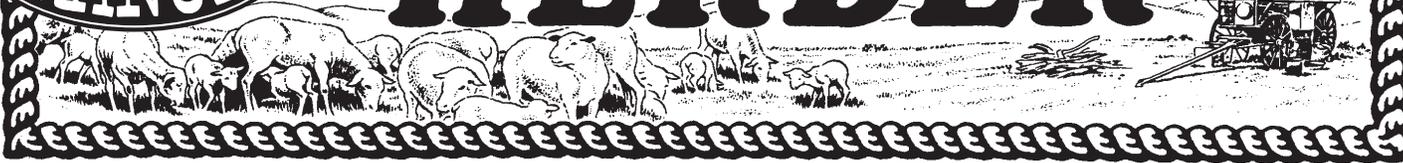




HERDER



MISSION STATEMENT

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

VOL. 18, NO. 2

"Shepherding the Hesitant"

AUGUST 2004

Open House and Country Picnic

Saturday, September 11th

12:00 noon until 4:00pm

BBQ Lunch

Begins at 12:30pm
Adults \$5.00 • Kids \$3.00

Program and Live Auction

Begins promptly at 2:00pm
Petting Zoo Shrine Clowns & Train Carriage Rides
Miniature Horse Cart Rides

Entertainment

Live Music by Alte Kameraden and
DJ Jeremy Litton of Special K Ranch

Something for Everyone!!!
Wholesome Family Fun

We hope you will join us for a day of fun and good food. This is a great opportunity to meet the staff and residents and tour the Ranch. If you have visited with us before, come and see the growth and changes.



Ben Johnson was chosen "Rancher of the Year" and received a Montana Silversmith belt buckle at the Annual Dinner.

Stephanie (Shorti) Haworth was recognized for her conscientious effort to improve her personal and social skills. She was presented with a plaque for "Most Improved Rancher of the Year".





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eighteen years ago eight visionary men signed a property mortgage for \$290,000.

They believed strongly enough in the need for ministry with people who have developmental disabilities to put action to their faith. The result is that today there are 24 people who have mental retardation living and working with dignity in the caring community of Special K Ranch.

It was determined early in our development that six households of four residents was an optimum number for our philosophy and mission. However, our waiting list continues to grow as we receive more and more inquiries about openings for resident placements.

Over the past few years I have been sharing that our growth to serve more people would come about with the establishing of another ranch. Like all new ventures, there is some hesitancy about moving out of a comfort zone. I am encouraged that we have a board that feels that God's call to serve is greater than our hesitance.

With much consideration, at the June board of directors meeting the following parameters and goals were presented by the executive committee and agreed upon by the board.

1. The location of a second ranch should be within a 150-200 mile radius of Billings. Bozeman or Sheridan Wyoming are considered to be good possibilities. However, if a suitable piece of property was offered as a donation, that could dictate the location.
2. While we would certainly not refuse the donation of any property, the preferred size would be approximately 250 irrigated acres (the existing ranch is 178 acres irrigated).
3. The second ranch would be included within the

corporate organization of the existing ranch, rather than being established as a separate entity. The board would be made up of members from the vicinity of both locations.

4. Operation of a second ranch would not commence until the following financial requirements are met.
 - (a) The existing property debt of \$72,000 and operating loan of approximately \$128,000 be paid in full.
 - (b) Raise a \$3,000,000 endowment
 - (c) Raise \$250,000 for initial building and staffing
5. Time goals suggested:
 - (a) Begin immediately to find a property donor.
 - (b) Provided the financial conditions stated are met, the goal would be to open the first house on the new ranch within three years.

Having experienced how the Lord has provided to bring Special K Ranch to what it is today we can say for sure that our plans and timing are not always the same as God's.

However, we believe that as we take this step of faith we will begin to see the where and how of this venture.

As for now, we are moving forward with optimism and prayer with this plan.

SKR Board Committed to Starting a Second Ranch

During the summer months with families vacationing and routine changes, we usually experience a drop off in contributions. Your gift at this time is a great help for the ranch to meet its monthly financial obligations and close out our fiscal year in the black on September 30th. THANK YOU.

REFLECTIONS OF THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

How is your Love life today? That is the customary greeting of Father Charlie Gorman, who gave the invocation at the 18th Annual Fundraising Dinner for Special K Ranch. I like to think that the Love life at Special K Ranch is good and growing. Love is ever so important in the work we do. It is said, that in a home there are four important things, heat, running water, self esteem and Love. The most important of these is Love.

This Love transcends our work place. We have just completed our bedding plant season; and again another year of success with satisfied Ranchers and satisfied Customers. The Tomato Program is in full swing with four greenhouses growing the reddest, largest, juiciest tomatoes you've ever seen. And tasty, too!! We're finishing up our hay crop with lots of new muscles, gloves and sweat. Getting in shape! The weekends in our work life are busy, too. Saturday's are Market Day, where our residents sell bedding plants, tomatoes, and cucumbers. Spring Market ended last weekend, and

Farmer's Market begins this weekend, which will run for ten weeks in downtown Billings.

Our leisure time is taken up with vacations that are relief in the heat of the summer. We did have some rain in June, which was welcome and didn't interfere too much with baseball games and other leisure activities.

My two grandsons, Cody and Ethan Brown, are spending the summer with Granny and Grandpa making fond remembrances of grandparents years past. We are sharing great ranching experiences, new things, and a growing Love for all.

During the aforementioned Fund Raising Dinner the Board of Directors announced that we are actively seeking a new Ranch location in conjunction with the current Capital Campaign. In our day-to-day operations many parents of prospective Ranchers visit our facilities



...continued on page 7

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS May – June 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.

- John & Bonnie Alt Memorial**
Raleigh & Rachel Lawson
- Gene Andersen Memorial**
Eleanor Andersen
- Bernard Behnke Memorial**
Merle Pederson
- Katherine Bergstrom Memorial**
Mr. & Mrs. David & Bonnie Warren
- Vi Bischoff Memorial**
Mom & Robert Bischoff
- Alma Bosch Memorial**
Lynn & Janalyn Scheeler
- Betty Breckt Memorial**
William & Rose Caton
- Catherine Brooks Memorial**
Joann M. Willis
- Irma D Brown Memorial**
Ray & Janet Potter
- Leon Callison Memorial**
Bobbie Lefler
- Don Campbell Memorial**
Cecil & Jean Gubser
Margaret Rom
Odelia Hash
Mabel McCullough
- Rock Charlton Memorial**
Larry & Marilyn G. O'Dell
- Paul Conrod Memorial**
Mr. & Mrs. James Conrod
- LeRoy Coulter Memorial**
Jim, Joy, Jess, Jacque Arneson
- Arlie Craig Memorial**
Mildred Craig
- Lillian Cunningham Memorial**
Mr. & Mrs. Steve & Deborah Smith
- Mildred Dahlstrom-Dawson Memorial**
Phil & Lecia Letz
- Mr. & Mrs. Mike Davey Memorial**
Gene & Eileen Davey
- Charles Descheemaeker Memorial**
Richard & Evelyn Redle
- Hugh Dougherty Memorial**
William & Lois Horn
- Marla Egan Memorial**
William & Rose Caton
- Holmes & Gremmer Families Memorial**
Walt & Elsie Holmes
- Elizabeth Frank Memorial**
Margaret & Leslie Frank
- Martha Frank Memorial**
Margaret & Leslie Frank
- William Frank Memorial**
Warren & Judith Frank
- Lee Gagnon Honorary**
Dennis & Mary Hull
- Elizabeth Gainan Memorial**
Mr. & Mrs. David & Bonnie Warren
- Otto Goehner Memorial**
Mom & Robert Bischoff
- Mr. & Mrs. Tom Guinn Memorial**
Virel & Dorothy Guinn
- Deborah Hadlock Honorary**
Ruth & Verne Daehler
- Allen Leroy Haidle Memorial**
Ms. Freda Haidle
- Phyllis Hanson Honorary**
Merle Pederson
- Barbara Harper Memorial**
Irene German
- Bobbie Harper Memorial**
Sandra A Racki
- Charles Heiring Memorial**
Stella Hogan
- Marjori Hinckley Honorary**
William & Rose Caton
- Louise Blackford Hines Memorial**
Thomas & Sandra Hines
- T. Sewell Hines Memorial**
Thomas & Sandra Hines
- Kathrine Jansma Honorary**
Margaret & Leslie Frank
- Bonnie Johnson Memorial**
Mr. & Mrs. Ken & Colleen Ekle
- Mary Ann Jones Memorial**
James W. Jones
- Dorothy Judd Memorial**
Fred & Gaynell
- Ruth Kaiserski Memorial**
Tom & Teresa Kaiserski
- Jerry Kinney Memorial**
Herm & Margaret Funk
- Edwin Kraftenberg Memorial**
Merilyn Kraftenberg
- Robert Lefler Memorial**
Jean Callison
Darin & Deb Elmore
Grant Geophysical Corp.
Duane & Donna Mittelsteadt
Wilbur & Doris Russell
Connie Sutherland
Family Cellan
Margaret & Leslie Frank
Clifton & Janice Hemphill
R.W. & Mildred Reinke
Ben Schumacher
Leslie Wright
Adar Davis
Darrel & Penny Frickel
Jerry Minch
Karen Ripley
Shirlee Smith
- Larry Lehman Memorial**
Claude & Lorreine Ingraham
- George Lombard Memorial**
Min Ross
Carole M. Tetrault
- Robert Luptak Honorary**
Jack & Fannie M. Ullrich
- Pepper Marten Memorial**
Margaret & Leslie Frank
- Lisa McJunkin Memorial**
Donna Beutler
- Veronica Messer Memorial**
Hans & Marcie Treumann
- Roger Newman Memorial**
Fred & Gaynell
- Phil Nieman Honorary**
Jennie & Leander Nesseth
- Marabelle O'Dell Memorial**
Larry & Marilyn G. O'Dell
- Everett Osgood Memorial**
Bobby & Betty Porter
- Dr. Conner "Bill" Otteson Memorial**
Doug & Evelyn Miller
- Anne Ozmore Honorary**
Lorraine Kirkpatrick
- John Robert Ozmore Memorial**
Lorraine Kirkpatrick
- Betty Perrigo Memorial**
William & Gladys Bernhardt
- Phemie Peterson Honorary**
Clifford & Helen Hanson
- Ronald Reagan Memorial**
William & Rose Caton
- Aaron Remmich Memorial**
Donna Beutler
- Linda Evans Sherradd Memorial**
Lillian Evans
- Gary Smith Memorial**
Tiffany Madden
- Richard Smith Honorary**
Bobbie Lefler
- Kay & Karen Stahlecker Memorial**
Mr. Winston Stahlecker
- Harold G. Stearns Memorial**
Gerald & Audrey Miller
- Doris Stevenson Memorial**
James & Carol Swanson
- Mary Ann Story Memorial**
Margaret & Leslie Frank
- Mary Ann Story Memorial**
Don & Lee Eide
- Homer Strevor Memorial**
Terry & Pam Humphrey
Beverly Meged
- LTC. Garrell Sutherland Memorial**
Bobbie Lefler
Connie Sutherland
- Fred Charles Unmack Memorial**
Ron & Karen Combs
- John Warren Memorial**
Mrs. Ruth Warren
- Kenny, Sue & Family White Honorary**
Len & Muriel White
- Irene Wilt Memorial**
Ernest N. & Joyce Zinne
- Evelyn Woerner Memorial**
Ken & Marsha Haines
Fred & Mary Lee Steinmetz
Gary & Peggy Hedges
Jerry & Lorraine Walden
Brenda Osborne
- William Yoder Memorial**
Mr. & Mrs. Ken & Colleen Ekle
- Louise Zinne Memorial**
Ernest N. & Joyce Zinne

Thank You to Our 2004 DINNER SPONSORS

These are the people who pledged or made a gift prior to the dinner. Their generous support before the dinner makes it possible for us to invite and bring people to the dinner and program at no charge. This year 442 people attended the dinner and \$45,000 was raised to pay the mortgage and carry on the operation of the ranch.

BARONS \$1,000+

Anonymous
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Kiwanis Club
Christensen, Shy, Seel
& Associates

KOA
Montana Dakota Utilities
Stockman Bank
Tractor & Equipment
Wells Fargo Bank

PARTNERS \$500 - \$999

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Prudential Financial
Cladis, Linda & Nick
Crowley Law Firm
Eide Bailey
Hertz Car Sales
Interstate Brands
Karell, Pat & Allan

Kunkel, Toodie
Moulton, Bellingham
Mandeville Agency
Thuesen, Robert & Pat
Tour America RV
Whitewood Transportation
Village Golden K Kiwanis Club

HERDERS \$250 - \$499

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Anderson/Zurmuehlin
Ballard Petroleum
Big Sky Collision
Clagg, Bill
Deaconess Billings Clinic
Engineering Inc.
First Citizens Bank
First Interstate Bank
First MT Title
Fraker, Don & Delores
Goodrich Law Firm
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Thompson PC
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Heights Kiwanis
HKM Engineering
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Larson, Bruce
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Valley Federal Credit Union
Watts Associates
Western Livestock Reporter
Wyo-Ben
Yellowstone Dermatology

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.)

RANCHER OF THE MONTH

Because the awarding of Rancher of the Year (ROM) takes place at our Annual Fund Raising Dinner in March, our Rancher of the month year begins in April. This year we got off to a big start with three-way ties in both April and May.

In April, Kunkel House resident Greg Wennemar, Angela Beadle from McCormick House, and Deb Hadlock, from Stumvoll House tied for ROM. May's winners are in the adjoining picture.

In June Dallas Eide was the unanimous winner. He lives in the semi-independent Kunkel House. Dallas was the first resident to move on the Ranch in January 1987. If you have ever met him your name will not be forgotten. If Dallas sees you again he will greet you by name and ask about any family members that you might have mentioned on your first meeting.

Just elected for the month of July are Bill Byrnes from Hawkins House, and Janna Radach from McCormick House. Janna is a very thoughtful person who makes up cute greeting cards for both staff and residents birthdays, fathers and mothers day, and other special holidays.

Bill Byrnes answered the question why he won by saying it is because he likes to work hard. Phil Nieman, his house-brother, agreed saying, "I wishes he could have two jobs". Robbie Larsen remembers how everyone said one reason he won is because he always has a smile on his face, is never in a bad mood, and is always ready to help.

When asked about what the neatest thing about winning Rancher of the Month is, Angela Beadle put things into perspective by saying it was just being nominated that was the most important to her. Home and Vocational Advisors at the first staff meeting held each month nominate three residents. They choose residents who have shown exceptional personal and work qualities over the past month. Angela is right, in that being nominated is special recognition in and of it self.

Stephanie Lalim, Greg Wennemar, and Deb Hadlock are all on vacation and unavailable to comment, but all three are representative of what is Special about Special K Ranch. All the residents who were interviewed said they are all very glad to be here at the Ranch to live and work. Comments ranged from "Living here is like having a large, loving family", "The Ranch is like a college campus with lots of good friends", and "I like that I have a job now, too. I work in the greenhouse".

A three way tie for May Rancher of the Month: Phil Nieman, Stephanie Lalim, and Robbie Larsen



Reflections of the Program Director

continued from page 2...

and fill out applications for their children. Several of these parents have asked us if we would share our organizational structure and have toured our facilities with the intentions of repeating what we do, asking the obvious question. "Would you help us get a facility started in our home town, in our home state?" Many times after visiting they realize how unique Special K is.

Yes, it is the organization, but the real success is in the people, individual and collective talents, that intermesh to make things happen the way they happen. Love permeates, period.

During one of those visits, while the parents were touring, the daughter was invited by Shorti Haworth to help wipe down tomatoes. After an hour of visiting and sharing, the daughter suggested to her parents that she stay. This is not uncommon.

We are happy to share how Special K runs, or operates, if this would mean more developmentally disabled adults could share what our Residents have. If we share the Love that is part of Special K Ranch, then our discipleship can be contagious. We know that even though we are taking vacations, God doesn't take vacations in watching over us.

As we build another Ranch, or others try to imitate what we do, it will only be successful as long as that building has a cornerstone of Love.

Peace,



Michael P. Dooley

STAFF REFLECTIONS

I came to work at Special K over Labor Day weekend last year. Officially I am assistant to Mike Dooley, and general office support, as well as occasional home relief person. Unofficially I am "Grandma", and proud to be called so. I am the voice who usually answers the telephone if you've ever had occasion to call the Ranch.



Lorraine

To preface my reflections, I have to say I sincerely believe that not one human being is whole. Everyone is deficient or handicapped in some area - physically, mentally, or emotionally to some degree or another. It has always amazed me how people, oblivious to their own "flaws" can mistreat those, whose deficiencies are more obvious.

In working with developmentally disabled people in urban areas of the U.S. I have often seen them abused and exploited. Sexual abuse, by the same or opposite sex, is unfortunately too common. Their naive nature makes them easy marks for people who would take their money, or belongings.

The residents at Special K Ranch are safe from exploitation. Their world is one of purpose, where each one's ability and contribution is affirmed as they participate in the endeavors of the ranch. Their world is one of acceptance and love for who they are, just as they are.

Being the person who answers the phone I often hear the concerns of parents and family members like the pain in the voice of the man who is one day away from being homeless and desperately trying to find a place for his D.D. son to live other than the streets and homeless shelters. Or the lady who recently moved from Missoula to Billings with her brother to be closer to family and finding that she is unable to cope with the challenges of an adult D.D. person. I could hear the anguish in her voice when she said she had found out she is better at being a sister than a caregiver.

Unfortunately there are seldom openings at the Ranch for new residents and a waiting list that is growing. One goal of Special K Ranch is to open other Ranches to serve more people. As an employee I feel good about the people we are serving, but there are so many needful it is dismaying to know we aren't able to say welcome to more.

When you receive a solicitation for a donation, please remember that it is not just to help us with the residents we have now, but for the dozens more waiting for a chance to live and work and be cherished at a Special K Ranch. The goal of helping many more by building other Ranches can only come to fruition if those of us who are minimally handicapped but maximally blessed, continue to minimally bless the maximally handicapped with our gifts of love and money.

I would close by adding that I believe each of our deficiencies, or handicaps are not flaws per se, but opportunities for God's grace and power to be shown as we learn to rely on Him. I am moved at the daily seeking of and reliance on God by residents and staff alike. We are humbled and blessed by those we serve, and by those of you who support this endeavor. May God bless you, too.

We were privileged to have
Kiwaniis International President
Robert Moore and his wife
Jan from Florida visit
Special K Ranch. They
are the fourth
International President
and spouse to tour
the ranch.



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)
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Angela putting another bale in the stack. We were very thankful for the rain this year but it was a challenge to get the first cutting of hay put up and in the stack.

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE SEPT. 11th
See Details Inside

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

CONSIDER A GIFT

**Feed Grain and Hay
 Corral Panels
 Dishwashers
 Washers and Dryers**

**Livestock
 Portable Generator
 Dressers
 Hand Tools**

**Vehicles to be Used at Ranch or Sold
 Tractor and Farm Equipment**

These are some items that Special K Ranch 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. Call us at 406-322-5520

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers have been a big part of building and maintaining the facilities at the ranch. Lou is just one example of these generous people. He was apart of the ranch for three weeks. During that time he did repairs and repositioning of fans in the tomato houses that really improved the ventilation and cooling. He did the finish work in the greenhouse office, bathrooms, and tomato cooling room. There were numerous other repairs that received attention while he was here. Lou felt that the Lord had led him to SKR to learn more about His love. He gained some new friends and received a lot of love and thanks from the residents and staff.

Volunteer Lou Lapointe finishing greenhouse addition.



EMPLOYER MATCHING FUNDS

There are a number of employers who match employee contributions. Ask your employer. This is an easy way to double your next gift to Special K Ranch.