

WARRIORS AND QUIET WATERS FOUNDATION

Annual Report

2 0 1 4

"Thank you so much for what you do for our vets! My husband can't stop talking about this experience, the people he met, the kindness he was met with, and beauty of Montana! He has finally discovered a way to find peace thanks to your organization! God bless all of you!"

— KRISTI SEIDEL, WIFE OF WARRIOR





Letter From Chairman & Interim Executive Director



Another Year of “Post Traumatic Growth”

Marines love a parade! We wish we could hold a parade marching right down Main Street to tell you about your nations’ resilient Warriors. It would begin with a drum roll and facing movements of the units. The Adjutant would command: “Sound Adjutant’s Call!” The bugle would pierce the air with a clarion call; and everyone would snap to attention. The Commanders and the Adjutant would move to their proper positions. The Adjutant would command: “Ree-Port!” And so it would be given.

Well...herein is our “Annual Ree-Port!” without the parade. It summarizes an inspirational year that we wish you all could have witnessed from the inside—though many of you did exactly that as dedicated volunteers.

In 2014, WQW greatly expanded the number of:

- 1) clients served to the most ever (84);
- 2) recreational experiences (nine fishing, one skiing and one equine therapy);
- 3) new accommodations and ponds used for instruction (four); and
- 4) our major fund-raisers (from “The Journey Home” Golf Tournament, supported by Johnny Miller and Arnold Palmer, and our year-end Annual Fund Campaign to include our new “Semper Fly” Fly Fishing Tournament).

While three dedicated, long-serving Board Members retired over the course of the year, we gained two remarkable businesswomen on our Board. We also established



a National Advisory Board. We replaced the staff position of Director of Fly Fishing with the Director of Operations and placed the wonderful Lawrence Stuemke in that role.

Our greatest and unexpected loss was our truly exceptional, highly motivated and inspirational Warrior: Seth Jordan, WQW's first Executive Director. For entirely understandable reasons, Seth tendered his resignation at the end of the year to adequately address personal and family priorities. He is already serving as an enthusiastic volunteer; we regularly seek his advice on substantial matters. We wish him the very best in all his endeavors! Seth's interim replacement is our very own, equally talented, motivated and dedicated Development Director: Faye Nelson. Her knowledge of WQW, bright leadership and good judgment are already serving Warriors and the organization well. Meanwhile, our search committee has identified several candidates that we will evaluate for the permanent Executive Director position.

In sum, our eighth season was a year of great challenge, growth, joy and hope for all our constituents. Please read the testimonials sprinkled throughout these pages as well as the "Program Review" for more evidence of the positive impact your generous support of WQW made on participating Warriors and their spouses in their "Post Traumatic Growth."

Eric Hastings
COL. ERIC HASTINGS, USMC (RET.)
CHAIRMAN

Faye Nelson
FAYE NELSON
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"I want you to know that I have been preparing for my own fishing out here (not the same) but I have the fever. I want to thank you for all you do for others and want you to know this trip changed me for the better. I felt a peace and quiet that I have not felt since the war. I actually dreamt of hunting for the fish with [my guide] and trying to spot them. It means the world to me. I'm focused on living for the first time in 7 years and it's all thanks to you. All of you. I look forward to coming back to Montana soon and often."

— RON VERHINE,
WARRIOR

A man is fly fishing in a river. He is wearing a black tank top with the text "BACK-TO-BACK WORLD WAR CHAMPS" and an American flag graphic. He is also wearing sunglasses and khaki shorts. The background shows a dense forest and tall grasses along the riverbank.

OUR VISION

We envision an America in which a new generation of traumatically injured combat veterans successfully reintegrates into society.

OUR MISSION

To help reintegrate traumatically combat-injured U.S. veterans and active service members from recent wars into society by building hope and resilience, facilitating camaraderie, and providing security and serenity through fly fishing and other high quality therapeutic recreational mediums in southwest Montana.



STAFF

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Office Manager and
Volunteer Coordinator

FAYE NELSON

Development Director
and Interim Executive
Director

LAWRENCE STUEMKE

Director of Operations

EMILY WALLACE

Annual Fund Manager

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DIANE BRISTOL

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CLIFF MYERS

VOSS SARTAIN

WARRIORS AND QUIET WATERS FOUNDATION

1087 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 1 • Bozeman, MT 59718

(406) 585-WQWF • info@warriorsandquietwaters.org

www.warriorsandquietwaters.org

GUIDES & INSTRUCTORS

Dennis Alverson – George Anderson – David Bess – Mark Bolton – Dave Corcoran – Travis Dubyak – Jason Fleury – Chester Floyd – Mark Fogelsong – Al Gadoury – Grant Grigsby – Nathan Guffey – Chris Harpin – Michael Henry – Jacob Hinshaw – Ben Jantzen – Peter King – John Kirk – John Kuc – Dave Kumlien – Will Lasiter – Steve Leibinger – Jesse LeNeve – Josh Michaelis – Zach Neville – Miles Nolte – Mike Patron – Gordon Patton – Terry Quirk – Steven Rendle – Craig Salmon – Jerry Schildroth – Willy Self – Steve Smith – Ron Stafford – Ken Stock – Lance Stratton – Pat Straub – Aaron Tewell – Howard Thompson – Tony Valeriano – Ty Webb – Paul Williamson – Satoshi Yamamoto

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“I have been doing a lot of fishing [since returning home from WQW]. I can't begin to thank you guys and gals enough for what you gave me. It has allowed me to venture out and start a new hobby that I absolutely love. Everyday my wife says, 'So you going fishing today?' It's really hard to say no when I have the gear I have now. I just put an application in to join the local fly fishing club. They are a bunch of Ol'geezers, maybe they will let a young buck in their group.”

— LANCE VERSER,
WARRIOR

138
volunteers

TO FACILITATE

84
warriors &
spouses

Donors *Your contributions make it possible for Warriors and Quiet Waters to reach out to a new generation of injured combat veterans and service members returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. Together we help them find their way through the war they have just left behind and the new battles they face. Space limitations prevent us from listing the many supporters who made gifts under \$100. Thank you to **all** of our supporters!*

\$10,000+

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\$ 100 - \$ 249

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If your name is missing or incorrect, we apologize for the error. Please contact us with corrections.

Program Review



20%
*increase in the
number of warriors
& spouses served
from 2013 to 2014*


WQW began operations in February with a successful, first-ever, “Skiing Experience.” The event was based out of Big River Lodge (BRL) in Gallatin Canyon while skiing took place at Big Sky Resort using trained, adaptive skiing experts and equipment from Eagle Mount. In April we began our trademark “Fishing Experiences” (FXs), with FX-1 hosted by BRL and FX-2 hosted by Riverstone Ranch on the Boulder River. We returned to BRL for FX-3 in mid-May. In late June we moved to the upper Madison River valley where FX-4 was hosted by Elk Meadows Ranch. We unfortunately had to cancel FX-5, a couple’s event, when a lodging offer was withdrawn. As they say down under: “No worries, mates!” We made up for it in many other ways. FX-6 was a couple’s event hosted by Hilton Garden Inn. For our FX-7 couple’s event, we moved back to the BRL on the Gallatin River where the program remained for the last three FXs and our Equine Therapy (EX) event. The first-ever EX in mid-October proved magnificent in all its accomplishments, stretching all wounded warrior participants and their spouses to the max as they became more adept at managing Post Traumatic Stress behaviors.

WQW’s end goal with each combat-injured warrior during their six-day recreational experience is to help them with their reintegration back into civilian society. Successful reintegration is a broad goal that includes a variety of long-term outcomes such as healthy interpersonal relationships, successful management of mental and physical injuries, and strong employability. Through our program activities, the short-term outcomes we see exhibited by most of our participants are: improved mood, enhanced sense of camaraderie, greater trust, deeper desire for change, and improved management of physical limitations.

It’s a pleasure and honor to host, laugh, listen and fish with all of the amazing service men and women that are now WQW “alumni.” In addition to thanking Mother Nature for the serene environment southwest Montana provides these individuals, we can’t thank enough our business supporters, landowner partners, dedicated volunteers and generous donors. Together, we truly make an impact.

“I just wanted to say a BIG ‘Thank You’ for the fantastic FX experience and getting the opportunity to experience what WQW does on a ground level. Simply Incredible!! You all did such a wonderful job, and I couldn’t be more impressed with what the organization is doing.”

— NOAH ROSENTHAL, VOLUNTEER

A full-page photograph of two men fly fishing in a river. The man on the left, wearing a blue shirt and a tan cap, is reeling in a fish. The man on the right, wearing a tan shirt and a grey cap, is holding a long-handled net. The river is surrounded by lush green trees and vegetation. The water is splashing with the fish being caught.

“Thank you for the beautiful work you do. It beats the hell out of all the drugs in the world. I am not sure the trout agree, but then, whatever. I would love to join a [volunteer] crew in the future.”

— DR. JAYE SWOBODA, VETERANS CLINIC PHYSICIAN



Finances

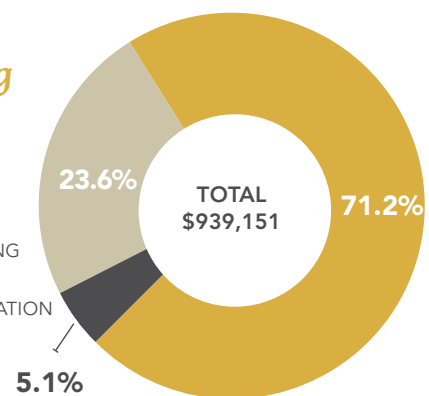
WQW is pleased to report that the organization has completed 2014 on very firm financial ground.

Year-end income after expenses netted \$252,136. This net resulted from a few significant, unplanned gifts from generous individuals in the second half of the year, as well as the tremendous number of in-kind donors to our program. These funds will be used to help underwrite the 2015 costs of going even deeper in positively impacting our warrior participants' well-being. We will be implementing a few strategic enhancements to the quality of and the long-term sustainability of our program. If you would like more details on our fiscal year financials, please contact the WQW office. As always, the Board and staff thank you for your steadfast support of our work in addressing the national issue of reintegrating wounded but intrepid warriors back into society. People like you make it possible.

TOM FULTON, CFP
TREASURER

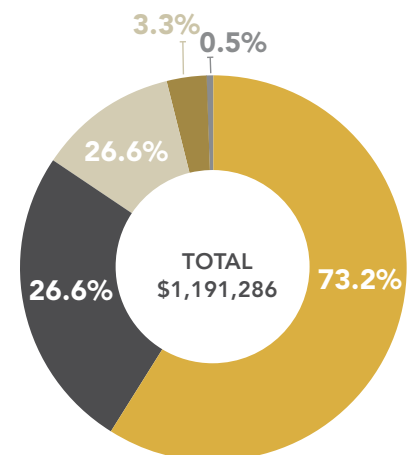
Operating Expenses

- \$668,796 PROGRAM
- \$221,609 FUNDRAISING
- \$48,746 ADMINISTRATION



Operating Income

- \$703,125 INDIVIDUALS
- \$304,799 EVENTS
- \$137,677 IN-KIND
- \$40,000 GRANTS
- \$5,685 OTHER



“You have given us hope and put happiness back in our souls.”

—MIKE RIOS, WARRIOR

“I just want to take the time to thank you for everything your organization does and what you stand for. My husband has been through so much this past year since his tour in Afghanistan and outside of coming home to his daughter and wife, hasn’t had a lot to look forward to until your organization contacted him. ...Knowing that his plans to retire with the Marines was slim to none due to his injuries, it made him very uncertain... about his future... and reason of matter...He has immersed himself in fishing however. Fly fishing calms his mind and makes him feel at peace. So when you guys contacted him to visit your facilities, I was completely ecstatic for him. This chance to visit one of his ‘bucket list’ destinations is absolutely amazing and it couldn’t have happened to a more deserving Marine, father, and husband.”

—REBECCA
SHACKLEFORD,
WIFE OF WARRIOR



“Although the fishing was amazing, the friendships that I made and the people that I met is what truly made the trip worthwhile. I’m not a very emotional guy but the kindness that was shown to me almost had me to tears at some points. Outside of my family or other vets’ families, no one has ever shown me that kind of love for my service. It has proven that people really do care about us and we are not forgotten in America’s rear view.”

— KYLE SHACKELFORD, WARRIOR



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