

Winter/Spring 2020

Giving Joy, Giving Hope, Giving Thanks

Message from the Executive Director

The year 2019 has been our best yet, our 16th helping men with cancer, with 32 Retreats completed, serving over 350 men in 21 states and New Zealand. We added new Retreats in North Carolina and Maine, and a second in Arkansas, and have now served over 3,650 men! We've added over 100 new volunteers, including a dozen new State Coordinators and several new Retreat Facilitators, and in 2020, we're looking to grow in Australia, California, New England (and perhaps Old England as well). Reel Recovery is thriving!

As I write this during Thanksgiving week, I keep reading over and over a letter we received from David, a 2019 Arkansas participant.

David's Letter

*Reel Recovery staff and volunteers,
how do we thank you for what you do?
You give hope where there is hopelessness.
You give strength where there is weakness.
You give caring when it seems
that no one cares.
You give joy when everything may
look so sad.
You give fun and pleasure when life
can be so unpleasant.
Thank you, for what you do.*

DAVID, ARKANSAS PARTICIPANT

He not only gives "thanks" but so poetically defines what "giving" means at Reel Recovery.

On Page 2 we salute the 41 volunteer State Coordinators who are exemplars of this spirit of giving. Working throughout the year, they lead over 800 local volunteers to create a community of giving; raising funds, engaging their communities and providing life-changing experiences for our Retreat participants. To them, and all our volunteers, I offer my personal "thank you" for providing David and his brothers the priceless gifts he describes.

There are three unsung heroes that I also want to personally thank in this public forum. First, my two colleagues, Program Director Debbie McKinney and Program Administrator Shiloh Price. The three of us form the entire staff of Reel Recovery, and Debbie and Shiloh have been the two best partners I could ever hope to have. Their daily interactions with our various community members are marked not only by their utmost professionalism, but more noticeably by their irrepressible kindness and huge-hearted care for everyone involved with Reel Recovery. They are simply the best.



Debbie & Shiloh

The third person has never appeared in any newsletter, in any press, at any special event; she is the anonymous soul of Reel Recovery and in the spirit of "giving thanks" she deserves mine. My wife Joan Blanusca encouraged me to take the risky leap to start Reel Recovery 16 years ago, and she has been my steadfast rock of strength and support ever since. Her generative wisdom has informed our Retreat Program, and her caring sensibility has informed our organizational ethos. She has never asked for, nor received any credit; but without Joan, Reel Recovery simply would not be. For that, it's time I thank her, more than words can express.

We look forward to a wonderful 2020!

Be Well! Fish On!



Stan Golub, Executive Director

Volunteer Spotlight...

We salute our volunteer State Coordinators, whose dedicated, caring and enthusiastic leadership form the core of Reel Recovery's success!



Arkansas
Bob Albrecht



Arkansas
Toby Vaughan



California/Nevada
Jim Norton



California/Nevada
Todd Wilcks



Carolinas
Jim Baran



Carolinas
Doug Turner



Colorado
Mark Moreci



Colorado
Kevin Stromberg



Idaho
Travis Jones



Idaho
Travis Swartz



Kentucky/Indiana
Mike Lubeach



Kentucky/Indiana
George Tipker



Louisiana
Clint Crowe



Louisiana
Skip Palmintier



Maine
Mike Pratico



Michigan
Reg Tidball



Missouri
Steve Keller



Missouri
Wayne Simpson



Montana
Michael Grisley



Montana
Zach Hoylman



New Jersey/Canada
Grahame Marpole



New Zealand
Craig Caldwell



Ohio
Marcel Mylen



Ohio
MJ Mylen



Oklahoma
Martin Weaver



Oklahoma
Mike Veasey



Oregon
Loran Weise



Pennsylvania
Matt Brindle



Texas
Mike Emerson



Texas Hill Country
Raphael Torres



Texas Hill Country
Tony Smith



Texas North
Bill Shaw



Texas North
Norm Tremblay



Texas Southeast
Rusty Dunn



Texas Southeast
Dave Steffek



Utah
John Kern



Utah
Brent Rawson



Virginia
Vic Brugh



Virginia
Steve Lindsey



Washington
Kris Kristoferson



Wisconsin/Iowa
Steve Kimple

Sharing Their Stories....



Jerry (r) and Buddy Steve

"I just participated in the Louisiana Retreat and can't thank you enough for this program. The Fishing Buddies and Retreat leaders were all outstanding and my soul feels so refreshed. It is astonishing how in less than 48 hours they took a group of men from all walks of life, only having a single thing in common, and turned us into life-long friends that will always have someone they can turn to. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for this powerful gift." Jerry, Louisiana Participant

"I can't even begin to say how grateful I am for having been given the opportunity to attend the Reel Recovery retreat. It has provided healing for me that I didn't even realize I needed. I feel compelled to share this gift with as many others as I possibly can, and will do whatever I can to support Reel Recovery, and the mission of its amazing supporters and volunteers. I want to say a special thanks to the staff and my fishing buddy Jerry, for taking time to impact others in such a profound way. And to the 13 men who shared their stories and changed my life forever. Be Well! Fish On!" Scott, Colorado Participant



Scott (r) and Buddy Jerry



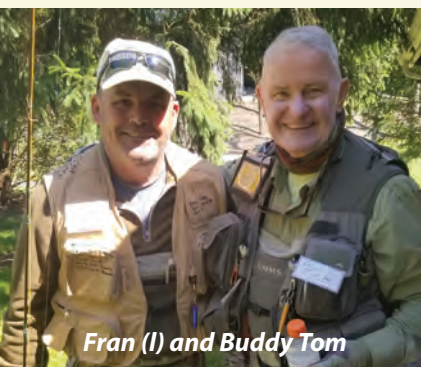
"The time I spent with 11 other men who were in varying places in their living with cancer, was wholly the greatest and most meaningful thing I've participated in or experienced. The fishing part is no small thing, but the challenging conversations and the one-on-one time spent with my fishing buddies take first place! This was a wonderful experience and now I want to give my time to help Reel Recovery!" Kevin, Ohio Participant

Kevin and friend

"Thanks so much for allowing me to be a part of this year's Maine retreat. My father also shared how much he enjoyed himself. It meant so much to him, and he is forever grateful and thankful for meeting the other guys, their shared experiences, encouragement, and lessons learned in courage and legacy—a truly unique approach only Reel Recovery can deliver. I too, freely admit my experience was life changing, and it exceeded my expectations on every level. You guys have, and DO make a difference!" Fran, Maine Retreat Buddy



Buddy Fran (l) and Participant Fran Sr.



Fran (l) and Buddy Tom

"Since my diagnosis 18 months ago, I've been living only in the darkness. This Retreat, you guys, have shown me there's hope, there's light, and now I'm turning to it. You have saved my life." Fran, Pennsylvania Participant



"I am still savoring the wonderful experience I had at the Reel Recovery retreat. The event was life changing in a very positive way for me. I have been continually reminded of the blessings I received from having attended the event. Every one of us shared and supported each other with sincerity and in the spirit of healing, hope and love. The experience of being "one of the guys" was just what I needed." John, 2019 Participant

John (l) and Buddy Bruce



Generous Support in 2019

We thank these major sponsors, and hundreds of other individuals and organizations who supported Reel Recovery's 2019 Retreat Program. Your generosity allowed us to conduct 32 Retreats—our most ever—and serve over 350 men! As we are wholly donor supported, please consider a contribution today to help us serve more men in 2020!

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|-------------------------------------|--|
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| Bon Secours Richmond | Mechanicsburg Club |
| Health System | Norman and Sadie Lee Foundation |
| Bozeman Health | Mike Nyalko |
| Cancer Centers of Southwest | Orvis |
| Oklahoma | Plumbers & Steamfitters Local |
| Cancer League of Colorado | Union #434 |
| David Carlton | Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing |
| Clark-Skamina Flyfishers | Mike Ramsey |
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| High Sierra Flycasters | Virginia Cancer Institute |
| Nick & Annie Licciardi | Virginia Urology |
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Two New Board Members

We are thrilled to welcome Greg Driscoll and Mike Pratico to our Board of Directors. Greg and Mike bring strong ties to the fly fishing, outdoor and healthcare industries, as well as personal experiences with cancer and a love of fly-fishing. They are both passionate about Reel Recovery's mission and are excited to help guide our growth in 2020 and beyond. Welcome Greg and Mike!



We're Heading Down Under!

We're excited to announce our new partnership with Mending Casts with the goal of expanding to Australia in 2020. There are men living with cancer all over the globe, and our success in New Zealand has demonstrated that the power of Reel Recovery works wherever we can deliver it! In addition, in 2020 we're adding a 2nd Retreat in California and hope to expand in New England. For our full Schedule: reelrecovery.org/programs/retreat-schedule

Give Joy, Give Hope!

Our goal is to conduct at least 35 Retreats in 2020, and serve our 4,000th man! 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 help 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.



Please Give Us A Hand!

DONATION FORM

- \$75 Please send me the NEW Reel Recovery Mesh Cap
- \$150 Please send me a Reel Recovery Short Sleeve T-shirt *Circle size below*
Unisex Size: S M L XL XXL XXXL
- \$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
- \$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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