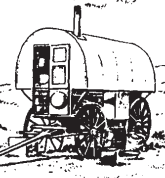




HERDER



MISSION STATEMENT

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

VOL. 21, NO. 1 *"Shepherding the Hesitant"* JULY 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



From the beginning of Special K Ranch we have been privileged to have leadership that put faith into action. That action has been an investment of prayer, time, responsible governance and financial support. The leadership, staff, and residents have been sustained by God's faithfulness through challenging times and times of great reward.

One part of our board's strategic plan for this past year was to review our Mission statement and formulate statements of "Vision" and "Core Values". At the March board meeting these statements of commitment were adopted:

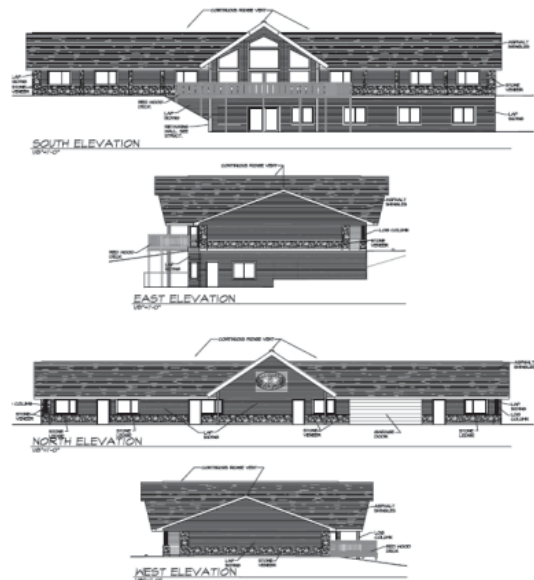
The commitment to our Mission and Vision has directed the board to address the needs of our older residents and people who are on a waiting list to live at SKR. Work was started last summer with Engineering Inc. and Schutz/Foss Architects to layout and design additional living facilities on the newly purchased property adjoining the ranch.

The house that has been designed will serve eight of our older residents. This will open up space in two of our existing homes to welcome eight residents from the waiting list. The living space is all on the ground floor and handicapped accessible. With the growing number of staff and residents there will also be need for a larger area for group gatherings; this will be in the day light basement that will hold up to 180 people.

Special K Ranch makes a lifelong care commitment to its residents; with the addition of this new home design we will be able to honor that commitment. We will keep you up to date on our progress as we move into the fundraising phase of this project.

We are very grateful for our leadership and our many supportive friends and donors.

<p>MISSION</p> <p>Special K Ranch provides family oriented Christian homes, on a working ranch for adults who have developmental disabilities</p>
<p>VISION</p> <p>To nurture the human and spiritual potential of people who have learning disabilities through respectful relationships, living and working in an interdependent community, raising their self-esteem and making them valued citizens</p>
<p>CORE VALUES</p> <p>Christian Community, Interdependence, Compassion, Dignity, and Acceptance</p>



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DO YOU SEE HIM?

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

John 11:40

One the great benefits of working at Special K Ranch is that I get to see Christ at work. It's not hard to see Him if you are looking in the right place. Often we look for visions from heaven or earthshaking events to see God's power. When in reality if we are truly looking for Him we will see Him. But once we have seen Him, we know we can never be the same. It became very evident that if I could only see what God had done in my life, the God I had come to know was not big enough. I realized that being saved and seeing Jesus was not the same thing. I began to see the grace and compassion in others that God had afforded me.

Jesus can be seen everywhere at Special K Ranch. I see him in the home advisors as they poor their lives into their residents while they make their house a home. In our vocational advisors as they demonstrate the patience and compassion toward our residents while exposing their hidden talents to perform the task at hand. He is very evident as I watch the faces on our residents as they are bottle feeding a bum lamb or when I look out the window at Greg meandering through a flock of sheep in the pasture.

But the most obvious place to find Jesus at Special K Ranch is Wednesday morning at devotions. There is something about when our residents pray that seems to get Gods undivided attention. **And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.** Mark 10:16. You see, there is something about the statement, "faith like a child" when these guys pray. Take my friend Brian, he was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor in 2004 and was told he had approximately 5 weeks to live. The residents began to pray for Brian and every time he came out to the ranch they would lay hands on him and pray. It is now 2008 and Brian is off all medication and the tumor is no longer growing. Brian is still coming out to the ranch for his dosage of good humor and prayer. Another good friend of mine Kenny has been working at Special K Ranch for several years now and has become a mainstay in the resident's lives. A few months ago he was told he had stage 3 or 4 esophageal cancer and the outcome did not look promising. Kenny put himself under the prayer care of our residents. He would come to devotions or go out to the greenhouse and have the residents lay hands on him and pray before every doctor appointment. At the end of his cancer treatments and surgery Kenny was given notice that he is cancer free. These are only a couple of what I call the miracles of our prayer warriors at Special K Ranch. One thing I have learned while being a part of the ministry here at Special K is that it is in the everyday things of life that we realize the magnificent holy being of Jesus Christ.

O could I tell, you surely would believe it! O could I only say what I have seen! How should I tell or how can you receive it, How, till He bringeth you where I have been?

Have I told you how much I love my job?

The Ranch once again is listed as an **eligible participant in the State Employees' Charitable Giving Campaign**. If you are a Montana State Employee you can designate your State Employees' Charitable Giving Campaign gift to Special K Ranch.

Contact Joe Burst at 671-9635 or skrjoe@hughes.net if your club, church or organization would like a presentation on Special K Ranch and/or have a tour of the Ranch.

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.**



JOE BURST, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Four Dollar Gas, four dollar milk, food in general going up in price or the price stays the same but the quantity gets smaller. It's enough to make you want to pull your hair out.

Well at least I traded in my SUV before things got too bad (after all I don't have that much hair to mess with). Even the most frugal of people are having harder times budgeting and making it from paycheck to paycheck. Here at Special K Ranch we face the same things the average family faces except that we have a much larger family. We also face the same challenges that a business faces in increased operating costs. On the family side we try and eliminate unnecessary trips into town, catch things on sale and limit our social activities to make ends meet. On the business end we need to plan out our trips and analyze fuel costs and basically have our ducks in a row before starting a project to make sure that we can handle it financially.

Why am I mentioning the obvious? I guess I mention it because although I feel your pain, my role at Special K Ranch is that of fundraiser and it is up to me to tell our story and hopefully make the connection that shows just how special the residents of Special K are and how important our program is. For over 22 years you have heard the Special K story and with the story have come request to help where you can and it is because of you, we are successful in our mission. For me, contributing to Special K is a no brainer because I truly believe in our

mission but, as an individual facing frustrating financial times, I fully understand that not everyone will be able to contribute this year or maybe not to the extent of years past. For me, I will contribute to various causes that I believe in but I will also be making some major adjustments in my lifestyle, (who knows I may finally lose this gut of mine). In some cases, I probably will be volunteering more in place of giving financially to a cause until our economy begins to improve again.

This year we will be embarking on a major campaign to raise funds for our new home and yes we will be asking for your help financially, which you may or may not be able to give. It is also a time that I would like for you to consider volunteering your time to help us achieve our goal. If you could help us on our campaign making a few calls, assist with mailings, joining our fundraising committee to offer ideas or help set up functions, we would be most grateful. This next venture is going to be the largest endeavor that we have ever taken, but providing a home for our residents as they look towards retirement is as important to our mission as anything that we have done in the past and it is something we must pursue now. We thank you for being there for us throughout the years and thank you for helping us in the near future. If you can give us some of your time and expertise please give me a call at 671-9635 or skrjoe@hughes.net .

Yours in Service,

Joe Burst
Development Director

RANCHER OF THE YEAR AND MOST IMPROVED

As always the residents of Special K were anxiously waiting to hear who was going to receive Rancher of the Year and Most Improved honors at this year's annual dinner. As Mike started telling about this year's recipients, heads began nodding as it became obvious who was chosen. All of our residents work very hard and make the choice a very difficult one. This year's Rancher of the year is Jeremy Litton and Most Improved went to Rodney Cochran. For their efforts Jeremy received a custom designed sterling belt buckle crafted by Montana Silversmiths and Rodney received a nice plaque that they will proudly display for years to come. Congratulations on a successful year.



◀ *Jeremy Litton's smile says it all;*

the Special K Family can always count on Jeremy to be compassionate and uplifting. Let Jeremy know that you're into music, cars and motorcycles and you will have a friend for life. If music is playing you can be sure that Jeremy is rocking to it and he's one of the best Name That Tune Players you'll ever meet. Jeremy loves working in the greenhouse and working at the market visiting with old and new friends.

Although Rodney Cochran ▶

is one of our more soft spoken ranchers he is always quick to say hello and make you feel welcome. Rodney is especially proud of the fact that his peers chose him as this year's vice president of our Aktion Club. Rodney received the honor of Most Improved due to the constant support and encouragement he gives those around him. Rodney loves working in the greenhouse, attending the markets and playing video games.



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS November 1, 2007 - April 30, 2008

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

DONNA MAE BEUTLER
Hanz & Sylvia Haynie

SALLY, SHANTA, ANJU BISCH
Sally & Jim Bisch/Dickey
Sally & Jim Bisch/Dickey
LORENE BISCHOFF
Larry & Joy Goehner

LAURIE BOGRETT
Lawrence & Shirley G Benson
Mr. Harry Cosner

S. JOE BURST
Louise Regelin

CATHY CARLOVITCH
Larry & Joy Goehner

KAREN CLEMMONS
Larry & Joy Goehner

JOHN & DONNA CRUMLEY
Kerry & Doris Keyser

JUDY CUFF
Mary Ruetten

MARK & JOAN DAVEY
Eileen Davey

MARY DAVEY
Eileen Davey

TERESA DAVEY
Eileen Davey

TIM & DENISE DAVEY
Eileen Davey

JANE DEPUYDT
Jean Stone

DALLAS EIDE
Marshal & Gwen Haferkamp

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Margaret & Leslie Frank

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HANK GREMMER
Louis & Nyla Musser

DEBORAH HADLOCK
Audrey A Hanks

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ARLENE HAGEN
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R.N. & Catherine Southworth

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Ken & Peggy E Olson

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Marian E Cooke
Alma Litton

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Irene L Anderson

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Gaylord & Esther Potts

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Donna Beutler

JIMMIE & MAE RITTAL
Donna Beutler

ALLEN & MOLLY
SASSER-GOEHNER
Larry & Joy Goehner

MOLLY SASSER-GOEHNER
Larry & Joy Goehner

BOB SOLIE
Lawrence & Elfie Small

BILL SPICHER
Jean Stone

GENE STUMVOLL
Jim Tarr

CREATH TOOLEY
Scott & Patrice Harcharik

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Donna Beutler

WALKER FAMILY
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VIRGINIA WENTWORTH
Larry & Joy Goehner

DAN & DARLA ZIER
Donna Beutler

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Mrs Alice Ryniker

GENE ANDERSEN
Eleanor Andersen

KENT ANDERSEN
Eleanor Andersen

KEITH ASBELL
Donna B Asbell

ED BACKMANN
Dan & Judy St Don

ED & EILEEN BACKMANN
Dan & Judy St Don

EILEEN BACKMANN
Dan & Judy St Don

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Daniel

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Gladys Kober
Wanda Wilcox

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Margaret & Leslie Frank

Gary & Peggy Hedges
Rapelje Grain Co.

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.)

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...Continued

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

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...Continued

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GERALD MENDENHALL	Hermine Kartevold	MARK SPRINGER	Gretchen Wagner
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LEWIS MILLER	Don & Lee Eide	KAY STAHLECKER	Hank & Marj Gratwohl
Hester Miller	NEVA MAYO RICHARDS	Mr Winston Stahlecker	BURL WILLARDSON
MOLLIE MILLER	Warren & Esther Heyer	HENRY STALEY	James & Carol Swanson
Gary & Judy Grams	HAROLD & HELEN RIDENOUR	Dick Henry	DONNA WILLIAMS
NORM MILLS	Jim & Phyllis Hoskin	PAULINE STALEY	Robert & Joyce Brathole
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Homer Scott Jr	JC & Janet Horton		Mark & Karla Lowman
CORRINE NANSON			Marlene & Robert Lowman

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Once again our annual dinner held April 24 was a huge success. Thanks to you Special K Ranch raised approximately \$105,000 and had 575 people in attendance. A great time was had by all. Listed below are the Dinner Sponsors, Auction Donors and Table Hosts that helped us ensure a successful and fun night.

THE DINNER COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS

Jyl Story- Dinner Committee Chair, Vera Reineking, Jean Steel, Christine Simonsen-Orms, Penny Doak, Cindy Lyle, Mary Burst, Lynn Ketchum, Terri Hanson, Tammy Schmidt, Carla Oberg, Amber Pacheco, Master of Ceremonies-Tommy B, Auctioneer-Rick Young, Pro Audio & Lighting, Entertainment by the Quint Essentials, The staff at Econo Print, The staff at the Holiday Inn, members of the Billings Village Golden K Kiwanis, and the Youth Volunteers from Faith Evangelical Church

A special Thank You to the Sponsors that have made this dinner possible

Directors Club \$2,500 +

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DON HAVIG • LEWISTOWN KIWANIS CLUB
TERRY & TINA MOORE • ST.MARY LAND & EXPLORATION

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David Dietrich • Engineering Inc. • Farmers Insurance-Kimberly Cummins • Fisher Construction • Larry & Joy Goehner
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McBride & McBride Optometrists PC • Merrill Lynch- Craig Anderson • Merrill Lynch- John Hedges • Montana Silversmiths
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Heads and Tails Prize

Montague Jewelers

Silent Auction Donors continued on next page...

Silent Auction Donors

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Rick Stiles • Ann Sweeney • Tommy & Marlys Thompson • Travel Cafe (Billie Ruff) • Valet Today Cleaners
Valley Federal Credit Union • Village Garden (Adam Grigsby) • Whitewood Transport (Mike Wilson & John Hanson)
Wind Mill Restaurant • Wingate Inn, Tina Zimdars

And Many Others that Prefer to Remain Anonymous

Sponsorship of our dinner helped ensure a successful event and allows us to hold the event at no charge to the public. Every effort is made to be accurate and have all sponsors included at time of publication. If we have missed or misspelled someone, please accept our sincere apologies and let Joe Burst know so that we can correct it.

Join us at our Annual Open House



Saturday September 13th
11:00 to 4:00 pm

Burgers and Dogs

Potato Salad

Various desserts

Musical Entertainment by the

Sure Enough String Band

Live & Silent Auction

Door Prizes

Shrine Clowns

Tours

Carriage Rides

& much more

Special K Ranch is located on 178 acres, 10 miles west of Park City and 8 miles east of Columbus, Montana. The Property is bordered on the north by Interstate 90 and on the south by the Yellowstone River. It is accessible by taking the frontage road from either Park City or Columbus

AKTION CLUB GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



The residents of Special K having a desire to give back to the community formed a community service club known as Aktion Club. This club is a Kiwanis Club or adults with disabilities. There are currently 7 Aktion Clubs in Montana and there are nearly 4000 members nationwide. On April 19 our Aktion Club participated in a 5K Walk at West High School. Our members raised over \$700 in pledges. The money raised went to 3 different projects. 1/3 of the funds went to the Kiwanis International Children's Fund. 1/3 went to the Kiwanis Kids in Crisis Back Pack Program which supplies kids backpacks and necessities to kids placed in foster care and 1/3 went to the Montana Chapter of the American Federation for Suicide Prevention.

We are very proud of the efforts of our Aktion Club.



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

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

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Mike Gregg and Keile Guthridge working with some of our horses under the watchful eye of Grandpa Bob

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

RANCH RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE CHARLES M. BAIR FAMILY TRUST

Special K Ranch recently received a \$25,000 grant from the Charles M. Bair Family Trust. The grant will be used toward the construction of the new home for our residents preparing for retirement. This home will provide a single level home or 8 residents which will eventually allow 8 more ranchers to work and live at Special K Ranch. This grant helps us in design and engineering costs associated with the new home. Thank You to the members of the Charles M. Bair Family Trust.

Ranch receives grant from the Muryl and Lu Myhre Foundation

The Muryl and Lu Myhre Foundation recently gave Special K Ranch a grant for \$4,000 to replace carpet and tile in two of its resident's homes. The residents love their new floors. Thank You for your continued support of special K.

CONSIDER A GIFT

- Window air Conditioners
- 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
- Designate a Cash Gift
- 4 wheel ATV

These are some items SKR could use.

If you have any of these items that you would be willing to donate, please give us a call at 406-322-5520