

**Happy  
Holidays!**

**Our Year-  
End  
Newsletter is  
Here!**

- *We honor our First Man*
- *We Celebrate 4,000 Men*
- *We share the voices of those we serve*
- *We acknowledge our major supporters and keep you posted on the latest news. Check it out!*

This year we were able to serve our 4,000th Man! A list of the latest 1,000 is here, and serves as a monument to these courageous men, and the 3,000 who came before them. What a tribute to all of you who have been a part of this wonderful accomplishment, as



**From 1 to 4,000**  
Message from the Executive Director

**Before** you read any more, take a look at Page 2.

This is our fourth "Page 2"—2010, 2014, 2017, and today. Each Page 2 stands as a monument to the courageous men who have joined us over the past 19 years. I get chills when I see the totality of our accomplishment: collectively, what a brotherhood, individually, each man has touched us with his story and his spirit.

Take another look. If you're reading this Newsletter, it's likely you know someone on Page 2.

If you were a participant during the past five seasons, you're here, as are your brothers from your Retreat. Spend some time remembering the friendships you made, and feel the strength of the bonds that still live on. Renew the sense of camaraderie and support you felt then, and let it fill your heart today.

If you helped these men as a volunteer, find your Buddy and recall the time you spent with him on the water; the stories shared and the thrill of a "right line." Know that your passion for fly-fishing gave him joy, and the gift of your service gave him hope.

If you're a supporter, know that your generosity has touched these men deeply and given them a life-changing experience that will never be forgotten. Maybe you gave in honor or memory of one of these men; find him on Page 2 and know that, like you, we are all better for knowing him.

I have had the honor and pleasure of meeting many of our 4,000 participants



*Andy, front & center, 2003*



*Andy today*

over the past 19 years. I cherish each and every one of them, when I see their names on Page 2, it brings back the time I shared with them, experiences that have enriched my life so deeply.

One of those men dates back to 2003, and our inaugural Retreat in Loveland Colorado. Andy Freeman has survived brain cancer for 23 years and is the lone survivor of that first-ever Retreat. That he is still here is pretty miraculous, and he is a shining star of the enduring journey we have all been on at Reel Recovery. Andy

and I have stayed in touch on and off over the years, and in November, Andy came, in person, to our Denver Fundraiser. Giving Andy a hug, after all these years, was magical. I felt the spirit of 4,000 men in that embrace.

Sometimes, maybe too often, the impact of what we do can get lost in the day-to-day. But looking at Page 2, remembering Andy and so many others, I am reminded that Reel Recovery is truly special. I invite you all to pause, reflect on those you've met on this journey, and let the goodness of this community fill your heart.

*Be Well/Fish On!*



Stan Golub, Executive Director

800-699-4490 [reelrecovery.org](http://reelrecovery.org)



**&  
Be Well! Fish On!**

**Reel Recovery**

800-699-4490

[info@reelrecovery.org](mailto:info@reelrecovery.org)

[www.reelrecovery.org](http://www.reelrecovery.org)

See what's happening on our social sites:

