



August 2019 Newsletter

We're Proud to Announce...

On July 18, The Hootie & the Blowfish Foundation announced its third annual multi-year grant cycle donations, granting a total of \$120,000 over three years to four South Carolina charities working on projects that benefit veteran services and youth arts programs within the state of South Carolina.

We're proud to announce that the Big Red Barn Retreat is a recipient of this year's grant! Since the endowment's creation in 2000, The Hootie & the Blowfish Foundation has awarded more than \$2.8 million in grants. These grants have impacted thousands of citizens by supporting the ongoing fight for an even playing field in educational funding and lending an encouraging hand to all those in need. We are truly honored to be associated with this foundation.



Healing Lenses: An Art Exhibit

On September 19, we will be hosting a photography exhibit from 5-8 at Stormwater Studios in downtown Columbia. The exhibit will feature 40 pieces highlighting the work of the veterans from our Healing Lens program.

The Healing Lenses exhibit will showcase



a variety of personally meaningful images captured by veterans. We will be posting more information about the event on our Facebook page soon!



We're patterning with The Mad Platter!

BRBR and The Mad Platter are collaborating to offer a wood sign workshop for military members and their families on Saturday, October 12 from noon-2 p.m. The Mad Platter is located at 3101 Millwood Ave. in Columbia.



At the workshop, participants will create decorative wood signs using a variety of stencils. They can pick their style, stencil and colors to create a wood sign of their choice. The main focus, however, is the camaraderie that the participants will experience while interacting with fellow military members.

All art supplies and materials will be provided. For more information click the following link: [Wood Sign Workshop](#)

Veteran Spotlight: Christine Rogers



Christine Rogers is a participant in the peer-to-peer combat veteran support group that meets every Friday at the Barn. She is also the Junior Vice Commander for the VFW Post 11079 in Elgin. Serving in the military for 30 years, Christine knew in the 5th grade that she wanted to fight for her country. She was a part of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Christine has two daughters and a chihuahua named Buddy Lee.

Passionate about baking and cooking, her ideal meal is a mushroom and swiss steakburger with some shrimp on the side. In her spare time, Christine enjoys building things and photography. In 2007, she won an Amateur Freelance photography competition. "It is so important to have an outlet to relieve stress,"

Christine said. "Photography is my outlet."

When asked about the peer-to-peer group, Christine said, "My favorite thing is the camaraderie... It's kinda like what I had when I was in the military. When I first got out, it was hard to adjust to being a civilian. I needed to be with people who knew what I'd been through, who didn't judge me. Coming to the barn, we're able to help each other out. We've started a whole new family now."

For more information about the peer-to-peer group, click the link: [Peer-to-Peer Group Information](#)



Healing Lens' Night Out!

Our Healing Lens group will be at The Vista in downtown Columbia on August 10 from 7-10 p.m. to explore nighttime street photography! If you're interested in attending, email Jim Dukes, Director of Healing Arts at jimdukes71@gmail.com.

For more information about the event, click the following link: [Healing Lens in The Vista](#)



Summer Jam: Thank You!

We had an AMAZING time at this year's Summer Jam! Thanks to everyone who came out to support us. We are already looking forward to next year!

If you weren't able to make it but would still like to donate to help fund the services we provide at the Barn, click the following link: [Donation Link](#)

The Big Red Barn Retreat | 8024 Winnsboro Road | info@thebigredbarnretreat.org

