



A Military and Family Retreat 2020 Annual Report



Mission Statement:

The *House in the Woods, Military & Family Retreat* (HITW) mission is to create a therapeutic, recreational, and educational retreat for our nation's U.S. armed forces and their families, using outdoor wilderness activities in Maine and other natural habitats, to help participants share common challenges related to their service and sacrifice in protecting our nation's freedom and democratic ideals.

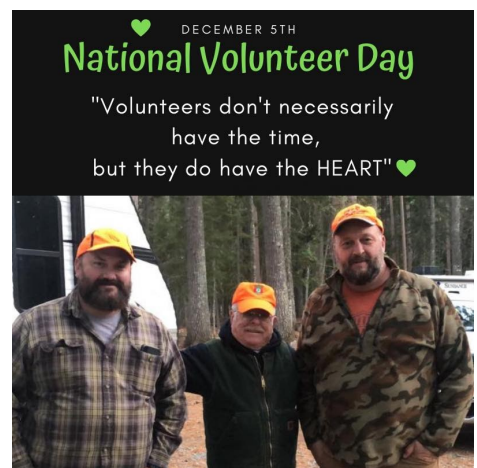
Business Philosophy:

Generations of American men and women have sacrificed their lives to protect our American heritage. Since the Revolutionary War, our nation's military has answered the call to defend family, community, and nation against foreign aggression at home and abroad. For many, the price of American liberty has been total—it has cost them their lives, their dreams, their futures. House in the Woods, Inc. A Military and Family Retreat believes heroes and their families need a place to come together, to let down their defenses for a while, to just be human together with others who may understand the price of freedom.

Description:

House in the Woods, Inc, A Military and Family Retreat received 501(c)3 not-for-profit business status on July 16, 2009 to provide a free educational, therapeutic, and recreational retreat in a safe and nurturing milieu to our nation's military, veterans, and military families. Our mission is to bring together and honor our nation's heroes, U.S. service members who have served on active duty in defense of our American heritage—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness--and their families..

House in the Woods seeks to become a key resource toward the readjustment and reintegration back into the culture and homes these soldiers have sacrificed of themselves to protect. Our goal is to create a caring and compassionate, paid and volunteer





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workforce trained to challenge participants to work together to overcome injuries and traumas of their experiences.

Utilizing the natural healing powers of Maine's outdoor heritage, HITW offers one - five-day outdoor programs to bring together small groups of active military, veterans, and their family members to relax, share, bond, and deal with the stress, loss, grief, and other emotions which can haunt the grieving soul. **House in the Woods, Inc.** shares with its participants canoeing, kayaking, hiking, hunting, fishing, biking, nature tours, campfires, swimming, wildlife identification and spotting, and other natural resource "treasures" God has given our beautiful country to enjoy. Whether participants are sitting under the countless stars on a cloudless summer night or reflecting on their reflections in the glass-like stillness of a Maine pond during a 4am summer sunrise, there is a therapy in realizing one's enduring place in eternity. As participants face the outdoor challenges presented by Mother Nature herself, they will derive a sense of accomplishment, find through exercise a release of stress, and have the opportunity to talk and share with one another laughter, memories, sorrow, service, and pride, among many other common bonds.





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House in the Woods Military and Family Retreat is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of 9 - 15 members who are a mix of active duty military personnel, veterans, Gold Star family members, and professionals from the community. The officers are President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Our ByLaws say that officers and members will be voted on annually.

2020 In Review:

Dee

January:

- 3 Day Ice Fishing Retreat
- Great Pond Ice Fishing Derby
- Penquis Valley High School Key Club tour
- Millinocket Quilting Club uses lodge
- Aubuchon's Popcorn raffle

February:

- Quilting Group's

March:

- COVID closed lodge
- Handgun Raffle
- Scrapbooking Club uses lodge

April:

- COVID closed lodge

May:

- COVID closed lodge

July:

- COVID closed lodge but we started having some outdoor activities
- Trident Armory Shoot Out
- Martindale Golf Tournament
- Old Glory Firearm raffle

August:

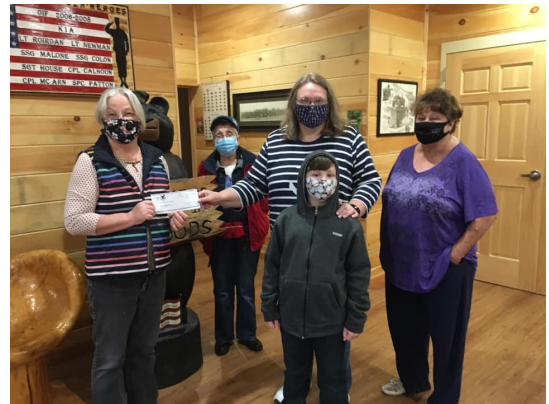
- COVID closed lodge but we started having some outdoor activities
- Patriot Riders Motorcycle Ride-in

September:

- 2 week Bear Hunt
- Bear Hunt with dogs
- Zone 19 Moose Hunt
- Turbo's Tracking season

October:

- Zone 6 Moose Hunt
- Zone 7 Moose Hunt
- Deer Hunt





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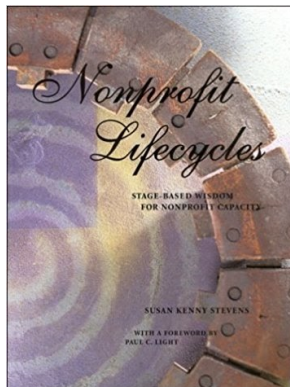
- New England Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary visit to lodge
- Turbo's Tracking season
- FedEx Golf tournament at Hermon Meadows
- Fundraiser to purchase Sip Puff tube

November

- Lex McMahon (Bear Hunt) fights MMA in Dominican Republic and Board Member Luke House is in the ring with him.
- Turbo's Tracking season
- HITW Christmas Cards mailed
- Lincoln area Girl Scouts cooked for Deer Hunt with Maddie

December

- Isaac Raymond, realtor and HITW volunteer, visit
- Lodge Christmas trees and event
- Old Glory Firearm raffle
- Paul went deer hunting in Kentucky at Licking River Outfitters



GROWTH PHASE GOALS

Since our beginning, HITW's mission has been guided through a set of 10 goals which are reviewed and revised annually. These goals provide HITW leadership with a decision-making framework for planning each year and for making decisions about future growth and directions.

GOAL 1: Continue to develop, plan, and implement multi-day veteran hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreational retreats throughout the year.

GOAL 2: Continue ongoing relationships with government, military, veterans, medical, business, and community representatives to acquire ideas, suggestions, expertise, and support to operate a first-class non-profit which provides exemplary services to America's



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veterans.

GOAL 3: Maintain Board of Directors.

GOAL 4: Continue to acquire equipment such as canoes, kayaks, life vests, camping gear, fishing gear and tackle, and other supplies inventory for outdoor recreational activities.

GOAL 5: Acquire resources to maintain and operate a facility to house participants, office space, and storage space for House in the Woods.

GOAL 6: Acquire and maintain resources for transporting participants and gear.

GOAL 7: Continue to locate resources, including financial resources, to operate House in the Woods.

GOAL 8: Determine staffing levels necessary for safe and comfortable retreat sessions. Staffing may be volunteer or per diem.

GOAL 9: Create and maintain communication channels to connect with supporters.

GOAL 10: Create benchmarks for planning purposes.

2020 DONATION HIGHLIGHTS:

Our donations came from many individuals, businesses, veterans service organizations, and foundations. The business and VSO's include:

- ★ AmazonSmile - \$74
- ★ Christmas Cards - \$12,420.00
- ★ Volk Packaging - \$3807.00
- ★ Alouette Old Orchard Beach Oceanfront Resort - \$500.00
- ★ Ryjohn, Inc. - \$100.00
- ★ Portland Water District = \$211.00
- ★ Kenison-Hooper Post #128 = \$100.00
- ★ Corinna United Methodist Church - \$50.00
- ★ Girl Scouts of Maine Longreach Neighborhood - \$160.00
- ★ MEMIC - \$100.00
- ★ Roger Auger (Everspring Wealth) - \$100.00
- ★ Machas Savings Bank - \$200.00
- ★ Lincoln Hannaford Bags 4 My Cause \$47.00





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- ★ Magpul - \$2,000.00
- ★ American Online Giving Foundation - \$52.00
- ★ Shin Pond Pub = \$1,165.00
- ★ Skowhegan-Madison Elks - \$1,000.00
- ★ K of C Maine State Council - \$1,000.00
- ★ Vista Outdoors - \$5,000.00
- ★ Safari Club International - \$2,500.00
- ★ Military Officer Association - \$2,000.00
- ★ Ultimate Veterans Adventures - \$1,000.00
- ★ Wayfarers - \$1,500.00
- ★ Widows Sons Men of Tyre - \$2,500.00
- ★ Widows Sons Templar Knights - \$300.00
- ★ Sons Association of Maine - \$200.00
- ★ Millinocket American Legion Riders - \$400.00
- ★ Emery Electric LLC - \$500.00
- ★ Nestle Waters North America - \$1,000.00
- ★ Lincoln Walmart - \$250.00
- ★ Town Fair Tire Foundation - \$1,000.00
- ★ Patriot Riders of ME Chap 3 - \$200.00
- ★ Rumford Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary - \$5,000.00
- ★ Falmouth Lions Club - \$500.00
- ★ Corinna United Methodist Church - \$50.00
- ★ Riders Assn Widows Sons Masonic Motorcycle - \$2,000.00
- ★ Maine State Grange - \$142.00
- ★ American Legion #213 - \$150.00
- ★ JenCam Inc - \$100.00
- ★ T& B Title of Ellsworth - \$500.00
- ★ Tous LLC - \$500.00
- ★ Penquis Valley High School - \$3,000.00
- ★ Widows Sons Motorcycle Ride - \$300.00
- ★ Great Pond Ice Fishing Derby - \$10,275.00
- ★ Knox County Fishing Derby - \$1,000.00
- ★ The Yard - \$740.00
- ★ Huffmaster Insurance Agency - \$150.00
- ★ FedEx Golf Tournament - \$555.00
- ★ Martindale Golf Tournament - \$30,000
- ★ Sim-Ayers Foundation - \$12,800.00
- ★ Facebook Network for Good - \$5,046.00
- ★ United Way - \$1,981.00
- ★ Trident Armory Shoot-out - \$16,624.00
- ★ Camden National Bank - \$805.00





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IN MEMORY HIGHLIGHTS: The following friends parted this world in 2020 OR they passed away earlier, and their friends and family donated in their memory:

- ❖ Kathy Vose Wilson
- ❖ Richard & Marily Potter
- ❖ Floyd Cobb
- ❖ Richard Mosher
- ❖ Sue Donovan
- ❖ Gerry Pepin
- ❖ Nancy Lothrop
- ❖ Christopher Kuehl
- ❖ Joel House
- ❖ Blair Emery
- ❖ Sean Thibodeau
- ❖ Wayne Worster



ACCOUNT BALANCES: December 31, 2020

- ❖ balance in LMFCU checking #71 is \$\$40,414.91
- ❖ balance LMFCU checking #73 is \$576.47
- ❖ balance in LMFCU Savings #00 \$8,391.27
- ❖ balance in MSB checking #7660 for logo clothing is \$130.18
- ❖ balance in MSB check #8640 is \$\$12.52
- ❖ balance in MSB savings #5210 for PayPal receipts is \$0.00
- ❖ balance in MSB savings #6060 for is \$25.14
- ❖ balance in MSB #8300 is\$915.94
- ❖ balance in Bangor Savings Martindale Golf Tournament is \$16,663.33

**LMFCU is Lincoln Maine Federal Credit Union

**MSB is Machias Saving Bank



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SERVED AT LODGE (LOW DUE TO COVID CLOSURES)

Total Served	TOTAL
Non Vets	49
Veterans	63
TOTAL SERVED	112 PEOPLE
BED NIGHTS	532
DAY USE	200

VOLUNTEER HOURS

CATEGORY	HOURS
Volunteers	2950
Veterans	80
Pro-Staff Guides	954
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS	3954



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Board of Directors

Board Member Signature	mailing address	email address
Paul House, President (2009-present)	2819 Lee Rd, Lee, ME 04455	Me_guide@hotmail.com/ Paul@houseinthewoods.org
Deanna House Secretary, Treasurer (2009-present)	2819 Lee Rd. Lee, ME 04455	Deanna.House@houseinthewoods.org
Luke House (2009-present)	8 Teran Ave Gorham, ME	lukeph1@yahoo.com
Joy House (2009-present)	3607 W. Dale Ave. Tampa, FL 33609	joy.h.mclaughlin@gmail.com
Patricia Locke (2009-present)	54 Main St. Lincoln, ME 04457	plocke1@myfairpoint.net
Kyle Purington		kpurington@wcitowers.com