

AN OVERVIEW OF PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING, INC.SM

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc.SM is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit whose mission is *dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel, and veterans through fly fishing, fly tying education and outings.* The organization was established in 2005 by retired Navy Captain Ed Nicholson.

Whereas Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is national, it also includes programs outside the U.S. in Canada and Australia. Of the 159 programs in 47 states, each program is sponsored by a fly fishing organization such as a local Trout Unlimited chapter, Federation of Fly Fishers, and/or a local fly fishing club. In Ohio we have four current programs that include Cleveland, Dayton, Cincinnati and our newest - right here in Columbus and central Ohio. Our local program is officially supported by the Madmen Chapter of Trout Unlimited, but also includes volunteer support from the *Land of Legends Fly Fishers* based in Newark, Ohio, *Central Ohio Fly Fishers* (C.O.F.F.) individual members as well as several independent fly fishers.

Our program in central Ohio has offered *Fly Fishing 101 Basics* workshops, casting clinics and fly tying workshops in the community room at The Commons at Livingston (a National Church Residences property located at 3349 E. Livingston Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43227), since mid-June. In addition, we have had four fly fishing outings over the last several months with another outing in the works before the end of November.

Given the generosity of individuals such as Chris and Kristy Daniels, owner/operators of *Briarwood Sporting Club* in Bellefontaine, Ohio and others like them, we are able to provide quality fishing experiences on local waters to our disabled veterans in recognition and appreciation for their sacrifices and service.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing venues are open to any *disabled* active military service personnel and disabled veterans regardless of their era of service, branch of service or gender. Participating veterans do not pay to participate. Instructional equipment and materials are provided. This is all made possible because of individual donations, corporate donations and in kind donations including facility access, lodging, transportation, guide service and equipment. In 2012, 82% of all monetary donations were spent on veteran programs and activities. As military drawdown increases the need for PHWFF services will increase. We are recognized by the *Combined Federal Campaign* (CFC) which serves as a watch dog and clearing house for government employee charitable organizations. To learn more about the organization, how you might donate, volunteer or participate as a disabled veteran visit www.projecthealingwaters.org. For a Columbus connection contact John Davis, Columbus and Central Ohio Program Lead at jdavis6785@sbcglobal.net or call 614-431-9976.