's Size: S M L
- \$700 Please send me a Reel Recovery/TFO 4pc, 5wt Fly Rod and case.
- Here's my gift of \$_____. No premium, thanks.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Check Enclosed VISA Mastercard Discover

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ Security code _____

Please make checks payable to *Reel Recovery* and mail to **Reel Recovery, 160 Brookside Road, Needham, MA 02492**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION.