



# HERDER



VOL. 23, NO. 5 "Shepherding the Hesitant" JULY 2011

## MISSION STATEMENT

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



Hestin 60 hrsp. orchard tractor donation from Keith Goehner in Dryden, Washington. A great tractor for mowing weeds, rotor tilling the garden and using around the greenhouses, moving and loading material on pallets.

We are still looking for a front end loader and forks.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### 25th ANNIVERSARY DINNER BIG SUCCESS

On the evening of April 19th over 800 guests attended the annual fundraising dinner to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Special K Ranch.

A few days before the dinner a friend of SKR contacted one of our board members and offered a \$100,000 gift to the endowment fund if a match could be raised at the dinner.

To the amazement of everyone by the end of the evening \$100,000 had been pledged by those attending to match the gift. In addition to matching the endowment gift \$18,000 was raised for furnishings in the new resident home and \$80,000 for operational needs.

As you can see in the pictures, the ranchers were all decked out for a Hollywood evening. They each had a little autograph book and were greeting the guests as they arrived, introducing themselves and collecting autographs.

Twenty five years ago in that same room a group of people came to hear about a dream. A dream that if fulfilled would offer residential and vocational opportunities for adults who have developmental disabilities to have a full and meaningful life. In that crowd there were those who thought this dream would never become reality, but thank God for others who said yes, this is possible! Motivated by their Christian faith and a desire to serve others they stepped out and committed their resources, time, and effort. Along the way they were joined by some of those nay Sayers and a host of others who have been a part of building Special K Ranch.

I recently watched a program on Public Television presenting the stories and challenges of several families raising a special needs adult child. It could have been 1974; the stories and the concerns are the same as those I heard when I was first drawn to this work i.e. long waiting list for residential services, few work opportunities, and family

concerns about when they will no longer be able to provide care for reasons of health or death.

October 1st we will be dedicating a new handicap accessible home that will allow our elder residents to live at Special K Ranch longer. This will open eight vacancies in existing homes for people on the waiting list. This project has taken awhile but it is a beautiful and well built home; certainly worth the wait.

With the growing need for programming and services like what is offered at Special K Ranch the next project may already be on the horizon.

Executive Director





## HANGING WITH HIM

Walt Disney said, "You can dream, create, design, and build the most wonderful place in the world, but it takes people to make the dream a reality."

One weekend a month I get to relieve one of our houseparent's and spend the weekend with their residents. I enjoy this because it gives me many insights into what we ask our houseparent's to do 24/7. It is not easy being a houseparent at Special K Ranch. They all have many different jobs and responsibilities during the day before going home and becoming houseparent's in the evening. We have been blessed with several staff that have figured out that a life in ministry is not a life of one glorious mountaintop experience after another, but is a life of day-in and day-out consistency; a life of faith in walking with God in their life. The ministry here at Special K Ranch is as unique as the people we serve. The reality is that most of the staff here live with and work with the very people they serve. For the most part there is very little down time for staff to reenergize themselves. It is very important for us in this ministry to keep our eyes on Him.

Often the things that are the most frustrating and challenging about working here are also the same things that are the most rewarding. Especially when you are dealing with people with disabilities and I am not just talking about our residents. We all, yes even you have disabilities; some are just a little more pronounced than others. I think the new buzz word for this is called "challenged". There are mentally challenged people, physically challenged people or like myself, hair follicle challenged. This means I am bald for those of you who do not know me, and who says God doesn't have a humorous side too him. Take a look around at your fellow man or woman; better yet take a look in the mirror. Pretty funny huh! All I am trying to say is that none of us are perfect, no not one. As far as I know there is still only one that can claim that distinction. You got it "Jesus".

On this past particular weekend I was busy getting everyone ready for bed after a long day and had one more resident to attend to. After slipping on my rubber gloves I started applying the anti-fungal cream to his feet. As I was sliding my fingers in between his toes I happened

to look up at him. The smile and the look of gratitude reminded me of when Jesus took a towel and began to wash his disciple's feet. Now don't get me wrong, I am no Jesus by any means. It struck me how often I miss these precious moments in life because I am too busy or only looking for the big glorious things to honor Him with. I am sure God interweaves these angles and these meaningless tasks into my life to remind me of His teachings and all that he does for me on a daily basis. It then becomes my opportunity to either see these as a blessing or a hindrance in my spiritual walk.

**Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me. Acts 27:23**

Pressing on

Oh yeah!  
Have I told you  
how much I Love  
this place?



**August  
18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>**

*You are Invited to join  
Montanan Silversmith's  
"Champions for a Cause"  
A benefit for Special K Ranch*

A special event to raise funds for a new building at Special K Ranch, targeting light manufacturing with Montana Silversmiths. The 3 day event includes: Clay Shooting Tournament, Golf Tournament, Youth Rodeo, and Live Auction. Thursday evening there will be a BBQ at the ranch with Special guest Country Singer Susie Dobbs

Interested in Participating or being a Sponsor go to  
[www.championsforacause.net](http://www.championsforacause.net)  
or call 406-322-6036

### A Special Thank you to the following Sponsors that Helped to make the 25th Anniversary dinner a success!

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#### SPECIAL THANKS TO 2011 DINNER COMMITTEE

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Rick Young – Auctioneer

# MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS February 1, 2011 - May 31, 2011

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.

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**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.)



## STEPH LALIM EARNING THE RANCHER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2010.

**Theresa:** "Wow, Steph! Congratulations on this accomplishment! Tell me what it takes to become Rancher of the Year?"

**Steph:** "It was my first time getting it. I have never been rancher of the year before. Well, let's see. Doing things at the house without being asked. Having a positive attitude when I'm working. Not saying negative things to other people. I am very helpful and always have a smile."

**Theresa:** "In talking to your fellow ranchers, this is what they said about you:"

**Tim Potts:** "Riiigggh!" (With thumbs up.)

**Mike Himes:** "She is a hard worker."

**Shorti Haworth:** "She has a strong work ethic. She's very caring."

She also has a witty side of her." **Bret Beavans:** "She works really hard at the greenhouse everyday. She stays on task. She just has it going on!"

**Theresa:** How does that make you feel?

**Steph:** "Good. Awesome!"

**Theresa:** "You are a very busy resident here at Special K Ranch from your work in the greenhouse, rotation on the farm crew, part of a cleaning crew, Wednesday devotions, Yellowstone ARC dances, regular house chores, cooking with your house mom, IDPs, town day once a week, and many other activities. You are also part of the Special K Rams basketball team and participate in Special Olympics. Whew! Out of all these activities, which are your favorites?"

**Steph:** "Basketball and getting to see old and new friends at the dances and on the court."

**Theresa:** "How do you and your team get psyched before a big game?"

**Steph:** "We get together in a group and we do a little cheer to get us going before we go onto the court. We put our hands together and say 'Special K Rams!' We do a little cheer."

**Theresa:** "Steph, who inspires you?"

**Steph:** (Tears up.) "My house dad." (Choked up.) "He means a lot to me."

**Theresa:** "It was fun chatting with you. Thank you and congratulations!"

## CINDI GORDON RECEIVED THE AWARD FOR MOST IMPROVED RANCHER FOR 2010 AT THE ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER.



**Most Improved Rancher** is an award given to a Special K Ranch resident that has shown personal growth in the past year; not compared to another resident but within their own abilities. This individual is chosen out of the 24 residents by the staff. It reflects the sum of an individual in all aspects of their life at Special K Ranch inclusively at home, at work, and at play.

**Michele Washkuhn**, Cindi's house mom had to say about her. "I think it was evident to everybody that she showed a change. She started to think about others and show us all how thoughtful she can be towards others; helping around the house and doing things without being asked. She also showed us a happier disposition and a more relaxed attitude."

**Leslie**, a greenhouse manager and crew leader at Special K Ranch, has known Cindi since she began working at the ranch. She had this to say about Cindi. "In 2010, she showed us she had a sense of humor. It was a real change in her... a pleasant change. Also, she showed us she has a spirit of cooperation."

**Dallas**, a fellow rancher, says, "She's a nice lady and friendly. She is a hard worker and dedicated to the ranch."

**Rob**, another rancher, adds, "She is a hard worker and her attitude is better. She loves dogs and cats. She always prays at devotions."

**Theresa:** "Do you know how special you are that the staff chose you to be Most Improved Rancher for 2010?"

**Cindi:** "Feels ok... good." (Smiles.)

**Theresa:** "Tell us of a few of your favorite things about Special K Ranch."

**Cindi:** "Molly." (Giggles and smiles) "Sandy too, Leslie's dog."

Molly is Bob Solie's dog. Grandpa Bob brings Molly to the ranch and Cindi can't pass by without loving on her.

**Theresa:** Anything else, Cindi?

**Cindi:** "Sarah."

**Theresa:** "Who's Sarah?"

**Cindi:** "The greenhouse cat."

**Theresa:** "Or is it the greenhouse kitty?"

**Cindi:** (Laughing) "Either way."

**Theresa:** "Cindi, what's your favorite color?"

**Cindi:** "Last color of the rainbow, purple."

**Theresa:** "What does the rainbow mean to you?"

**Cindi:** "God's promise not to flood the whole earth and his love for us."



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# *Join Us At Our OPEN HOUSE and NEW HOME DEDICATION*



## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

### **11:00 TO 4:00 pm**



Great Food – BBQ 12:00 – 1:30pm

New Resident Retirement home dedication at 2:00 pm

Musical Entertainment

Train rides with the Shrine Clowns, Pony Cart and Carriage rides