

Ankeny chiropractors contribute to retreat for military veterans

BY AARON W. JACO • AJACO@DMREG.COM • DECEMBER 15, 2009

Two Ankeny chiropractors sent a message this month to military veterans: We've got your back.

Mike LaBounty and his wife, Jill, of LaBounty Family Chiropractic, raised \$2,100 for English River Outfitters, a retreat east of Washington, Iowa, that gives military veterans a free opportunity to camp, hunt, fish, tell stories and relax.

The couple raised \$1,050 through a week of \$3 adjustments for new and current customers. Mike and Jill LaBounty matched the proceeds for a total donation of \$2,100.

"I just wanted to do something for our armed forces," Mike LaBounty said. "I have a lot of patients in the Marine Corps at Camp Dodge. Last year we raised money for Make A Wish, but this year we wanted to do something more Iowa-based."

The outfitters camp hosted its first veterans' group over Labor Day weekend and will remain open through the winter.

Camp founder Chuck Geertz of Tipton said the camp can host as many as eight veterans at a time and puts priority on referrals from groups like the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion. Geertz hopes to raise \$550,000 to build a bunkhouse, lodge, pole barn, recreation area and pond.

"It's going to be a place for (veterans) to sit down and visit and decompress a little bit," Geertz said. "To have some time alone. Sometimes they get tired of people asking them so many questions ... and they just want some time to think for themselves."

Already, the camp experience has prevented at least three soldiers from committing suicide, Geertz said. "That was one of our goals," Geertz said. "To keep people from committing suicide."

"Every day something happens here that makes it a little bit better (for veterans)."



adam wilson/ankeny register & press citizen Mike LaBounty and his wife, Jill, who operate LaBounty Family Chiropractic in Ankeny, raised \$2,100 for English River Outfitters, a retreat that gives military veterans a free opportunity to go camping, hunt, fish and relax.
