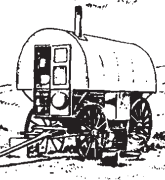




HERDER



MISSION STATEMENT

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

VOL. 21, NO. 2

"Shepherding the Hesitant"

DECEMBER 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Over the years the service outreach of Special K Ranch has extended to respite care, day programs for individuals who do not live at the ranch, special needs students from local schools doing a work experience class, and an occasional court referral to work off a sentencing of community service time.

It has been interesting to see how many of the community service workers have been positively affected by their time at the ranch and especially being around the residents. Just recently a young man who had completed his sentencing time came back on a Wednesday morning and sat in on the resident's singing, devotion, and prayer gathering. Before the circle broke he stepped forward and thanked everyone for their friendship and for how much his time at the ranch meant to him. As I was leaving I noticed another young man with him who had tears in his eyes. I truly believe that they had experienced a touch of God's grace while in the presence of the residents and staff at SKR.

For the past year a school graduate with learning disabilities has been coming out to the ranch three days a week to be part of our work program and other activities. As we are able to expand our housing he may one day live at SKR. This fall the parents of a young lady who graduated last spring have been in conversation with us about their daughter being involved in a day program. We have had a number of requests for this service over the years and we are now looking to address this need by structuring a day program that would accommodate people with learning disabilities who still live with their parents.

On the Craig addition that was purchased two years ago is a structurally sound four bedroom modular home. The interior needs some repairs, painting, new floor covering throughout, and appliances. A volunteer who could do some sheetrock repair and other minor fixes would be a big help getting this into livable condition. Our plan for this house is to be a retreat for our staff on their days off.

An additional use that we are now looking into is to also use it to offer respite care to families who have an adult child with learning disabilities living at home. We have requests for this service but we have only been able to help if a current resident is on an extended vacation and allows his room to be used.

These are some ways that we can expand our programs. We are encouraged by the opportunity to service more families of young and older adults who have learning disabilities.

The only thing holding us back from starting construction on the new resident home that we have been talking about building on the Craig addition is total funding. \$300,000 has been committed but an additional \$700,000 is needed. After the first of the year there will be more information on this funding campaign that will also include endowment for operation.

We are very grateful for the leadership of our board and the support that we receive from the many friends who generously give to support the daily needs and expansion of this ministry. Thank you!

Merry Christmas,

Christmas is a joyful time, a time of enjoying the closeness and company of family and friends. A time for sharing, receiving and all goodwill to men. May this time of year carry over to the rest of the year for you, your family and friends.

*From our Family to Yours
Merry Christmas*

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BURNING HEARTS

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13*

Often I find myself thanking God for the staff he brings to Special K Ranch. It takes a special heart to be a part of the ministry here. I have seen good people come to the ranch with enthusiasm for what is being done here, only to watch the excitement wane due to the stress of the simple, dreary day, along with the special challenges of their duties pertaining to the people here. It is only a matter of time before it smothers the burning heart. They set out to serve God and do his work but get out of touch with Him, the sense of responsibility becomes overwhelming and defeating, unless they learn the secret of enduring in Jesus. The moment we recognize our complete weakness and our dependence upon Him will be the very moment that the Spirit of God will exhibit His power to sustain us. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1Thessalonians 1:3

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. All the more reason for calling on our Lord through personal devotions, group bible studies and most importantly personal one on one prayer. It becomes very obvious to see when someone is relying on their own mortal strengths and living a false Christian walk. They become negative and bitter towards other people and begin to look at life with a glass half empty attitude. Just like a branch broken and hanging on a tree, it soon withers and falls to the ground. One thing I have noticed, we all have to find a niche in life, and spiritually we find it when we receive a ministry from the lord. God brings us to a major turning point, a great crossroads in our life. From that point we either go toward a more slower, lazy, and useless Christian life, or we become more and more on fire for this ministry and His kingdom.

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 4:28-31

There is a very important role that you have in this ministry as well; it is the role of bringing up the ministry of Special K Ranch to God in your personal prayer time. I want to leave you with a list of things that we need continued prayer for.

1. That we do not lose the vision or mission about which this ministry was founded.
2. For our Board members, Directors, House parents and Staff.
3. Continued funding for this ministry, both corporate and individually.
4. For the health and care of our residents

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. John 14:13

Eyes to the sky,

Mike

P.S. Have I told you how much I love this ministry?



JOE BURST, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

To understand why we live, we tell the story.

I heard this quote the other day and it really hit home for me as to the main reason we do this newsletter a few times a year and send it to you. Special K Ranch started because a group of people led by Winston Stahlecker, Hugh Huntley and Hap Gilliland saw a need for a special kind of place. They made things happen and were our original storytellers. Here is one of the stories written by Mike Gregg's sister Theresa Burwick that truly exemplify the point of this quote.

Mike is living his dream at Special K Ranch. For years he filled dozens of notebooks with plans for his ranch. He had everything from the Roy Rogers Room to a jail. And he had positions for everyone who was important to him. We all smiled at the plans and hoped that God would make heaven into Mike's ranch, because no one imagined that he would be on a ranch any other way.

Mike lived with our mom for years, and then he and Mom lived with me. After she went into a nursing home, Mike and I lived together. God brought back into my life a man who had been a former basketball coach at Cascade College in Portland, Oregon. For several years I had known that there was a ranch for adults with disabilities that had been started by Larry Goehner, but I didn't know how to get a hold of him. The new man in my life, Ray Burwick, had coached Larry in basketball at Cascade. And he knew how to contact Larry.

Soon Mike and I flew to Billings. He loved what he saw; I wept over the coming separation and distance.

Clearly, God had provided a ranch for Mike this side of heaven. In addition to living his dream, Mike has a community of peers. He has expanded the family who loves him. He has grown remarkably in his ability to take care of himself. He flies to see us a couple of times a year, always eager to come, always glad to go back.

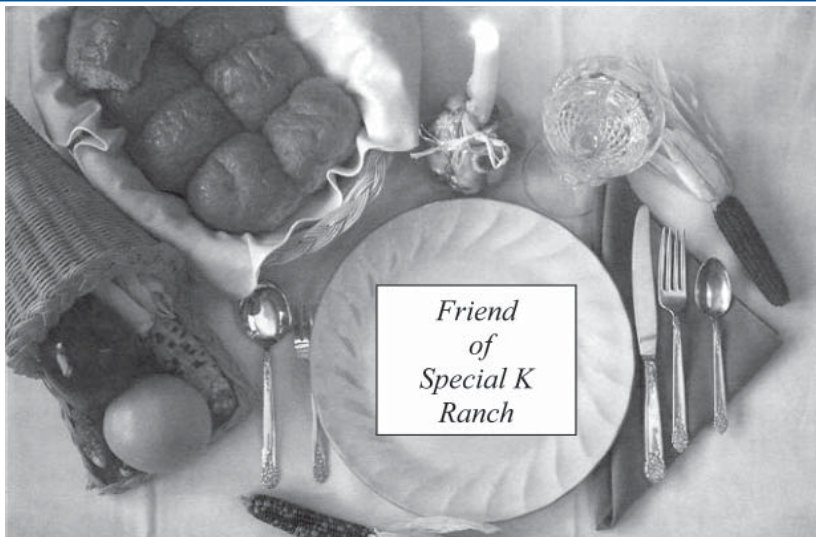
This past Christmas, Mike let Ray know that he wanted to call the ranch. Ray asked him why. Mike replied, I want to tell them that I'm coming home. I can't tell you what it means to me that Mike has a place of his own - his own life, his own friends. I am so grateful to everyone who has made the ranch a reality and, thereby, made Mike's dream a reality. Special K Ranch has provided a bit of heaven on earth for Mike.

Special K Ranch currently has 24 residents all with a story to tell. Many of them have families with an agricultural or ranching background and the ranch allows them to live a life doing the things they love. This is why we tell the story and why it is so important for you to stay involved with your love and support.

Special K was started by these visionary people but it exists 23 years later through the generosity of people like you which allows us to provide this life to the Mikes of the world. With your continued support especially during these uncertain economic times, we are able to give this opportunity and in the near future even more people will be able to a part of Special K. Your gifts and prayers are more important than ever. Thank you for your faithful support and Merry Christmas to all.

Yours in Service,

Joe Burst
Development Director



**Please Mark your calendars and
plan to attend
our Annual Dinner
Tuesday April 21, 2008
at the
Holiday Inn Convention Center.**

The planning committee is already hard at work making sure that this event is the biggest and best ever. If you'd like to host a table, donate an auction item or help sponsor the event, please call us at 322-5520 for more information.

A GREAT GIFT IDEA

We all have someone on our Christmas list that seems to have everything, that lives some distance from us, or is just downright hard to buy for. A nice way to let them know you are thinking of them is to give a gift in their honor to help some people living at Special K Ranch. A card will be sent to the person being honored with a note about the ministry of Special K Ranch.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS May 1, 2008 - October 31, 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:

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Wisconsin Industrial Sand Co.
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Dawn & David Archer
BRET BEAVENS
Darrell & Pat McCammon
SHANTA BISCH
Sally & Jim Bisch/Dickey
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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.)

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...Continued

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JOHN HUTCHESON
Emily & Dave Hutcheson
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DONNALEEN WOODLEY
Richard Woodley
VERYLE YOUNGBAUER
Phyl Miller

Year End Gifts a Win-Win Situation

A gift to Special K Ranch this time of year allows you to fulfill your charitable intentions and may result in immediate and possible future benefits for you and your family. Here are a few examples.

Gifts of Securities - The best stocks to donate are those that have increased in value. To preserve tax advantages, it is suggested that you transfer the securities to SKR instead of the proceeds of the sale. Appreciated securities. When you give publicly traded stocks held long term (more than one year) to SKR you avoid all capital gains taxes. In addition, you may take the full fair market value of the stock gift as a charitable deduction on your income taxes up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income, carrying any excess deduction forward for up to five additional years. Depreciated securities. If you have stock losses, you can sell the stock to realize the loss and take the allowable deduction for tax purposes. Then generate a charitable deduction by donating the cash proceeds from the sale to SKR.

Gifts of Life Insurance - You can make a gift using life insurance by naming SKR as either the owner of the policy or the beneficiary. If you make SKR the owner of the policy, you can claim an income tax deduction for an amount equal to the lower of the fair market value or cost basis. In addition, if you continue to pay the premiums on a policy we own, you can deduct the ongoing premium payments.

Gifts of Real Estate - If you own un-mortgaged property that has appreciated in value, a charitable gift may be an attractive option. You can claim an income tax deduction based on the fair market value of the property, avoid all capital gains taxes and remove that asset from your taxable estate. Or you can transfer your home or farm to us now and continue to use the property for life. You will be entitled to an income tax deduction based on your age and the value of your property. Please contact us beforehand if you are considering a gift of real estate.

Charitable Gift Annuities - can provide you with an income. Income for life can begin immediately or on a future date. You get a guaranteed return often greater than money market rates. You get an immediate charitable income tax deduction. You get a reduction in capital gains taxes if the gift is made with appreciated securities. You can get a dollar for dollar reduction in Montana State Taxes up to \$10,000 per tax payer if used to establish an endowment (based on 40% of the charitable deduction).

If you are over the age of 59½, you may want to consider gifts using assets from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or similar deferred tax saving plan.

If you are at least 70½, donate directly from your IRA to Special K Ranch Foundation without penalty or tax, and help satisfy your required minimum distribution for 2008.

These examples are general in nature and although we can give you more detailed information according to your situation. Call our office to make an appointment with Joe Burst, 406 322-5520. As with all financial dealings, please consult your professional tax advisor or attorney prior to making a gift to Special K Ranch.

(artwork by Cliff Potts)



Shepherd Society-- Ensuring the future by making a commitment today

As many of you know, we received a large bequest from Arlee and Millie Craig last year when Millie passed away. This gift will shape the future of the ranch and Arlee and Millie will always be in our thoughts and prayers. Even though we know that they as well as many others know how much we appreciate their generosity, we wish we could have thanked them in person. Over the years bequest of all sizes have played an important role in the growth and success of Special K Ranch. Bequests of all sizes have become a main source of endowment support and help ensure that our Foundation will be financially sound for generations to come. By giving to our Foundations endowment fund the amount is placed in the endowment and only the earnings from the endowment are spent which allows your gift to become a perpetual gift that will give forever. Because we want

to recognize individuals who have named Special K Ranch in their wills and estate plans we have established the Shepherd Society. If you have included Special K Ranch in your estate plans, please let us know of your intentions so that we may recognize you as a Shepherd Society member.

As a member of the Shepherd Society you will receive a plaque handcrafted with the help of the Special K residents and your name will be placed on a special wall at Special K Ranch. This will become a permanent, visual reminder that your support will continue for years to come.

We would be more than happy to send you general information regarding Bequest, Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts and information on becoming a Shepherd Society member but we do not provide legal or tax advice. You should consult with your legal and/or tax advisors for information regarding, or issues concerning, planned gifts or estate planning.

For more information on the Special K Ranch Shepherd Society, please contact Joe Burst at (406) 671-9635 or skrjoe@hughes.net

WOULD YOU PREFER RECEIVING OUR NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL?

If so send us your e-mail address and we would be happy to e-mail you the Herder and remove your physical address from our mailing list.



The following memorials were misprinted in the last newsletter.
Please accept our sincere apology for any inconvenience that this may have caused.

LLOYD LINGER

Don & Lee Eide
Tom & Christine Lowell
Robert N. & Vera Ulschak
Stan & Judy Eisenman
Mildred Frank
Cora Roberts
American Legion
Audrey Linger
Earl & Kathleen Linger
Ruth Bezdek
Jimmy & Teri Linger
Stanley & Phyllis Arthun
Gregg & Margery H Gaab
Gary & Peggy Hedges
Robert & Kay Kraft
Jason & Tammy Robertus
West Elementary Social Fund
Gregg Gaab

LEO KIMMET

Bobby & Betty Porter
E,C, & Iline Rehling

BEATRICE HAGLUND

Phil & Doris Haglund Jr,
Haglund Ranch
Judd & Judy Chidlow
Donald Quick
Donald Quick Construction
Dennis & Karen Wolff
Brad & Marykay Kountz
Thelma Gackle
Jack & Lynae N Larson

Jeanne K Heilig
Dr. & Mrs. WW & Rosemary Baldrige
Gaetano & Christine Feltri
William B Fowler

EMMA FRANK

G.C. & Lois Dalthorp
Emma Jean Stevenson
Lydia F Frank
J.J. & Bernadine Harris
William & Rose Caton
Bonnie L. Frank

KEITH BROYLS

Leo & Diana Wohler
Mr. & Mrs. Vern & Averill Keller
ExxonMobil
Roger & Carol Young
First Interstate Bank
Dick & Judy Franks
Mandeville Agency
Marlene Dolechek
Donna J Wagner
Platinum Chevrolet
Montana N Watts
Mr. & Mrs. Mike & Joan Matz
Gordon & Elaine Swartz
Alice Nordahl
Gary & Linda Jones
Robert & Jyl Story Jr
David & Karen Pals
Barbara & Bill Hope
Gordon & Doris Radke
Kathryn Broyles

Bretz RV & Marine
Craig & Susan Busch
Skyline RV
Steven & Alice Garr
Arlene D Weppler
Rapelje Schools
Mrs Ollie Morton
Joe & Mary Shoemaker
Sherman & Debbie Farr
Zona & Earl Whittaker
Frank & Janice Sterbenz Jr.
Carl & Marianna Hansen
Sol Lovas
Michael & Janie Neitzel
Rapelje Grain Co.
Julia DeBuff
S.M. Schultz
Keshia Lind
Russ & Sharon King
Bill & Dawn Dee
Millard & Ladonna Hultgren
Ralph & Frances Hill
Cameron & Holly Larson
Wheeler Construction
Craig & Kristi Parker
Craig & Holly Swanke
Paul & Eula C. Patton
Geo. R. Pierce Inc.
Jim, Linda, Danny & Hope Trushenski

BETTY EASTLICK

Don & Lee Eide
Dorothy S. Adams
Don Nordahl

Phil & Lecia Letz
Leroy & Norma Kappel
Helmer & Hannah Kautz
Cathie Kautz
Stan & Judy Eisenman
Marvin & Kay Kappel
Craig & Kathleen Baumgartner
William & Linda Strauch
Melvin & Fern Strauch
Richard & Lorna Kappel
John & Donna Kappel
Marge Schreiner
Margaret & Leslie Frank
Jim & Betty Justice
Bill & Linda Lardis
Don & Joyce Lorash
Shirley Eastlick
Fred & Mary Lee Steinmetz
Gregg & Gail Schnieber
Anna Bakker
Bob & Wanda Eastlick
Larry & Carol Stief
Robert & Barbara Dilworth
Laura Frank
Curtis & Lois Lorash
Sam & Sharon Robertus
Norm & Nancy Klein

BOB BERNHARDT

Don & Lee Eide
Jimmy & Terri Linger
Margaret & Leslie Frank
Gary & Peggy Hedges
Anna Bakker



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Columbus, MT 59019
406-322-5520

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

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Angela and Deb enjoying
last year's Christmas party.

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

**A BIG THANK YOU FOR LIVESTOCK GIFTS FROM
THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES/INDIVIDUALS WHO
ATTENDED THE FAIRS & NILE.**

Also to those who donated from their own herds.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Stillwater County | Rick & Carrie Entenmann | C & D Warehouse |
| Laurel Ford | Fred s Quality Meats | |
| Beartooth Electric | Western Flag & Banner | Nile Livestock |
| Stillwater Mining Co. | Tony Mydland | Crowley Law Firm |
| Stillwater Lumber | Steamboat Ranch | Arvin Arthun |
| Milligans | Mountain Air | Air Controls |
| 4-K Ranch | | Staley Tires |
| Lowell Angus Ranch | Billings Fairs | First Interstate Bank |
| Larry Gee | Thomas Shows | Western Ranch Supply |
| Town & Country | Montana Motor Repair | |
| Millard & Mina Cox | Wallinder Insurance | Individual General |
| Broken Horn Ranch | Northern Ag Network | Livestock |
| Montana Seed Co. | Ray & Agnes Havig | Chuck Reid |
| | US Bank | Charles Yegen |
| Carbon County | Crowley Law Firm | Carol Bass |
| Laurel Ford | Hoiness LaBar Insurance | Paul & Pat |
| Beartooth Electric | Si Tanner | Descheemaeker |
| Stillwater Mining Co. | Four Seasons Shopping | Dave & Cheri Strouf |
| Farm Bureau Insurance | Vermandel Ranch | Phil & Doris Haglund |
| Montana Limestone Co. | First Interstate Bank | |
| First Interstate Bank | Stella s Kitchen | |
| Ellis Ranch | Hanson Chemical | |
| Shiptons Big R | Air Controls | |
| Brookstone Monument | Rohrer Inc. | |
| J Bar F Ranch Co. | EBMS | |
| Yellowstone Bean | Galles Filter Service | |
| Dr. Gessling | Lithia Dodge | |

CONSIDER A GIFT

- New or good used passenger van
- Feed ,Grain, and Hay
- Gift Certificate for tires (vehicles or equipment)
- Livestock, calves, and sheep
- Hand Tools
- Tractor 30 horse or larger
- Various building materials
- Designate a Cash Gift
- 4 wheel ATV
- A commercial type popcorn maker for special events
- Carpeting and linoleum for one of our homes (est. \$7,000)
- 3 External Hard Drives for PC backup
- A Credenza for the Billings office
- 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

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.