

FACES BEHIND THE PLACES



BAND OF BROTHERS

Welcome Home

Celebrating their 10th anniversary this year, the Band of Brothers is a local organized riding group with a heart for community. Band of Brothers member Chris Melbern says the group's involvement with Welcome Home, Inc. has been a tremendous opportunity to express their gratitude and support for local veterans.

Originally formed by a few guys that shared a sense of brotherhood and a passion for riding, the Band of Brothers has grown to 20 members that now organize a variety of events each year to raise funds for local charities. Melbern says they have ridden many miles together and that the comradery of brotherhood in the group is a bond that

has united them, not just as bikers, but with a common vision of supporting those in need.

"Through the generous support of the local riding community, working with Welcome Home has been a great way for the Band of Brothers to say thank you to our veterans for all they have sacrificed defending our freedoms," Melbern says.

Each year, the Band of Brothers hosts a bike show benefitting Ellis Fischel's mobile mammogram unit, which in its six-year history has provided \$49,000 in mammogram screenings. The Patriot Poker Run benefiting Welcome Home has provided \$25,000 in support, and their annual toy run collects toys and supplies for the Southern

Boone County Buddy Pac program.

"None of us are rich or fancy," Melbern says, "but when it comes to pulling together and supporting a cause, it overwhelms even us. It's very humbling."

Members of The Band of Brothers come from all walks of life. They are plumbers, painters, carpenters, truck drivers and business owners. But they are all bikers at heart who love riding and feel grateful for the opportunity to give back. They are an example of how a group of common everyday folks can accomplish extraordinary things for those in need.

According to the Band of Brothers: "It's just what we do."

Welcome Home

2120 Business Loop 70 E. | 573-443-8001 | WelcomeVeterans.org

BAND OF BROTHERS