

Winter/Spring 2015

2,000 Men

Message from the Executive Director

Before you read on, please open the Newsletter to Page 2. Really, take a look. Thanks.

There they are. Our second 1,000 men. When we published the list of our first 1,000 participants at the end of 2010, we set a goal of serving our second 1,000 within four years. And thanks to all of you, we've done it! At our 25th and final Retreat of the year in Glen Rose, Texas, Michael O'Brien was chosen randomly among the 14 participants there to be the 2,000th Man. As he signed his name to his fishing vest, like all the men before him, he symbolized a wonderful achievement, and all of us in the Reel Recovery Community can be very proud.

Putting Page 2 together was a deeply moving experience for me personally. I deliberately selected each Retreat one at a time, and looking at each list, I reflected on the names I

recognized. Whether I was at that Retreat and personally witnessed Ed's joyful smile as he landed a beautiful rainbow; whether I spoke on the phone with an apprehensive Ron, just wanting assurance that he'd be healthy enough to participate; whether I had read a brief but eloquent email from a thankful Polo; or whether I had spoken to Phyllis, a grieving spouse, still so grateful for what we'd offered her husband; in all cases I tried to reflect on my personal experience of each man, bringing them to life in my thoughts and heart, if just for that moment, and renewing in me the true spirit of what Reel Recovery is all about.

I invite you to take another, longer look. Find a man that you know; reflect for a moment what he has meant to you. Maybe your roommate at a Retreat who laughed with you into the night; maybe the guitar player who offered his songs around the campfire; maybe the young father whose tears flowed talking about his four-year-old son; maybe the man in a wheel chair you carried into the river and helped cast a line; maybe the friend that you honored with a remembrance gift; maybe the patient whose smile lit up your infusion room when he returned from his Retreat; maybe your husband, father, brother, son who came home a renewed, more hopeful man.

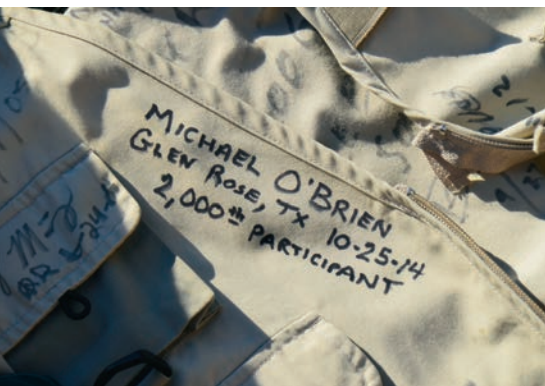


Our 1,000th Man, Dave (l) meets Michael, our 2,000th.

Reel Recovery is deeply personal for all of us; 2,000 is so much more than a number; it's 2,000 unique, wonderful individuals, all of whom have moved us with their stories, with their laughter and tears, their strength and courage. Every one of these men has impacted our lives, and when we take a moment to remember that experience, of how we have been touched, the spirit of Reel Recovery is rekindled within us, even if just for a moment. Let that spirit be a light in your heart, shining today, and all your days.

Be Well! Fish On!

Stan Gotub, Executive Director



The legacy grows...

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2000 Men. At the end of 2010, we listed our first 1,000 men. Here are the next 1,000. It has been our privilege to meet these men, to hear their stories, offer them friendship and support, and share with them our passion for fly fishing. Each and every one of them has touched us, and we honor them here, and forever in our hearts.



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Sharing Their Stories....



Greg (right) about to lose to Buddy Ed.

"I am not a person that is good with lots of personal discussion about family and physical issues but it was nice to be able to open up about my cancer treatment and situation. There was much talk about bravery and heroism of the attendees but as we discussed there, most of us are trying to just live another day and do what we must to survive and not be heroes. If I think about heroism I look to those who were volunteers that came up and spent time at the retreat. To me heroism is putting someone else in front of your needs to help them out, when it is not required. That is what you all did at Reel Recovery. You are the real heroes!"

Greg S., Utah 2014 participant

"With all my family in Costa Rica, I felt I had to deal with my cancer all alone. Not any more! It felt so good to share my story with the other men and realize that I was supported and not alone. I felt so much love in this group. And the day fishing was just what I needed! I haven't had such a good time since I was diagnosed and it renewed my spirit. Thank you Reel Recovery; I will remember all of you forever."

Eduardo G., New Jersey 2014 participant



Ed (I) and Buddy Stan



Polo G. (Duck fan!) and friends

"This program has given me hope to live. I have never been part of any group that has had such an impact as Reel Recovery has. The staff was just incredible and I consider them my new friends. May God bless you and this program as it has given me hope to live. I will forever be a changed person due to Reel Recovery. Thank you so much for the hope. I can now say I WANT TO LIVE!"

Hipolito "Polo" G., Oregon 2014 participant

"I really don't know how to describe my appreciation and gratitude to you, the staff and volunteers at Reel Recovery. Our Clearwater retreat was an unforgettable experience. I found a fellowship among men who know the cancer experience. I had not thought much about the year and a half of fear, pain and loneliness that came with fighting cancer. Seeing my disease through other men's eyes, I now appreciate what I have been through and the amazing fact that I am a survivor. As a result, I can now be more patient with myself and my recovery!"

Dave W., California 2014 participant



Dave W. (I) & Buddy Kurt



Keith H. (center) with Buddies T-Bird and Greg

"I cannot tell you how grateful I am to your organization. The smile on Keith's face in all the pictures from the retreat tell me these days were truly happy days. It takes a lot of great people donating their money and more importantly their time to make all this possible. I can't thank you enough for giving this special person three great days."

Phyllis, wife of Keith H., Arkansas 2014 participant



Generous Support in 2014

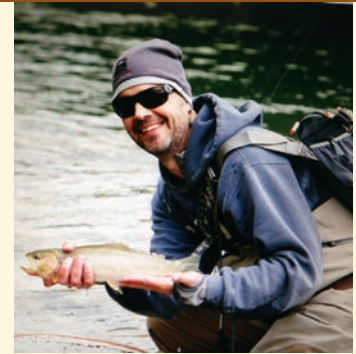
We thank these major sponsors, and hundreds of other individuals and organizations who joined them in supporting Reel Recovery in 2014. For the ELEVENTH straight year, our revenue has grown, enabling us to conduct the most Retreats ever—25—in 17 states and New Zealand, including a new Retreat in New Jersey, all COMPLETELY FREE to the participants.

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| Bon Secours Richmond Health System* | Northeast Fly Fishing Guide Service |
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* new supporter in 2014

Hank “Snap It” Patterson

Reel Recovery is partnering with self-proclaimed “World’s Greatest Fly Fishing Guide” Hank Patterson to promote his feature film “Hank Patterson’s Reel Montana Adventure” and to raise some money for Reel Recovery! Hank is offering screenings to groups that commit to share a portion of their proceeds to benefit Reel Recovery. He’ll even arrange to be there live via Skype to provide extra fishing tips (if you could possibly want them). Contact Hank directly at: fishingguidehankpatterson@gmail.com or through us at info@reelrecovery.org. Thanks Hank; Snap It!



The 2,000 Man Slide Show



On our website, take a look at the new 2,000 Man Slide Show, under the Gallery Tab. There you’ll find Group photos from every one of our 187 Retreats, and you can see all the men listed on Page 2. Scrolling through these photos is a powerful and moving tribute to these courageous men.

Onward to 3,000 Men

Reel Recovery is determined to continue to grow to do our best to serve as many men as possible. In 2015 we’ll be adding new Retreats in Ohio, Virginia and the Houston-area (and of course returning to New Zealand), and perhaps adding several more. Please use the coupon below (or donate online at reelrecovery.org/how-to-help/donate) to donate any amount that you can, and help us reach our new goal of serving another 1,000 men in the next three years!

Donation Form

Here is my gift of:

- \$75 Please send me a Reel Recovery cotton T-shirt. Unisex sizes: *Circle choice below*
Size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL
- \$150 Please send me a Reel Recovery logo wallet and CHUMS brand sunglass retainer.
- \$350 Please send me a Reel Recovery/Patagonia Fleece Vest *Circle size below*
Men’s Size: M L XL 2XL
Women’s Size: S M L
- \$700 Please send me a Reel Recovery/Patagonia Fleece Jacket *Circle size below*
Men’s Size: M L XL 2XL
Women’s Size: S M L
- 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