

- A. Bits From Bob
- B. Ft Hood Texas Military Base
- C. Operation Welcome Home
- D. Lawsuit update
- E. "All Stars Among Us" continues
- F. Fundraiser
- G. Miracles Happen Festival III
- H. Needs
- I. Red Barn progress
- J. Support
- K. Fall Schedule

A. BITS FROM BOB: My last email was five weeks ago, not due to a lack of **GOOD NEWS** to share. **Gal. 6:9 -will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.**

We have had an extremely busy fall so far. Some of the groups this past month include: Fellowship of Christian Athletes- (FCA) regional workshop conference, Bethlehem Baptist young adults, SE MN Soil, Water & Conservation forum, two weddings, three family reunions, Rochester Girls Choir, United Methodist churches, Grace Community International, Grace Fellowship □ Brooklyn Park, Wild Wings □ Lake City, Our Saviors Lutheran □ Rochester, Zumbrota-Mazepa Schools and IBM community days of caring.

B. FORT HOOD: On Nov. 5, 2009 13 soldiers were killed in a terrorist attack at Fort Hood and Sgt. Patrick Zeigler was seriously injured & the only survivor. During our military Salute at Operation Welcome Home, we honored Patrick and his finance, Jessica Hansen with a Medal of Valor, encouragement and prayer. Patrick is in a wheelchair but soon, we pray, that wheelchair can go to Haiti as Patrick will be walking. A few weeks ago they returned to Ironwood to visit with me, and have invited me to Fort Hood for the one year anniversary. On Nov. 6th I will participate in the half marathon (Run to Remember) in my wheelchair to encourage all the runners and be a part of the weekend events. I also plan to speak in a church in the Dallas area. \$1000 - I need to raise \$1000 for this mission. I will be taking our daughter Lydia along. Please consider supporting this worthy mission.

C. OPERATION WELCOME HOME: We just finished our third and largest retreat for the military. Seventy soldiers, their spouse and children spent a tremendous weekend at Ironwood. (Total military served in 2010 is 180, our three year total of military served is about 300.) Thanks again to the support staff, Chaplain Phillip Winn and his wife Colette. **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:** Quilts of Valor ladies giving each soldier a handmade quilt and the Saturday night candlelight dinner. Thirty friends came to the ranch to help serve this wonderful meal in a breathtaking setting.

SPONSORS: **Major:** Tee it up for the Troops, Veterans 4 Veterans grant, New Life Christian Center- Winona, Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial and Jack & Mary Ann Remick. **Generous:** Perkins, North Heights Lutheran Church □ Arden Hills, MN, Pardeeville Car & Truck Show □ Pardeeville, WI, Verdell Pettey - Grace Lutheran Church, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Quilts of Valor, DAV, Counselor Realty □ Rochester, Mike & Luann Olson, Dan & Pat Kenow, Chattanooga Christian Community Fund, and Richard Young.

Your sponsorships and fundraisers will be needed to continue these life-changing military retreats in 2011.

D. LAWSUIT UPDATE: This news will not be new to many of you, but I want to give an update. Five years ago an adult women slipped on the ice outside the dining hall as she was leaving a retreat. She did have some injuries (nothing close to life threatening). Long story short, we lost this lawsuit in court and it has become a huge financial burden on the ranch ever since. This debt continues to take its downward toll. If any of you would feel the need to get involved at some level over the next 30 days, please contact me for more details. In 30 days our Board of Directors will pray and decide about turning this debt into a long-term mortgage. Our goal is to reduce this high debt and the interest we are currently paying on it. Thanks for your concern and prayers.

Bob@ironwoodsprings.com

E. The memories and honors from these two national awards will impact me and the ranch indefinitely. I now have a beautiful display case in the Miracle Lodge showing some of the memorabilia, etc. Of course as you know, the Twins have now won their division in part to the handshake and word of encouragement I gave Joe Mauer at the All Star game (ha!). I hope to get up to a game real soon. Go Twins.

F. FUNDRAISER:

Do you want a cherished memory of your family, business, or event? Here's how! Daryl Schuck, a good friend and owner of Puzzle Impressions, is willing to donate \$10 to Ironwood for every puzzle you order. Please check out his creative website: www.puzzleimpressions.com

G. MIRACLES HAPPEN FESTIVAL III ☐ July 29-31, 2011 Mark your calendar.

Our committee is already busy planning for next year's event. We are asking you for any new ideas, singing groups, etc. We plan to have a bit more of a western theme and give special recognition to the Vietnam Vets at the military salute on Saturday. We plan to repeat all of last year's events: 5k run & bike ride, tractor parade, car show, kids carnival with the National Guard, hog roast, several music groups. Looking for more ideas.

H. NEEDS:

* For rent: We have a nice woodsy rental cabin with two car garage. Call Jode in the office 533 4315.

* Volunteers: To work on the RED BARN and spray the wood ceiling a whitewash.

* ☐M☐ Farmall tractor to pull our two touring wagons.

* Roof repair: We have two valleys that need repair; one on the chapel & one on the dining hall.

I. RED BARN PROGRESS.

Remodeling continues nearly each week. Thanks to Eaglebrook Church as they continue to come, Rockpoint Church from Lake Elmo (Al, Paul & Larry) and IBM volunteers today.

J. SUPPORT:

John & Kathy Bondy, Deb Scheide, Bob & Donna Mallan, Scott Forsberg, Grace Ev. Free Church ☐ Stewartville, Lighthouse Community church ☐ Rosemount, MN, Richard & Dorothy Denny ☐ Rochester, Wayne & Pam Wesala ☐ Scottsdale, AZ, Richard Young ☐ Woodbury, American Legion Post #333 ☐ Kasson, MN, Daughters of the American Revolution, Cornerstone Baptist Church ☐ Mesquite, TX, Mike & Luann Olson ☐ Lake Elmo, Larry Larson ☐ Sargeant, MN, Chuck Bishop ☐ Kasson, Mark & Julie Place ☐ Hager City, WI, Dave & Joann Runkel ☐ Harmony, MN, Robert & Norma Winemiller ☐ Rochester, Charles Muralt ☐ Wahpeton, ND, Lewis & Joy Hildreth ☐ Herbron, Ohio, Greg Hagen ☐ St. Paul.

H. FALL SCHEDULE:

Oct. 23 (Saturday) Lumberjack Weekend

Nov. 5-7 'A Time to Sew' Quilting Retreat. Contact Jode at 533-4315.

Spreading JOY-changing lives

Bob