



PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING, INC.

(PHWFF) is a unique, community-based not-for-profit volunteer organization dedicated to the

physical and psychological rehabilitation of active duty military personnel and veterans with disabilities through the therapeutic benefits of fly fishing. Participants include veterans and active, guard and reserve military personnel with disabilities from all conflicts, current and past. In addition to 140 programs in 46 states, there are affiliate programs in Canada and Australia.

PHWFF provides instruction in casting, fly tying, and rod building,

"Being outdoors with nature and with the patience and understanding of my healthcare team, commander, 1SG and PHWFF volunteers somehow eased the physical pain and brought peace to my mental being. For the first time, my days were not dark, somehow there was a light at the 'End of the Tunnel.'"

services are provided without cost to participants.

In contrast to the traumatic experiences of warfare, fly fishing embraces the calm

pursuit of a wild fish in a natural, untrammelled environment. The fish is then carefully released, unharmed, into its watery sanctuary, and allowed to remain free.

PHWFF believes that recreational activities such as fly fishing provide a

dramatic distinction between the trials of combat compared to the

as well as fly fishing trips. Our volunteers include professional educators and fishing guides as well as experienced anglers, all of whom donate their time and knowledge to support the participants.

Our activities are coordinated with military and hospital staff and all

calming effects of sharing natural environments with companions in pursuit of elusive wild fish. The intrinsic qualities of a trout stream and the absence of competitive pressure to perform under stress yields peaceful rewards for all who participate in this activity. In addition, physical activities like this support regaining confidence in the use of one's body and of being safe perusing a new life in the community.

Based on techniques of peer mentoring, experiential learning, outdoor education and group interactions, PHWFF strives to create a collaborative, cooperative, trusting and caring environment



to enhance community reintegration and quality of life changes for our veterans. ■



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