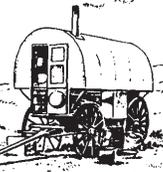




# HERDER



## MISSION STATEMENT

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

VOL. 20, NO. 3

*"Shepherding the Hesitant"*

MARCH 2007

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In the December "Herder" I announced that Special K Ranch had received a timely bequeath from Arlie and Millie Craig making possible the purchase of 51 acres next to the current property. The first project was to get rid of some beavers that had been building dams on the creek backing water up on our property causing problems. To take care of this a trapper was contacted; he not only got rid of the beavers, he brought his bobcat (a small but mighty loader) and

cleared the dams and repaired a bridge across the creek.

He then offered to clean up the property; gone are four broken down storage sheds full of junk, a barn built over two old wooden rail cars, thirteen junked cars, trailer loads of car and truck parts scattered around the property, and broken down and dead trees. Tommy Thompson was the Special K Ranch Christmas angel. We are now working with Engineering Inc. to lay out a master plan for developing the property, placement and testing for drain fields, and building sites.

In this newsletter you will see an announcement about our annual fund drive that culminates with the fund raising dinner on April 19th. I know that many of you who receive this mailing will not be able to attend the dinner due to conflicts and distance. Let me tell you a little bit about our dinner. Last year 540 people attended and nearly \$90,000 was raised from sponsors, auction proceeds, gifts and pledges, and mailed in gifts; all to support operating needs and a new lambing barn.

The evening starts with a silent auction; a free dinner; a short segment of entertainment; interviews of residents telling their story and the story of the ranch; the recognition of the "rancher of the year" (voted by their peers); a musical number by the residents; and, an opportunity for the guests to make an investment in this distinctive ministry.

This year the funds raised will again help to sustain the ongoing operational needs and some special projects; two passenger vans (one 12 or 15 passengers) \$20,000, an automated watering system for the tomato green houses \$5,500, and panels for birthing jugs in the lambing barn \$3,000.

If you are one reading this who will not be able to join us at our dinner, I encourage you to participate by using the enclosed

envelope to return an investment that helps Special K Ranch fulfill its vision of "Shepherding the Hesitant".

*You are cordially invited to attend*  
**The Special K Ranch**  
**21st Annual Fundraising Dinner**  
**Thursday, April 19, 2007 • 5:30 p.m.**  
**At the Billings Holiday Inn Trade Center**

- The fun begins with a silent auction and a live auction later in the evening.
- You will enjoy a delicious dinner along with a ice cream Sunday bar.
- Entertainment for the evening will be provided by the talented Patricia Ryan.
- Several residents will tell about the program activities along with information about current happenings and what is on the horizon.



*This bronze donated by the Montana District Kiwanis Foundation is just one of the many fine items available during the auction at our annual dinner.*

*There are a number of opportunities available allowing you to be named as a supporter of Special K Ranch and a sponsor of the dinner.*

Sponsors are recognized at four levels:

- Directors Club \$2,500 and above
- Barons \$1,000-\$2,499
- Partners \$500-\$1,000
- Herders \$250-\$499



Other Opportunities:

There is no cost to attend the dinner. We invite you to attend the dinner and also consider inviting your friends and family as a Table Host there is also no cost to become a table host, just invite enough people to fill a table 8-10 people per table.

**If you would like to help Sponsor, Host a table, donate an auction item or attend the Dinner, please call 322-5520 or e-mail us at [skr@hughes.net](mailto:skr@hughes.net).**

*If you cannot attend the dinner but still want to support the goals of Special K Ranch, you can send a gift to help pay for the various needed projects at Special K.*

Please contact Joe Burst, Development Director 671-9635 or [burstj@bresnan.net](mailto:burstj@bresnan.net) for more information on various ways that anyone can support the mission and dreams of Special K Ranch.



## JOE BURST, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

This morning I was running a little late going to the office and caught an episode of the Today show where they featured a young man from Connecticut with autism.

Last year Jason, who was manager of his High School basketball team, was given the opportunity to play in the last game of the season. Jason came off the bench and scored 20 points in only 4 minutes, an amazing feat for anyone much less someone with disabilities. The story spoke of what his life has been like 1 year later. It spoke of the support that he received from friends, family and teachers and now they are even talking of doing a movie on his life. It was the type of story that makes you reflect, brings a tear to the eye and just makes you feel plain good. It also made me think about the 24 inspirations that I work with that are (our Jason's here in Montana).

Also in the news recently there have been many Billings Gazette articles about programs for the developmentally disabled that may be in jeopardy due to their reliance on State Funding. Our founding fathers stressed from the beginning that our mission should be to become successful without accepting government funding. This has caused us to work more conservatively but also helps us ensure that our program is always there with the support of our many friends that truly believe in our mission. Our income from our livestock, greenhouse, along with our dinner assist us in accomplishing our goals as well as help provide a meaningful life experience to all that live and work at the ranch. The annual dinner also allows our residents the opportunity to tell their story in a fun way and show specifically why I think that they are (our Jason's of Montana).

Yes we do things a little different at Special K Ranch such as having a dinner with fun and entertainment with no price tag to attend. Risky, maybe but our experience has shown that if people come and experience a little part of the ranch, especially our residents, the public will give according to their ability. It has worked for 21 years

and like the saying goes, if it's not broke then why fix it. To put a price on our dinner of say \$50-100dollars per person may deter those that want to support the ranch but cannot give financially at this time. We know that a person may not be able to financially support us today, but somewhere, somehow they will be touched in a way that eventually the ranch will benefit by them. The support the ranch receives comes in many ways, some contribute financially, and some volunteer their time, while others help us get the word out to their friends and neighbors because they have experienced that little thing that touches the heart through our (Jason's of Montana). The occasional donation of a cow or other livestock, tickets to an event, helping us get a piece of equipment, sending a card or letter of encouragement, keeping us in your prayers, buying our produce at the Farmer's Market or just stopping by to say hello. These random acts of kindness are just some of the ways the Ranch has been able to achieve success over the last 21 years.

The position I hold as development director of course means raising funds to support the ranch, but more so it is my responsibility to play the role of friendship maker. With caring staff and 24 great Jason's the task of friendship maker is fairly easy. The hardest thing when you consider the ranch location 30 miles from Billings is giving the opportunity for interaction and first hand experience of what we are all about and most importantly giving our residents the opportunity to personally say thank you for all you do for us. Our annual dinner is one way to bring us to you and your friends and exemplify what the residents meant when they decided that this year's theme should be Friends, Family, Faith and Fun. Please invite your friends and join us at the Holiday Inn on April 19 for a fun filled evening. Like Taylor Brown says "who knows, it might be the start of something special".

Yours truly,

Joe Burst  
Development Director

## SPECIAL THANKS

We'd like to give a special thank you to Randy Nafts of Grand Lumber Company for donating construction material to Special K for a bedroom addition. The Ranch needed to move our semi-independent living guys into our double wide and we needed to add another bedroom. Randy graciously donated the materials to make this happen.

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.)



## I'M FALLING SHORT

Every year the Yellowstone Association of Retarded Citizens (YARC) puts on several dances of which Special K Ranch is privileged to attend. The residents look so forward to going to these dances, and even I have been known to get on the floor and bust some moves. This last dance was the Valentine's Day dance and my wife, Carla, and our 10-year-old son, Jonah, joined us. (Of course he brought his football along with him). I really appreciate it when Jonah experiences any event that the residents are a part of. He learns so much about what is truly important in life from them. It seems that for the most part God has gifted them with the ability to live in the moment and not get caught up in all the trappings of the world, something I am trying to learn myself.

The dance was moving right along. There were people in wheelchairs, people in seizure helmets, blind people, people who had a hard time controlling their motor skills (I think) and people who were just out on the floor taking it all in. It really was a celebration of life, and I was thanking God to be a part of it.

There is always a break with snacks during the event. We were just finishing the break when a staff member came up to me and said that he thought one of our residents had an industrial accident in his pants. We have had this problem with this particular resident in the past, and I went over and asked him if he had gone in his pants. He looked up at me and said I'm not supposed to do that. I said that's right and if he did he better go clean himself up. He got up and headed for the bathroom. I waited for a minute before checking on him. As I opened the stall, there he was with his head down feverishly wiping himself with toilet paper. I could see that there wasn't anything on it. I placed my hand under his chin and slowly lifted his head to look at me. I told him if there had been anything there it looked like he had gotten it all. The look on his face melted and broke me at that very instant. You see, he is missing one eye and can hardly see out of the other. After gathering my composure I helped him get dressed and walked him back to the dance.

I sat back down at my table and began taking it all in, the people dancing and having a great time, Jonah in the background playing catch with two other kids, and my beautiful wife just loving up on people. My vision became a blur as tears filled my eyes. It was that stupid verse again, The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40. It truly showed me how hard and long the road still is. Why do I still find times when Grace is not factored into the solution? Why does GOD continue to shower me with the Grace of his Son's blood? I do know! It's because I am human and he is GOD.

"THANK YOU LORD"

Mike T. Oberg  
Program Director

P.S. Have I told you how blessed I am because of my job?

## TOP TEN REASONS TO MARK APRIL 19TH IN YOUR CALENDAR AND ATTEND OUR DINNER

10. You need a refreshing break from dealing with Uncle Sam
9. You want to learn more about the Ranch and what's going on
8. You heard that they have great entertainment and a great meal and it cost nothing
7. You heard they really have some nice items that you may want to bid on
6. You want to invite your friends so they can experience what makes the ranch special
5. You want to help the Ranch reach its goal for the year
4. You want to meet the wonderful staff that work at the Ranch
3. You want to hear about the Ranch from the Ranchers and not from the people that write this newsletter
2. You want to find out who gets Rancher of the Year and Most Improved Rancher

### And the Number One Reason

1. It would make your day if you were around 24 special people with open arms and bright smiles that really appreciate that you are there.

## SKR FOUNDATION CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

### A gift annuity can provide you:

- A lifetime income for one or two people,
- A significant tax deduction  
(if a Montana resident a tax credit)
- Attractive, fixed interest rates for your lifetime,
- A worthy investment, helping to improve the lives of people with disabilities

**Call our office at (406) 322-5520  
and ask for Larry Goehner for details.**

Contact Joe Burst at 671-9635 or [burstj@bresnan.net](mailto:burstj@bresnan.net) if your club, church or organization would like a presentation on Special K Ranch and/or have a tour of the Ranch.

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### Julie Lovell

News Anchor  
KTVQ-TV

### Douglas Miller

Retired

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### Jim Helgeson

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### Douglas Miller

Retired

Whitewood Transportation

In our December issue I told you about the residents forming their own community service club known as the Special K Ranch Aktion Club. Since the last issue the following members were elected as the 2007 club officers: Dallas Eide- President, Shane Rodgers-Vice President, and Janna Radach-Secretary Treasurer. They have started planning their years and look forward to doing many projects to help the community.



Vice President Shane Rodgers



President Dallas Eide



Sec/Treasurer Janna Radach

## EMPLOYER MATCHING FUNDS

"I believe in the work that Special K Ranch does but graduating from school recently, and beginning my career, it's hard to give to the ranch at a level that I would like to give at this time. Fortunately my employer has a matching program. I decided that I can give \$9.00 per paycheck without causing a strain to my budget and with my employer matching it by the end of the year the ranch will receive \$486.00 in my name. I am grateful to my employer for allowing me this opportunity to contribute in this way. I encourage anyone that would like to give to the ranch to check and see if their employer has such a program in place. Together we can all make a difference in the lives of those with disabilities".

Scott Burst

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

Special K Ranch would like to welcome and look forward to working with the following new board members:

Penny Doak-US Bank, Brent Johnson-One Eighty Communications and Christine Simonsen-Orms -Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

We would also like to thank outgoing Board Members, Clint Doak, Bob Petersen and Melissa Badley for their years of service and continued support of Special K Ranch.

# Planting

Planting is in full swing and things are really taking shape. Soon the greenhouse will be as colorful as one could imagine. A hard day's work is put in by all and many more will follow before we are ready to sell our plants and tomatoes. A big thank you to our staff and residents for their efforts and joyous attitude.

# Planting



Ziggy Ziegler of the St. Thomas The Apostle Church Knights of Columbus presents Joe Burst with a check in the amount of \$336.00 for Special K. The club raised this money from their Tootsie Roll campaign. Next time you see one of the Knights in front of a store giving out Tootsie Rolls please give them your spare change knowing that their efforts support many worthy causes in our community.



Vice President Paul Huff of the Kiwanis Club of Lewistown presents Joe Burst with a check to Special K Ranch in the amount of \$2500.00. The club held their annual road show performance in which a portion of the proceeds were given to us. Thank You Lewistown Kiwanis for having such a fun event and your continuous support of Special K.

# MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS November 1, 2006 - January 31, 2007

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.

## HONORARIUMS:

KEITH & DEBBIE BAKESLEY  
Donna Beutler  
SUSAN BARRETT  
Gordon & Florice Barrett  
BRET BEAVENS  
Melanie L. McCammon  
LAURIE BOGRET  
Mr. Harry Cosner  
JUDY CUFF  
Mary Ruetten  
CAROL DALE  
Christine Dale  
TIM & DENISE DAVEY  
Eileen Davey  
DALLAS EIDE  
Marshal & Gwen Haferkamp  
LEE GAGNON  
Mrs. Irene Belusko  
Bill & Brenda Harmon  
Tim & Charleen McInnis  
Gordon Nelsen  
Kevin & Susan H Nickol  
LARRY & JOY GOEHNER  
Allen & Molly Sasser-Goehner  
HANK GREMMER  
J.J. & Bernadine Harris  
HANK/HRN GREMMER  
LJ & Vern Halvorson  
DEBORAH HADLOCK  
Warren & Evelyn Norton  
DR & MRS. THOMAS HAWKINS  
Eileen Davey  
MARY HAWKINS  
Amanda Cuff  
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Beth & Thomas Keating  
GARY & LINDA JONES  
Steve & Roxie Simpson  
ALEX KLEE  
Jack & Vivian H Klee  
BART KLERSEY  
Donn & Joyce Lorash  
DOUG & JANE LARSON  
Donna Beutler  
FAMILY & FRIENDS  
OF LEAVERTONS  
Susan Leaverton  
BROCK MJOLSNESS  
Beryl & Sylvia Mjolsness  
PAUL & VICKI NUNBERG  
Donna Beutler  
THE PHYSICIANS  
Montana Orthopedics & Sports  
Medicine  
DOROTHY PIKER  
Ordell & Shirley Enstad  
MASON PONTE  
Diane Alexander  
TIM POTTS  
Ron & Clarice Rubek  
Gale & Jean Steinhoff  
TED & SANDY RENSOLD  
Donn & Joyce Lorash  
VERNA RENSOLD  
Donn & Joyce Lorash

GROVER RICKMAN  
Dennis & Cathy Hoyem  
JOE RIESINGER  
Margery H Gaab  
BILL & MAYBELLE RITTAL  
Donna Beutler  
JIMMIE & MAE RITTAL  
Donna Beutler  
DARYL & KIM TRANGMOE  
Donna Beutler  
KENNY, SUE & FAMILY WHITE  
Jay & Lisa Forseth  
WILLIAM & NANCY WRIGHT  
Kevin & Leslie Zeigler  
DAN & DARLA ZIER  
Donna Beutler  
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Bob & Beverly Harper  
GENE ANDERSEN  
Eleanor Andersen  
KENT ANDERSEN  
Eleanor Andersen  
KATEY ARTHUR  
Mr & Mrs Loren & Nancy Sasser  
EBERHARD, & EILEEN BACKMANN  
Dan & Judy St Don  
JOHN G. BARROW  
Keith & Christine Maristuen  
EVELYN BERNHART  
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Gary & Audrey Hines  
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Lloyd Booth  
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Mr & Mrs Loren & Nancy Sasser  
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Jan Denny  
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Dorothe Fisher  
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J. Carl & Kathryn Jensen  
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Bob & Susan Keene  
Jim & Glenda Nordahl  
Dorothy Perrin  
Jim & Lin Roscoe  
Leonard & Marlene Saunders  
Darin & Sherry Steiner  
Hans & Marcie Treumann  
VIVIAN BROOKS  
Debbie Brooks  
STEVE BUTOROVICH  
Janet R. Butorovich  
LINDA ZINNE CASS  
Ernest N. & Joyce Zinne  
ORVILLE BILL CHIGBROW  
JC & Janet Horton  
JUDY CODENYS  
Ernest N. & Joyce Zinne  
CLYDE & HELEN CROMWELL  
Christine Kuntz

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Steve & Deborah Smith  
LOUISE MARIE CURTIS  
Bobby & Betty Porter  
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Bobbie Ostrum  
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Robert & Judy Richman  
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Audrey Thompson  
DEAN DICKEY  
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ELMER DOLECHEK  
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MARGARET EMSWILER  
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Leonard & Marlene Saunders  
LILLIAN ERICHSEN  
Jim & Kathy O'Shea  
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Steen & Trina Hudson  
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KLEORA GOEHNER  
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Beth & Thomas Keating  
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Hewes & Susan Agnew  
GAIL R HAWKINS  
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CAROL HENRY  
Dick Henry  
Elsie Neibauer  
Gloria Swanson  
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Don & Lee Eide  
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JOE HOEKSEMA  
Peter & Carol Brejcha  
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PHIL HOLTEN  
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Vivian Hodges  
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## MEMORIALS ...Continued

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RICHARD KINNEY JR

Melanie L McCammon

HENRY KINZEL

Gary & Connie Becker

LEONARD KLASSEN

Mrs. Nan Klassen

FRANK & LOUISE KLINGLE

Ruth Klinge

RAYMOND KOLSTAD

Don Kolstad

DORENE LINDSTROM

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Donna Beutler

Kathy McJunkin

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Audrey Thompson

MALCOLM MCRAE

Audrey Thompson

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Margery H Gaab

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Marlene & Robert Lowman

Bonnie Owen

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Helen Gibbs

KATHERINE ORDAHL

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JACKSON PARKER

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E.C. & Iline Rehling

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Warren & Betsy R Wilcox

HAROLD RUSTY RUST

Erick & Rita Erickson

LUCILLE SCHAAF

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Marlene Amen

Staley's Tire & Automotive, Inc.

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ALEX TITTLE

Leland & Valeria Fischer

ROBERT KELLY TOOMBS

Hans & Marcie Treumann

CHARLIE TOWNSEND

Mr & Mrs Loren & Nancy Sasser

BERT VANDERSLOOT

William & Fay Haynie

HOWARD VANOVER

Mary Vanover

SHERRY WADDELL

Lawrence & Carol Barber

Robert & Joyce Brathole

Robert & Bette Brester

Evelyn S. Bygren

Hugo & Jean Christiansen, Jr

Joyce E Johnson

Cathie Kautz

Vera Lawson

Dennis & Laurie Lonsbery

VIRGIL & PAULINE WALTER

Ms. Jennine Budge

Paul & Cathy Donohoe

Gary & Linda Frank

Bob & Judy Monaco

JOANN WILLIS

James & Mavis Hanson

Henry & Donna Jepsen

Loren & Kimberly Willis

PEN & ESTHER WRIGHT

Mary Sharp

BOB YORK

Earl & Donna Hensley

### WANT TO GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SPECIAL K RANCH?

Then visit our website at [www.specialkranch.com](http://www.specialkranch.com)  
We are currently in the process of adding new features and  
sections to our site so that you can get the latest happenings at Special K on the web.

### NEW SEARCH ENGINE

There is a new search engine available that allows you to contribute to your favorite charity as you search the internet. It is called [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com) and is powered by Yahoo. Each time you search an item using goodsearch, they will contribute 1cent to Special K Ranch. There is even a tool bar available to make it easy. Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and where it asks you to choose a charity, type in Special K Ranch.

Thanks to a grant from the Muryle and Lu Myhre Foundation our office is now on the internet via Satellite Service. This allows our office to network and frees up our phone line. As a result of this change, we have had to change some e-mail addresses.

Please contact Larry at [skrlarry@hughes.net](mailto:skrlarry@hughes.net) mike can be contacted at [skrmike@hughes.net](mailto:skrmike@hughes.net) Joe can be contacted at [burstj@bresnan.net](mailto:burstj@bresnan.net) and general e-mail should go to [specialkranch@hughes.net](mailto:specialkranch@hughes.net) If you would prefer receiving our newsletter via e-mail please send Joe your name and e-mail address and we would be happy to do so.



P.O. Box 479  
Columbus, MT 59019  
406-322-5520

www.specialkranch.com  
E-mail: specialkranch@hughes.net



Keile Guthridge and Cindi Gordon  
filling pots at the greenhouse

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Tell your friends about our website at [www.specialkranch.com](http://www.specialkranch.com)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Question-** Are there opportunities for me to volunteer out at the ranch. What kind of help do you need?

**Answer-** Yes-Yes-Yes. The opportunities are endless. We can always use help with planting in our greenhouse as well as helping our residents sell our produce at the Spring and Farmer's market. If you are mechanically inclined we can use help with equipment repair, painting, construction and general cleanup of our new property. If you belong to an organization that you feel would be interested in a program about Special K you can be the liaison that allows this opportunity. Maybe you have a fun hobby that you think would be of interest to our residents and you would like to teach them. We would also welcome any groups that would like to become familiar with our daily activities and would be willing to come in and help during special times when we are away for things such as the Special Olympics. These chores would consist of things like tending to livestock and watering plants in the greenhouses.

## CONSIDER A GIFT

New or good used passenger  
van

Feed Grain and Hay

Gated irrigation pipe

Livestock, calves and sheep

Hand Tools

Tractor 60 horse or larger

Various building materials

Volunteer help putting on a Special K Golf  
Tournament this spring and summer  
(Billings area and Western part of state)

DESIGNATE A CASH GIFT:

Automatic watering system  
for tomato greenhouses \$5500

Electronic scales

for weighing produce \$300

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  
at 406-322-5520.