



Dear Valued Donors of the Whitefish Veterans Support Team,

As we entered another year of the coronavirus pandemic, Whitefish Veterans Support Team (WVST) members creatively found ways to reach out and provide veterans and their family members with group recreational and counseling opportunities in the beautiful Flathead Valley. These events are only possible with your continued generous support.

We hosted a successful day of skiing at Turner mountain for local Montana veterans and their families last spring complete with tickets, equipment and lunch and successfully hosted another ski day at Turner mid-February this year that included fresh air, camaraderie and fun.

In August, we held a zip-lining event at Whitefish Mountain Resort for eight veterans in a continued effort to reach out to our neighbors through the local Veteran's Center to keep people socializing and engaged in exhilarating activities. WVST also supports a local group that engages veterans in regular SCUBA activities by funding equipment and assisting with operating costs.

We continue to try to reach the diverse groups that make up the military family. We held our first ever spouse retreat for women who lost their husbands in military conflict. Nine women were hosted in Glacier National Park for counseling, hiking and rafting allowing time to build new friendships and continue the healing process. In addition, we held our second summer retreat for a group of Gold Star youth who lost a parent in military operations. The group went rafting, hiking, and engaged in counseling - giving them the ability to share with others who understood what they have been going through. Please visit our website at wvstmt.org for the full stories and group photos.

After much debate, we found it unfortunately necessary to cancel our September Veterans retreat in order to keep our volunteers and visiting veterans safe as we continued to navigate the uncertainties of the coronavirus and the number of cases surged in our local area. We are already in the planning process for our 2022 retreat in September and feel confident that this year is executable barring any other unforeseen pandemic challenges.

In January 2022, WVST hosted ten junior members of the 82nd Airborne that had been involved in Afghanistan operations. Participants were flown to Whitefish to spend a week learning to ski and engage in counseling provided by the local Veterans Center and group discussions with WVST members. The group had an amazing time and only wished that they could stay longer. We understand that they are still talking about what a great time they had here in Whitefish. Please see the enclosed reprint of the January 2022 retreat written and published by the Flathead Beacon Newspaper.

We sincerely appreciate all of you who continue to believe in our organization and provide the generous funding to make all of these events possible for the brave men and women and their families who serve our Nation. WVST remains dedicated to improving veteran well being. We are also committed to helping serve individuals in our local community in partnership with the Kalispell Veteran's Center.

Our sincere thanks to you for your continued support.

The WVST Board of Directors

Whitefish Veterans Support Team
empowers injured veterans and active duty personnel, their caregivers and families by providing opportunities to engage in physical and emotionally challenging activities to advance their healing.

200 Parkhill Drive, Whitefish, MT 59937

TO LEARN MORE GO TO: WVSTMT.ORG