

September 26, 2018 Daniel J. Mancuso, Publisher

## **Cannabis Grower Donates** To Veteran Program

According to 54 Green Acres owners Vin and Kate Deschamps, charitable causes are important. Especially those near their farm in Cave Junction that focuses on helping military veterans and those less fortunate. One such program, the Breeze Botanicals Compassion Program (BBCP) got the Deschamps' attention and passion.

"54 Green Acres is honored to participate in the BBCP program to assist veterans Medical low-income Oregon Marijuana Program (OMMP) patients," Vin Deschamps said.

The program was started by Brie Marlarkey in 2014 when she noticed many veterans coming with servicerelated issues but little capacity to purchase the product coming into her Gold Hill and Ashland locations.

"Many people came in without the means to acquire the medicine they needed. So many were coming in because of something that happened during their service such as PTSD or aches and pains," Marlarkey said.

The program allows OMMP card-holding veterans and SNAP card holders to choose from the "compassion box" one item a day. The law only allows medical patients to get cannabis for free, but veterans and low-income Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) users can get a sizable discount depending on the product. Currently the law allows up to 50 percent discounts.

Patients can choose from what is available that day. Marlarkey knows that not everyone is on the "up and up" but it's better to give to those "not in need" than to not give it to someone who really needs it.

Originally, it was just Marlarkey's Shady Cove area farm that donated to the compassion box and over time other farms and companies ioined in.

"Some companies give us samples to give away in an attempt to test the market and the vets get the opportunity to try new products for free. It appears to be feast or famine in the donation department. Sometimes we have too much and others not enough."



Caleb Padgett of 54 Green Acres

Caleb Padgett, the director of operations at 54 Green Acres.

was there for the delivery and stated that they were "happy to be involved in this program. It's important to our values to give back." Padgett felt strongly that it's important for the cannabis industry to make contributions to the communities they work in.

Markarkey takes a holistic view of medical cannabis. She feels that the right cannabis paired with other herbal allies work better than either one alone. Her stores also carry over 50 locally grown organic herbs.

"Usually they work on your whole body and the side effects tend to actually help another issue."

It's clear that Marlarkey, Padgett and Deschamps actually care about what would be best for the veterans and what strains they need. Different strains contain different terpenes. Terpenes are a group of volatile unsaturated hydrocarbons found in the essential oils of plants, especially conifers and citrus trees. They are based on a cyclic molecule having the formula C10H16.

"While formal research is still being developed and validated, experience shows that veterans with PTSD do well using strains with terpenehigh myrcene. This acts as a short-term memory suppressant along with the THC, and helps with normal functioning when bad memories surface. In addition, strains with the terpene-high pinene can be helpful as an antidepressant," Deschamps said.

54 Green Acres chose five specific strains for the program because some are high in myrcene and some are high in the pinene.

"Our donation to the Breeze program provided one pound of each of the five strains."

In addition, 54 Green Acres is the market leader for high quality cannabis with very high terpene content. With 21 strains offered for 2018, they produced the highest overall terpene test results along with high THC for all their sativa and indica strains. 54 Green Acres is an organic farm and are Certified Kind - Tier 2 recreational cannabis producer farm (equivalent to internationally accepted norms for organic crops and process products).

Breeze Botanicals was the very first OLCC licensed retailer. The stores embrace medicinal herbs and cannabis cultivated and wildcrafted in Southern Oregon.



Brie Marlarkey, Founder Breeze Botanicals



## **Upper Rogue Independent**

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## Upper Rogue Gal Shows Compassion for Veterans

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