

From the Fox Hole

We are so excited to have begun operations at our new TFH Heroes Renewal Center in Bozeman, Montana.

On April 20th thru April 22nd we were honored to have some of our Nation's finest here to experience the beauty of the "Big Sky Country". Several LA CO Firefighters arrived and were able to experience fly fishing, archery, peer to peer groups, bonfire discussions, great meals, and protestant chapel services.

We were also blessed with some wonderful volunteers who assisted our staff and attendees with fly fishing instruction, archery instruction and more. We greatly enjoyed the opportunity to serve them as they have served so many over the years often times with little thanks. These firefighters are not only pillars in their agencies but also pillars in their communities.

Our staff here at Task Force Heroes are honored by these great community servants and we are looking forward to future retreats with military combat veterans from the local community and some large police groups from the east coast.

Please continue to pray for us and for those who choose to attend the Heroes Renewal Center.



PASTOR SHANE'S Point of View

Dear Partner,

In my previous letter we recognized some military Chaplains who had made the ultimate sacrifice, demonstrating love for their service members and their country.

Lets take a moment to look at the importance of love and loving one another. Love can be described several ways, however I would like to focus on the commonly used word for love in the Bible and that is Agape (Αγάπη) love. This the Greek word for Love. It is an unconditional, no limits love. It is also defined as a love that had no parameters or bounds. I believe often times that we cannot even comprehend this type of love as humans. This self-emptying and divine love is something that we must practice and give to others as followers of Christ.

However, I realize it is difficult to do. We hold on to hurts, and wrongs, fail to truly forgive and can become selfish and self-centered. I believe that at times we can even put our own conditions on love as if to say, "well only if he or she does this then I can love them".

Well I am happy to say that our Father in Heaven does not do that. And thanks be to God that He doesn't! If He did we not be able to experience the Love that He gives. We could not demonstrate that love to others. We could not care for others like we should without that Christ-like example of love.

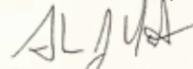
So today I ask you, do you husbands out there love your wives like Christ loved the church? Do you love your neighbors with that agape love? Do you love those in need like Christ loves you when you are in need or not? Do you live a life of selflessness instead of selfishness?

It is not easy. We all make mistakes, but we have an example for our daily lives and that is Christ. Through His healing of those in need and His sacrifice on the cross, He has set the example for us all.

I will conclude with this verse from the book of John chapter 1 verse 29: "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" The interesting part of this verse is that the word used here for "world" is the Greek word "κόσμος" meaning "Kosmos", or the entire universe, the whole world and everything in it.

This is that demonstrated Agape love telling us that He died and was resurrected for you and for this whole world! Enjoy the comfort in knowing our Savior Jesus Christ that through His love for you and for me, we can be eternally secure through our belief in Him and our Faith in Him!

Grace and Peace,


Pastor Shane Yates
OIF/OEF Vet
CEO Task Force Heroes



WARRIORS HELPING WARRIORS

TASK FORCE HEROES

FORMERLY HEALING HEROES MINISTRIES

'COME AWAY BY YOURSELVES' FOR RENEWAL POWER

They arrive, hesitantly yet optimistic. Slowly the hesitancy falls away and lives are transformed, rebuilt, encouraged and renewed. That is the power of a retreat at Heroes Renewal Center.

Peer to peer mentoring groups is a key strategy of Heroes Renewal Center based in Bozeman Montana. Our events include guest speakers who have experienced similar trauma and have wisdom to share. Also our professional counselors provide on-site help. Our outdoor activities, counseling, peer to peer interaction and pastoral care provides for a unique and rewarding experience here in the "Big Sky Country" of Bozeman, Montana.

Heroes Renewal Center is one of the few retreat centers that offers a Christian perspective. Taking a break from normal routine and going on a retreat with a creative schedule, helps renew and revitalize our heroes. Being encouraged by the example of others happens along the way. When our heroes go back home they re-establish their lives with renewed perspective and vigor. They are equipped to be fitter, rested, happier and clearer.

The word has spread quickly amongst military, law enforcement and first responders and we have already booked many retreats for this year.

Nate Denver, a LA County firefighter participant, commented; "Thank you for the wonderful weekend in Montana. The trip was fun, relaxing, and spirituality enriching. I wasn't sure what to expect, but all expectations were decimated! Your hospitality and warmth is inspiring and we are fortunate to have experienced it. Please let us know how we can help. We are here for you. What you have created with Task Force Heroes is extraordinary, necessary, and greatly appreciated. All of my best to you and the continued success of Task Force Heroes."

We exist to help our heroes renew and refresh their lives through teaching, counselling and therapeutic outdoor activities like hiking, fishing and shooting on our outdoors bow range. We are counting on you to partner with us and come alongside these Heroes by your generous donations.

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Outdoor events like fly fishing at our well stocked lake brings serenity



Retreat participants interact during a teaching session in a comfortable setting

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“Helping those who protect us is our calling, and it all begins with a retreat.”

There are many examples of retreats in the Bible. During His three years of public ministry, Jesus would sometimes invite His disciples to “come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while” (Mark 6:31). Those were days of retreat. Before Jesus Christ began His public ministry, He spent 40 days in the desert praying and fasting as a way to prepare for the important work ahead (see Luke 4:1-13). Those were days of retreat. We are following an example set by Jesus Himself.

We are continually reminded of the struggles that our veterans and first responders face daily. The suicide rate among veterans specifically, continues to trouble this Nation and to those of us called to serve those who serve us.

Researchers have found that the risk of suicide for veterans is 21 percent higher when compared to civilian adults. From 2001 to 2014, as the civilian suicide rate rose about 23.3 percent, the rate of suicide among veterans jumped more than 32 percent.

We have numerous one day events scheduled. Here are the longer summer retreats for you to pray for and give towards:

- June 22-24 (Veterans)
- July 12-15 (Law Enforcement)
- July 26-29 (Law Enforcement-Firefighter)
- Aug 10-12 (Veterans)
- Aug 24-26 (Law Enforcement-Firefighter)

Task Force Heroes CEO, Pastor Shane Yates says, “When you have a calling on your life you have two choices; you can either run away or you can respond!

“I never thought that the calling that God placed on my life would put me in Baghdad, Iraq or Kabul, Afghanistan or even onto the battlefield with my son, leaving the rest of my family behind. How would I deal with it? How would they deal with it? Many have made similar sacrifices, but how did they get through it?”

Our field operations director, Timothy Yates said it well, “No one said it would be easy. These paths never are. The battlefield is rough, but at times, fighting the internal battles can be worse. That’s why Task Force Heroes was started. That’s why the Heroes Renewal Center was opened here in Bozeman, Montana.”

Our major partners have provided most of the equipment needed like backpacks, hiking gear, fishing equipment, bows for the Borland Bow Range.

Here’s a ‘shout out’ of appreciation to some of our great local Bozeman partners: Stone Glacier, Big Sky Archery, The River’s Edge Fly Shop, Murdoch’s Ranch & Home Supply, MTNTough Fitness Lab, Dalton Richards, Ty Heaps, Gary Lewis, and Fred Wald.

It is with your prayers and financial support that we can accomplish these goals. Please join us!

The Road of Character

A road can be many things. It can be something used for transportation to and from a specific location. It can be used to transport goods, equipment, animals, logistical items, materials and more.

But there are times when it can be a bridge. A bridge to a location, hospital, town or city, or even a school.

That bridge can also be one that connects people to one another. It has been said at times that we need to build a bridge to someone after a disagreement or to someone that is estranged. But it can also be a bridge of giving and serving one another.

We had a wonderful experience when Dave Mize and his crew, Andy, Kevin, Devan and Joe decided to build such a road. This road would serve to be a bridge to those Heroes that attend the Task Force Heroes renewal center. This road would provide a safe walking platform transporting the Hero from one part of the property to another where they will be able to relax and experience archery with their peers. It was to be our road to the “Borland Bow Range”.

Building a road is never easy. It requires a team that works in sync together. A Team that is willing to sacrifice their time, efforts and sweat.

Dave Mize and his crew were humble, gracious and willing to help. His Team was volunteering to build a road not just for the center but for the Heroes as well. It also provides a way for the TFH staff to bring in the necessary items for the range to be operational.

Mr. Mize and his Team were willing to give. Dave, Andy, Kevin, Devan and Joe gave of their time and efforts to ensure TFH mission success in helping those first responders and veterans. Volunteers like these exemplify service and sacrifice and for that we are thankful and humbled.

Dave Huntley from Rocky Mountain Dirt Detail graciously donated the gravel and rock for the road. Dave is another example of selfless sacrifice and to him we are also greatly thankful. And to Fred Wald for his continued support and friendship.

It is a huge privilege to see these type of men in action. To look into their hearts and see that they care. Thank you Dave Mize, Andy, Kevin, Devan and Joe as well as Dave Huntley for your efforts, gifts and character!



Dave Mize and his fellow volunteer road crew, Andy, Kevin, Devan and Joe



Building a road takes some serious back breaking work. Thanks guys!



Weapons expert Ty Heaps (L) overseeing archery at the Borland Bow Range



Great fishing satisfaction for this vetran LA County firefighter



Former paratrooper and fishing expert, Gary Lewis, meets todays paratrooper T.J. Yates



Fellowship around a bonfire is a sure way to have peer-to-peer healing moments

Please mail your gifts to:
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