

Winter/Spring 2019

## Small Acts of Kindness

### Message from the Executive Director

We had another wonderful year, our 15th serving men with cancer, with 29 Retreats completed, serving over 350 men in 19 states and New Zealand. We've now served over 3,300 men and are looking to expand to at least 32 Retreats in 20 states in 2019. We have over 800 active volunteers, and I am continually amazed at their huge hearts, the care and love they pour into our community. They truly make us who we are.

The best part of my job, for all these 15 years, has been to witness the daily acts of kindness that these men and women, and even children are making to better the lives of our participants. Reel Recovery is filled (page 3) with people like David, who act with care and kindness

far beyond expectation; like Ben, who feel it's a "privilege" to help others; like Wes, who literally share their strength in support of our men.

Two stories in particular touched me deeply this year: simple, small acts of kindness by two children whose hearts were touched and wanted to help; who represent the abundant generosity of spirit that Reel Recovery is all about:

From Virginia volunteer Gary Parsons, who was preparing a presentation to a local community club: "My grandkids had the day off from school so my daughter brought them over to visit. I had them watch and critique the finished slide show and parts of my talk. After they left, I went into the bedroom, and on my side of the bed was a torn piece of note paper with the message "for Reel Recovery" along with a one-dollar bill, two quarters, and a penny from my 10-year-old granddaughter Campbell!" \$1.51; one of our most meaningful gifts ever.

And from our Glen Rose Texas Retreat, where every year a local resident, Jimmy Gosdin, donates his pond for fishing and a fantastic fish fry for the entire group (another act of kindness!). 11-year-old Cullen, part of the Gosdin family, came to help his mom with the fish fry. After witnessing all the fun, joy and friendship that was happening around him, Cullen offered the group a \$50 bill—his "mowing money" he'd earned that summer, "hoping to help more men like these



**Cullen with Mom & Participant Rickey and Wife**

guys." A simple, small act that blew everyone away!

It has been my privilege for 15 years to share in these countless acts of kindness, both in person, and through all the comments and letters I've received, praising the loving work of our volunteers. I am so proud that Reel Recovery continues to be a force for doing good, inspiring people to help, where kindness and caring is our guiding light. Thank you all for 15 years of goodness, no small act indeed.

Be Well! Fish On!

Stan Golub, Executive Director



## Host Facilities

These are the wonderful facilities that hosted our Retreats in 2018. They are all exceptional places, very generous to Reel Recovery and hospitable and caring to all their guests. If you have a chance, please visit and say you're a friend of Reel Recovery!

### ARKANSAS

Cedarwood Lodge—*Flippin*

### CALIFORNIA/NEVADA

Hunewill Guest Ranch—*Bridgeport*

### COLORADO

Bar Lazy J Ranch—*Kremmling*

North Fork Ranch—*Shawnee*

### IDAHO

Wild Horse Creek Ranch—*Mackay*

### LOUISIANA

White Lake Lodge—*Vermilion Parish*

### KENTUCKY/INDIANA

Wooded Glen—*Henryville*

### MICHIGAN

Ranch Rudolf—*Traverse City*

### MISSOURI

Westover Farms—*Steelville*

### MONTANA

Dome Mountain Ranch—*Emigrant*

### NEW JERSEY

Inn at Millrace Pond—*Hope*

### NEW ZEALAND

Castle Rock—*Te Awamutu*

### OHIO

Rockwell Springs Trout Club—*Clyde*

### OKLAHOMA

Lakeview Lodge—*Broken Bow*

### OREGON

Big K Ranch—*Elkton*

### PENNSYLVANIA

Allenberry Resort—*Boiling Springs*

### TEXAS

Arrowhead Camp—*Glen Rose*

Camp Allen—*Navasota*

Camp Capers—*Waring*

### UTAH

Falcon's Ledge—*Altamont*

White's Ranch—*Paradise*

### VIRGINIA

Graves Mountain Lodge—*Syria*

Rose River Farm—*Syria*

### WASHINGTON

Canyon River Ranch—*Ellensburg*

### WISCONSIN

GrandStay Hotel—*LaCrosse*

## Volunteer Spotlight...

### Help from Our Friends

Each year, Reel Recovery itself conducts two major fundraisers: in Denver, and in Salt Lake City. Dozens of local volunteers along with national staff and Board members help organize these two long-standing, successful events. But we also have some great state-level fundraisers put on by local organizations, such as these three exemplary supporters:



### Derby City Fly Fishers—Mystery Fly for Cancer

In addition to being our Co-Coordinator for Kentucky/Indiana, George Tipker is President of the Derby City Fly Fishers, a Louisville-based fly-fishing club that has conducted a fishing tournament annually for the past seven years. Each year, 50-100 participants come from miles around to Brandenburg, KY, are given one “mystery fly” and search for trout in Otter Creek, all in support of our KY/IN Retreat Program.



Kyle

### Chimy's Cervceria—Be Well! Fish On! Fundraiser

Dating back to 2008 when we first launched our Texas Program, we have received exceptional support from Kyle and Brooke Wright and their wonderful restaurant, Chimy's Cervceria in Fort Worth. Kyle has organized two golf tournaments, and has thrown six of the best fajita parties in Texas, all to support Reel Recovery. Every year he builds upon his past success and the party gets bigger and bigger and more and more fun!

### Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union #434—Charity Golf Tournament

For the past three years the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union #434 in Mosinee, Wisconsin has hosted a Charity Golf Tournament to solely benefit our Wisconsin Retreat Program. About 100 golfers turn out each year to compete, and dozens of local businesses sponsor the holes and provide great auction items. This year, that big check, handed to our Wisconsin Coordinator, Jeremy Southworth (on the right) read \$11,159!



# Sharing Their Stories....



**Dad, Mike T.**

*I want to give special recognition to my Fishing Buddy, David. As I am handicapped and have a bad knee, David had to help me at every turn; for a day and a half, he had to physically help me out of the water about every 20 minutes so I could sit and rest. He never wavered. While everyone at the retreat was outstanding, David is one of the finest individuals I have come to know, and this was an experience I will never forget. Be Well! Fish On!*

**Jim C., Oklahoma Participant**



**Jim and David**



**Ben (r)  
with Texas  
Participant  
Francis**



*I want to tell you how much I appreciated everyone's sharing of your lives and what cancer has meant to you and your families. I took a lot back from our discussions to utilize in my own life and find ways to live each day to its fullest even though I have cancer. I have found many new friends that I will remember the rest of my life, your bravery, courage, and fortitude against a vicious disease is outstanding. You are all heroes in my book.*

**Warren M., WI Participant**

*In 2015, my father, Mike, came home from his Reel Recovery retreat a new man. Uplifted, excited, and with a new passion for fly fishing, my Dad was back and charging full steam ahead. Humor intact, he is alive and well and as positive and active as ever. I know for a fact that had he not participated in Reel Recovery this would not be the case. I owe more than I could repay to the folks that make Reel Recovery a success. The volunteers, donors, facilitators and supporters are fantastic people who serve with a cheerful heart and open arms. This year, I had the privilege to be a fishing buddy. Changed forever, I can confidently say that I got as much from the event as the participants, and for that I am truly grateful.*

**Ben T. Texas Fishing Buddy**

*We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for allowing our dad, Robert Matthews, to attend the 2018 Idaho Reel Recovery Retreat. You have no idea how much it meant to him, he was overjoyed to be able to attend and shared such wonderful memories from the retreat with us. We are so thankful to your organization for touching the lives of people like our father. I cannot begin to describe the life altering and uplifting experience you provided my dad.*

**Family of Robert M.,  
Idaho Participant**



**Robert with Buddy  
(and good friend) Wes**



**John (r)  
and  
Buddy  
Scott**

*Cancer has been a very rough road for my family, but I am so grateful for the opportunity to hear others' stories, witness their courage, and talk about things with men who can relate to it so well; Reel Recovery has given me PEACE and UNDERSTANDING . . . finally. Each day I am remembering small moments with my wife and kids, as well as creating small moments more often There is so much to live for and to keep living for!*

**John S. Utah participant**



## Generous Support in 2018

We thank these major sponsors, and hundreds of other individuals and organizations who supported Reel Recovery's 2018 Retreat Program. Your generosity allowed us to conduct 29 Retreats and serve over 350 men! As we are wholly donor supported, please consider a contribution today to help us serve more men in 2019!

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ad Astra Foundation          | McLaren Foundation         |
| American Legion—Posts        | Mechanicsburg Club         |
| Art & Shirley Adams          | Glen & Alison Milliman     |
| Bayer                        | Moreland Family Foundation |
| Bayou City Anglers           | Norman and Sadie Lee       |
| Bon Secours Richmond         | Foundation                 |
| Health System                | Orvis                      |
| Bozeman Health               | OUHSC Stephenson Cancer    |
| Cancer Centers of Southwest  | Center                     |
| Oklahoma                     | Plumbers & Steamfitters    |
| Cancer League of Colorado    | Local Union #434           |
| David Carlton                | Project Healing Waters     |
| Clark-Skamanian Flyfishers   | Fly Fishing                |
| Contraband Fly Casters       | Mike Ramsey                |
| Cedarwood Lodge – Arkansas   | River Run Outfitters       |
| Chimy's Cervceria            | Steve Rose                 |
| D.A. Davidson & Co.          | St. Luke's Health System   |
| Rees & Barb Davis            | Schmidt Family Foundation  |
| Dean Seeman Foundation       | Sentra                     |
| Derby City Fly Fishers       | Simpson Development        |
| 89er Chapter Trout Unlimited | Spey Doctor—Walt Geryk     |
| Enterprise Rent-A-Car        | Stonefly Society           |
| Foundation                   | Kevin Stromberg & Family   |
| The Fidler Family            | Temple Fork Outfitters     |
| Frieda and William Hunt      | Troutbusters of Missouri   |
| Memorial Trust               | Troutjousters—Hopper       |
| Don Garber                   | Dropper Tournament         |
| Genentech                    | Trout Unlimited—Chapters   |
| Jim & Pam Grange             | US Bancorp Foundation      |
| Guadalupe River Trout        | Valley Health              |
| Unlimited                    | Vatic Outsourcing          |
| HCA Healthcare               | VFW—Posts                  |
| High Sierra Flycasters       | Virginia Cancer Institute  |
| Lone Tree Brewing Company    | Virginia Urology           |
| Los Padres Prostate Cancer   | Wal-Mart                   |
| Charity                      | Washington Fly Fishing     |
| McDaniel Family Foundation   | Club Foundation            |

## Visit our Photo Gallery

Our Photo Gallery on our website is now updated with hundreds of great photos from the 2018 Retreats. And there are thousands of photos from all 296 Retreats, covering our 15 years of Reel Recovery history. Rekindle memories, revisit old friends, be touched again by the Reel Recovery experience. Visit our Gallery: [reelrecovery.org/portfolio-types/retreats](http://reelrecovery.org/portfolio-types/retreats)



## We're Growing in 2019

We're heading to North Carolina for the first time, thanks to the efforts of our new NC Coordinator, Doug Turner, with a new Retreat planned for Asheville in September. We're also adding a second retreat in Arkansas in the Spring thanks to our strong AR team and Cedarwood Lodge partnership. And our new Canada Coordinator, Grahame Marpole, is working on adding at least one Retreat up north as well. Check out our entire 2019 Schedule on our website: [reelrecovery.org/programs/retreat-schedule](http://reelrecovery.org/programs/retreat-schedule).



## Please Give Us A Hand!

Our goal is to conduct at least 32 retreats in 2019, serving 400 men living with cancer. To do this, WE NEED YOUR HELP! Every dollar is important, as over 88% of your donation goes directly to Program Services. That's about as efficient as you'll find for any non-profit! Please join us today so we can continue this good work together. You can use the form below or donate online at: [reelrecovery.org/year-end-giving-campaign](http://reelrecovery.org/year-end-giving-campaign).

## Please Give Us A Hand!

### DONATION FORM

- \$75 Please send me the NEW Reel Recovery Aluminum Water Bottle
- \$150 Please send me a Reel Recovery Long Sleeve DriQ Shirt *Circle size below*  
Men's Size: S M L XL XXL  
Women's Size: S M L
- \$350 Please send me a Reel Recovery/Orvis Open-Air Caster Fly-fishing Shirt *Circle size below*  
Men's Size: S M L XL XXL  
Women's Size: S M L
- \$700 Please send me a Reel Recovery/TFO Super Combo—9ft, 5wt. 4pc Fly Rod, Reel, Line and Case.
- Here's my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.  No premium, thanks.

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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**