

"Healing Those Who Serve"

Mission: Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities, including education and outings.

Our long-term objective is to teach wounded active duty military and veterans with service connected disabilities fly fishing basics: equipment, casting, fly tying, and rod building; and take them fishing. PHWFF volunteers teach classes on an on-going, long term basis. It is much more than a one day fishing trip.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF), Inc, began in 2005 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. There are now over 200 local programs, in every state, and with affiliate programs in Canada and Australia. Participants include veterans from all conflicts. PHWFF Inc. is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization.

The **Phoenix Program** of PHWFF was established by a Memorandum of Agreement with the Arizona Flycasters (AFC) in Phoenix. AFC is also a non-profit 501(c) (3). We held our first meeting in April of 2013 with 7 veteran participants and 11 volunteers in Phoenix. We've grown substantially, involving 58 volunteers and touching the lives of 66 disabled vets in 2017. Using facilities in Phoenix and Gilbert, and recently at the Phoenix VA Medical Center, dedicated volunteers from many organizations now teach casting, fly tying, rod building, and basic techniques. For many participants, the socialization and camaraderie of the classes are just as important as the fishing outings. We take our vets fishing at many locations in Arizona. All activities are conducted at no cost to the disabled veteran participants.

The program can provide respite from day-to-day concerns, a sense of belonging, accomplishment, and camaraderie. It brings together those who want to help, those who want to learn, and those who want to teach, and enriches all of their lives.

We plan to open another location in Surprise, AZ in February of 2018.