

April 4, 2019

Contact: Ray Ekness, Director, UM Broadcast Media Center, ray.ekness@umontana.edu, 406-243-4154
Susie Cohen, Producer, Veterans Coming Home Project, curlyzoowho@gmail.com

MTPBS Segments Shown at Bigfork Film Festival

MISSOULA –

Two short form documentaries produced by Montana Public Radio and MontanaPBS were selected to run April 5-7 as part of the Bigfork Independent Film Festival.

Producer Susie Cohen's stories on a Veteran's Treatment Court in Billings and a fly-fishing program for Veterans out of Bozeman called Warriors and Quiet Waters—both from a Montana PBS/CPB production called "Veterans Coming Home: Finding What Works", were chosen for the event.

Veteran's treatment courts provide a holistic approach to addressing the unique needs of veterans who have gotten into trouble since returning home. The story is a behind the scenes look at how the court works, an up close up look at judge and her team who created and maintain it, and the vets, whose lives have been improved or even saved by the court.

Warriors and Quiet Waters is a program that provides post 9-11 wounded warriors a professionally taught fly fishing experience in Montana. The learning experience provides a new sense of purpose, relaxation, and camaraderie that can change and save lives like no other treatments they could find in a doctor's office. The story followed vets on a fishing adventure that is changing, improving, and possibly saving their lives and families.

The pieces were shared through MTPR and MontanaPBS social media accounts. See the stories at this link: <https://www.montanapbs.org/programs/veterans-coming-home/>

The stories, produced in partnership with Kindling Group, explored successful solutions to veteran reintegration that are benefiting individuals and their communities by capitalizing on veterans as assets and leaders. *Finding What Works* is a cross-platform project that integrates

a core digital video series, photo essays and written content with digital distribution strategy and partnerships that build audience, facilitate conversation, and drive people to action.

The Veterans Coming Home project was made possible by a grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Montana Public Radio and MontanaPBS are part of the University of Montana Broadcast Media Center.

Montana Public Radio airs across much of western and central Montana at 89.1 and 91.5 in Missoula, 91.9 in Hamilton, 89.5 in Polson, 90.1 in Kalispell, Whitefish and North Valley, 90.5 in Libby, 91.7 in Kalispell, 101.3 in Swan Lake, 91.3 in Butte, 91.7 in Helena, 89.9 in Great Falls, 91.7 in Dillon and online at mtpr.org.

MontanaPBS (KUFM-TV in Missoula, KUSM-TV in Bozeman, KUKL-TV in Kalispell, KBGS-TV in Billings, KUGF-TV in Great Falls and KUHM-TV in Helena) is a service of the University of Montana and Montana State University. For more information, visit <http://www.montanapbs.org/>.

###