



HERDER



MISSION STATEMENT

Providing family oriented Christian homes for adults who have developmental disabilities, on a working ranch.

VOL. 18, NO. 1

"Shepherding the Hesitant"

MARCH 2004

HEART AND HOME

**You are cordially invited to attend
The Special K Ranch 18th Annual Fundraising Dinner
Tuesday, March 30th 6:00 p.m.
At the Billings Holiday Inn Grand Ball Room**

As always this will be a delightful evening beginning with a delicious dinner followed by a musical presentation by "Glyn Fiddle", a video of Special K Ranch program activities, and the very interesting and entertaining comments from the residents.

Table hosts are filling their tables with guests. Everyone attending will be assigned to a table. It is very important that reservations are called into the ranch office, 322-5520 by March 22nd.

Many of you who receive this newsletter will not be able to attend the dinner because of distance or conflict. We encourage you to participate with us in making this a successful fund raising event by prayerfully sending a gift in the enclosed envelope.

Step on Platform Nine and Three Quarters and take a trip to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft & Wizardry on the Hogwarts Express, a bright red, magic steam train modeled from the popular Harry Potter books and movies.



This 4 by 5 foot HO model train layout features the trip from London's Kings Cross Station Hogsmeade, Scotland including a stone viaduct, the Inhabited Lake and Hogwarts Castle on the cliffs. Local train buff and radio announcer Tommy B. custom built the display as a fund raising project for Special K Ranch. The project took approximately 1000 hours and over ten months to complete.

The silent auction includes the train layout plus a boxed-edition collector's set of the first five Harry Potter books. The lucky high bidder will be announced at the dinner.

more pictures and make a bid on line at www.newsradio970.com or call Tommy B at 406 248-7827 ext. 261.

You can view

EMPLOYER MATCHING FUNDS

Does your employer match charitable contributions? Please ask and help us double the value of your gift.

Laurie putting a wool fleece in the compactor. 150 ewes were sheared and lambing begins in March.



REFLECTIONS OF THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Our minds can only understand the finite things. Everything we understand has a beginning and an end, or a start and a finish. This is the nature of our human intellect. The first start or beginning had to come from something that always was...something super-natural. It could not be of our human nature. The One who began the first beginning...is this not proof of our creator? The infinite we cannot understand. We know the concept but we only understand the finite things, those things with a beginning and an end.

So let us stick with what we understand. Let us start at the beginning. The beginning of a horticultural growing season. SPRING. What a joyous time! Miracles are witnessed every day. Seeds burst forth to become plants. Blossoms magically turn to fruit. Ewe sheep give birth to cuddly lambs. The geese and duck eggs hatch to their parent's likeness. The beginning of a new tomato crop.



Angela and Debbie stringing tomato plants that already have tomatoes on the vine.

The revival of our enthusiastic customer base.

Kenny and Mike are projecting a 2¹/₂% increase in our tomato crop over last year!!! The additions of two more greenhouses, totaling 4000 sq. ft., and completion of a 1200 sq. ft. horticulture service building have made this increase possible. This service

building is west of the greenhouse complex and contains a bathroom, water fertilization tanks, two refrigeration rooms, climatized office space, and a sky lit heated loading area.

The beginning of our bedding plant season is also underway. The Special K greenhouses are beginning the transformation to 34,000 sq. ft. of beautiful and fragrant flowers...a scene that commands all the senses.

This, the beginning of another year of growth of Special K Ranch.

The beginning of hope for more residents with aspirations to make their home at Special K Ranch. As stated before, the nature of the human mind only understands the beginning and the end. We just reviewed some of our current beginnings.

The following ends came before the beginning.

The end of the short days of winter.

The end of the cold days of winter.

The end of the snow and ice covered roads.

The end of hibernation.

It's a lot more fun to be at the beginning of anything than at the end.

The infinite things we will leave up to our super-natural God. Yet it is certain in the springtime He is involved in all our finite daily activities. If we have a choice of the natural gifts He gives us, we choose the beginning. Think SPRING!!!

Peace,



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The other day one of our staff came into my office and said, "did you know that this week is 'random acts of kindness' week?" Then she chuckled and said, "that's pretty bad when only one week out of the year is designated for people to be purposefully kind in their actions."

I was reminded of the first Wednesday morning of the month when the rancher of the month and the runner up were introduced at our group devotion and prayer time. The word kind was used a lot by different residents as they made comments about the individuals being honored.

Mike comes into every office when he comes to the Wommack Center and gives each of us a hug. Others are always making birthday cards and cards for special occasions that they give out. Robert went into a staff home one day to help his advisor fix some plumbing and before he left he washed the dishes and cleaned the kitchen. Rodney helps a couple of his house brothers who have some special needs with their personal care. Lee has put thousands of miles on two different mule buggies that he has had since he came in 1987, offering residents and guests rides and transporting

things all over the ranch. I could go on but I think you get the picture.

It is a real privilege living with people that think of others and do random acts of kindness every week of the year.

In another article in this newsletter you will read about the progress being made toward our capital fund drive goal of \$1.5 million. Our committee of board members and community volunteers are working out a strategy to launch the final push to complete the goal in the year and three quarters remaining in the campaign.

We are confident that by the end of the campaign we will be in a position to start a second ranch. The people on our waiting list and others who will be added deserve the opportunity to live in a caring community of peers where their unique contribution and "random acts of kindness" can be celebrated.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS November 9, 2003 – February 6, 2004

We are pleased that the people memorialized and honored on these pages are part of the on-going ministry of Special K Ranch. A special thanks to those making these gifts.

- Woodley Amen Memorial
Don & Lee Eide
- Levi Anders Memorial
Joe & Kathleen Niemi
- Gene Andersen Memorial
Eleanor Andersen
- Lewis Andrews Memorial
Christine Kuntz
- Larry Armstrong Memorial
Nolan & Nancy Bekke
- Keith Asbell Memorial
Donna B. Asbell
- Katie Aschim Memorial
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- Dale Bashor Memorial
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James & Mavis Hanson
Brent & Julena Russell
M. James & Bonnie Van Campen
Robert & Judy Brooks
Mary McCormick
Dave & Ann Saterbak
Joann M. Willis
Debbie Brooks
Jack & Betty Gneiting
Jack & Audrey Parks
Stevensville Teachers Association
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- Bernice Blinn Burkley Memorial
Margaret & Leslie Frank
- Eunice "Tizy" Cameron Memorial
Bobbie Ostrum
- Barbara Carr Memorial
Kenneth & Lucille Herem
- Floyd Case Memorial
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- Linda Zinne Cass Memorial
Ernest N. & Joyce Zinne
- Rock Charlton Memorial
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- Pat Cone Memorial
Bob & Betty Saxbury
- Their God Children Honorary
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- Jim Coats Memorial
Ralph & Vera Stenehjem
- Mrs. Ruth Warren
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- Paul Conrod Memorial
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- Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Davey Honorary
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- Mary Donohoe Memorial
Torian Donohoe
- Devon Doughit Memorial
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- James Driscoll Memorial
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- Dallas Eide Honorary
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- Louise Erfle Memorial
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- Sandi Fetzer Memorial
Dale & Bobbi Lalim
- Fred Jr Feuerbacher Memorial
Lydia F. Frank
- George Feuerbacher Memorial
Lydia F. Frank
- Ron Forney Memorial
Samuel & Patricia Forney
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- Elsie Frank Memorial
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Phyllis Gregory

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R & C Home Improvement Inc.

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Frank & Lois Rooney-Munson

Glenn Wold Memorial
Hank Gremmer

Ben Woltermann Memorial
Jack & Audrey Parks

Laura Works Memorial
Mr. & Mrs. Rae & Martha Steven

Henry Vernon Yonce Memorial
Charles & Mavis Romee



Thanks to volunteer David Haworth for plumbing the new service building on the greenhouse complex.

RANCHER OF THE MONTH

Phil arrived at SKR in May 1989 with a smile on his face and he wears the same smile today. He is the most consistently happy person you would ever meet. Phil was featured as the “chicken man” in a newspaper article back in the early 90s because of his interest and care of the chickens. He is a gentle spirit always ready with a kind word. He has taken on a new title, “the flag man.” Phil puts up and takes down the flag every day in the same responsible way that he does everything.



Phil Neiman and Hank Gremmer tied for ROM in January.

The senior resident at SKR is Hank with 65 years behind him. Hank came to live at the ranch in November 1991. He grew up in Laurel where he still has a lot of friends. The tomatoes in the greenhouses need to be pollinated but we don't want bees buzzing the residents so Hank has become Mr. Bumble Bee as he goes from plant to plant disturbing the blossoms with a little vibrating wand. Hank likes to listen to his music, go fishing, and ski with Eagle Mount.



Kenny White with Ben and Stephanie who tied for ROM in February

Stephanie was one of the first four women to move into Stumvoll house in May 1996. She likes a good laugh and is a wonderful singer. When Larry can't be at devotions to lead singing with his guitar, Stephanie with her strong voice takes over. I am told that she has been maturing in her relationships with the other

residents and is becoming a good role model.

Ben Johnson has only been at the ranch for one year. He is “Mr. Perpetual Motion.” I don't think I have ever seen him just standing around. One of his vocational advisors said, “you give him something to do and that's the last word.” He can be heard at home and work saying words of encouragement and seen at public events helping other residents who are not able to get to the restroom by themselves. And like Phil, born with a smile.

YOUR WILL - A Way To Help Others

A will is the simplest form of a planned gift and it affords everyone the opportunity to help others and have a living legacy. Consider naming Special K Ranch in your will for a percentage, a specific amount, or as the sole benefactor. Special K Ranch could also be named as beneficiary of a life insurance policy, your tax-deferred IRA or other retirement plan. The blessings you have received will continue to bless and help others. (Check with your attorney for the proper legal forms and wording.)

“GUIDING HESITANT HANDS TO A FULFILLING FUTURE” CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

At the Special K Ranch dinner last year it was announced that we were in the second year of a four-year capital campaign. The goals set forth for the campaign were 1) Funding for an office/multipurpose building; 2) Storage building; 3) pay off the property mortgage; 4) endowment; 5) funding to upgrade vehicles and building repairs; and 6) seed money for a second ranch.

We are happy to report that only \$602,000 remains of the \$1.5 million goal. The campaign committee is working to erase the \$74,000 left on the mortgage, raise the \$100,000 for the capital improvement projects, \$100,000 startup funding for a second ranch, and the remaining \$356,000 toward endowment.

Our thanks goes out to all those who have pledged and given so generously. This has been a major undertaking for our board and we are excited about what has been accomplished. With the help of the friends of Special K Ranch we are confident that we will reach our goal by the beginning of 2006.

Please contact Larry Goehner at the ranch, 322-5520 to learn more about this important campaign and how you can be involved.



Meet the home advisor family living at Hawkins House, Laszlo and DeAnn Szabo and their children, Teianna and Tyler.

STAFF REFLECTIONS

We started working at Special K in June of 2002 doing weekend relief. In July we covered houses while staff were taking vacations. At the end of the month we were hired as full time staff and we moved into a mobile home at the ranch in August. I worked in the office and Laszlo did mechanic work on ranch vehicles and equipment. We also continued doing relief a couple of weekends a month. Laszlo's job changed as he was working more and more with the residents as a vocational advisor. In September 2003 there was a vacancy for home advisors at Hawkins House. Since this is why we really wanted to work at Special K, we asked to fill the position. We live with Ben, Shane, Bill, and Phil. These are really great guys and we enjoy being one big family. I like to put on parties or help with them at the Wommack Center. And as you can see from the picture we like to help when needed doing other things around the ranch like shearing sheep and the riding program. We believe the Lord brought us here at this time in our life. Working with the guys in our home and the other residents is a real joy.



P.O. Box 479
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www.specialkranch.com

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Robbie with his Eagle Mount volunteer ski instructor. The residents had four ski trips to Red Lodge Mountain.

Tell your friends about our website at www.specialkranch.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q How many women are there in the program at Special K Ranch?

A The short answer is 8 women and 16 men; two homes for women and four homes for men. To elaborate, the intent was to have three homes for men and three homes for women. When the second home was ready for occupancy we had a long list of male applicants and only one woman. It wasn't until the third home was completed that three female applicants were accepted. A few months later the fourth resident moved in to fill the house. Today there are more women on the waiting list than men.



Keile bowling in Columbus. A big thanks to the Columbus Bowling Alley for donating Wednesday afternoon for five weeks of bowling.

CONSIDER A GIFT

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Feed Grain and Hay | Livestock |
| Corral Panels | Portable Generator |
| Dishwashers | Beds and Dressers |
| Washers and Dryers | Hand Tools |
| Vehicles to be used at ranch or sold | |

These are some items that SKR could use. If you have any of these you would be willing to donate, please give us a call! We can turn your surplus items into tools for ministry, or sell them and use the proceeds to help fund the programs at Special K Ranch. PLUS you can receive a valuable tax receipt for your donation.

Call 406-322-5520.