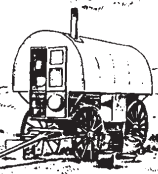




HERDER



VOL. 24, NO. 5

"Shepherding the Hesitant"

DECEMBER 2011

MISSION STATEMENT

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

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



October 1st was a day filled with excitement, warm sunshine, good food, and over 300 visitors at Special K Ranch. This was the day of our annual open house and the dedication of the all handicapped assessable Craig House that fulfills our vision to be able to tell the residents that the Special K Ranch community is a place they can "always call home".

On the 1st of November we received the Certificate of "Occupancy Approval" from the building inspector and the next day

Home Advisors Dennis and Cathy Osgood began moving into the Craig House. When Hank and Tim, the two oldest residents at the ranch, returned from the Special Olympics basketball tournament on the 5th they were surprised to find all of their furniture and belongings moved and setup in their new rooms in the Craig House.

As the time drew closer to move to the new home, Hank began to tell people that he wasn't going to move. At the Wednesday morning singing and devotion gathering a couple of days after the move, He came into the room wearing a big smile and proudly telling everyone that he was in the new home.

Two years ago anticipating the increase of residents and staff a larger food storage building with a walk-in freezer was added to our strategic plan. In August this year we received a grant of \$30,000 for this project. We were able to get the footings and floor poured before the ground started freezing and the framing is just about finished. To have this building in use by the end of the year an additional \$28,000 is needed to put in the walk-in freezer. If you are interested in this project and how you can help call the Ranch office and ask for Larry.

Another building project that has begun is a 60'X60' shop to house the manufacturing, assembling, and packaging of products the Montana Silversmiths is bringing back from China to Columbus. They brought a project to us a year ago and were so pleased with the work the residents did that they decided to raise the funds to build a building that would be a comfortable work area and room to set up some equipment. The result of their "Champions for a Cause" three

day event was to raise \$70,000. Construction has started.

This year has been a whirlwind of activity and change. The result though is that there are some exciting opportunities coming for the residents that will provide them with meaningful work, challenging growth, increasing income, and helps to keep the ranch moving toward our goal of becoming more and more self-sustaining.

Merry Christmas



DIRECTOR RECEIVES SPECIAL AWARD

Larry Goehner was recognized by the Montana Chapter Association of Fundraising Professionals at the 2011 National Philanthropy Day Awards Dinner to receive the 2011 award for Outstanding Professional Fundraiser. It was noted that Special K Ranch has flourished for more than 26 years under Larry's leadership. He and his wife Joy were involved in the start-up and continuing growth of the organization that is home to 28 developmentally disabled adults.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our

Annual Dinner

Tuesday April 10, 2012

at the Holiday Inn Convention Center.

The planning committee is working to make this another informative, and fun, fundraiser. If you would like to work with the committee, host a table or donate an auction item, please call Jyl Story at 520-4615 or send an email to jylstory@gmail.com.

The heavens are telling the glory of God. Psalm 19:1

With all of the changes going on at Special K Ranch this year, it's nice to know that some things remain the same. Every year when Special Olympics comes around, the residents come to life with a new excitement and enthusiasm; this year was no exception. The tournament began full of excitement and anticipation as the Great Falls community welcomed athletes from all over the state, and many different walks of life with open arms. Both residents and staff were deeply moved during the opening ceremonies by the School for the Deaf and Blind as they put the song "Love in any Language" to sign language. To see so many people gathered in one place with different ability's and disabilities, knowing that in the eyes of God each and every one of them are perfect; a person made in the image of God. A reminder to us "able" people, that God chooses the simple things of the world to confound the wise.

As Friday rolled around, the Special K Rams geared up for competitions at several venues around town. Each and every one of them poured their hearts into the games and displayed a tremendous amount of sportsmanship. I know that the other coaches and myself could not have been more proud to represent a finer group of athletes. The pride, joy, and sense of achievement, as well as the maturity and growth shown by each individual was evident, and continues to be an inspiration for us all.

I would also like to take this chance to thank the First Baptist Church's men's group of Great Falls along with the volunteers who were so generous and hospitable in supplying Special K athletes with dinner, desert, and a warm welcome our first night there. It is the kindness and generosity of various groups and volunteers like these that make this whole experience possible for the residents. Without such, none of this would be possible. Thank You!

Sincerely,

Levi McKim

P.S. Go Rams!!!



Alex and Jordan in the opening procession.

Team West

Coach Brenda, Rodney, Dallas, BJ, Kielie, Andy
Front Row Jordan, Laurie, Alex, Cindi

A GIFT FROM YOUR IRA

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 contained an IRA Charitable Rollover provision that allows people age 70 1/2 or older to exclude up to \$100,000 from their gross income for cash gifts made directly to a qualified charity. Because the charitable rollover qualifies for the required minimum distribution, it is easy and convenient. It is possible for donors taking a standard deduction to make IRA gifts directly to charity and avoid the additional income tax otherwise payable.



Hot potting in the Boiling River in Yellowstone Park; Jonah, Ben, Gavin, Carla, Bret, Rodney, Mike is behind the camera.

A GIFT FROM LIFE INSURANCE

Another possibility for making a gift is to name Special K Ranch the beneficiary of a life insurance police that is no longer needed.

MONTANA STATE TAX CREDIT

If you live in Montana you can lower your state tax when you make a qualified planned gift to a Montana charitable endowment. We would be happy to visit with you about a gift annuity which qualifies for this tax credit. This gift benefits you by giving you a tax credit, an income stream, and increases the Special K Ranch Endowment that helps present and future program needs.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS June 01, 2011 - October 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.

HONORARIUMS:

MARK ANDERSON
Larry & Joy Goehner
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David Bischoff
RUTH DRUMMOND
Don & Nadine Copley
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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.)



*God's voice thunders in marvelous ways;
he does great things beyond our
understanding. Job37:5*

It sure seems like I have been praying for wisdom a lot more than usual in my daily walk through life. Not only in my home life as my three children are growing up and embarking on their own life's path but more than ever in my life as program director of Special K Ranch. The ministry at Special K is evolving into uncharted territory and it is going to require all of us to be relying on God's gift of the Holy Spirit for wisdom.

The dedication of the new "Craig" house and the transitioning of residents from the existing homes have had an impact on almost every house on the ranch. These moves were not taken lightly because most of these residents and house parents have been living together as a family for years. We met with every resident and house parent and discussed several scenarios and after much prayer came up with the transition plan. There were so many things to consider, age, personalities, disabilities and abilities. As you know, just because you get along with someone doesn't always mean you want to live with them. Not only did we have residents moving but one of our house parents and their children were involved in the move also. Dennis and Cathy Osgood along with their children have moved over to the Craig house and have taken on the challenges of setting up and establishing how the house will operate. I really want to thank all of the staff and residents for their patience and understanding during this transition. We have also welcomed two new residents to the ranch to start filling the vacancies that the transition created. Paul LaVeau and Billie Jean Nelson are two of these new residents. Paul has moved into the Agape House and Billie Jean just started her six week trial period in the new Craig House. Over the next few months we will be contacting six more possible residents and their families and inviting them to become a part of God's very special ministry called Special K Ranch. Wow! Just typing that sent a humbling chill through me as I realized the lives and the families that will be effected by those decisions of who receives a phone call and who does not.

We can all see God in exceptional things, but it requires

WISDOM

*the growth of spiritual discipline to see God in every detail.
Never believe that the so-called random events of life are anything
less than God's appointed order – Oswald Chambers*

Not only is the population at the ranch changing, the physical landscape of the ranch is changing as well. We just broke ground on two new buildings and will be breaking ground on a new addition to the greenhouse complex next week. The first building is our new food storage building and it will contain a new walk in freezer, cooler, sorting and washing station, and wall to wall shelves. The next building will be our new light manufacturing facility made possible by the fundraising efforts of the "Champions For a Cause" organization. This building will be a great addition to our vocational training programs as we begin our new partnership with Montana Silversmiths.

As I take a bird's eye view of the mission field of Special K Ranch and all the changes and activity taking place, it could be a little overwhelming. But I take comfort in the wisdom of knowing that my faith is in the One from whom my salvation springs and that I must be ready to discover His divine designs anywhere and everywhere.

*For wisdom will enter your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. - Proverbs 2:10*

Mike T. Oberg

Press On!
Mike

P.S. Have I told you lately
how much I still
Love my job?



*Rick Ruebusch CEO Montana Silversmiths presenting Mike Oberg
a check from the "Champions for a Cause" fundraiser for the workshop
building they are building for SKR*

A day in the life.....

Say the words "town day" and you will see residents faces light up. It's something that we look forward to each week as we venture off of Special K Ranch and out into the community we know and love, Columbus, Montana. We invite you to take a moment and join us on our "town day."



First stop the bank, where Cheryl, Theresa and the rest of the women greet us with big smiles, and "How is your day?", "What are you working on in the Greenhouse?"

Lots of laughter and friendly conversation; our hearts and wallets full. Out to lunch at the local sandwich shop -Always a

special treat! The servers work hard to fill our orders and take good care of us during this, the busiest hour of their day. After lunch, we're off to

the IGA where we shop for toiletries and weekly snacks. We are greeted warmly and served with a smile. We love the employees of the Pharmacy! Always friendly, helpful and informative! Next stop, the library to pick up books, music, and movies for the week. Robert, Sarah, and Susie are a special group, ready with a helping hand to assist us in finding what we are looking for! Finally, a quick stop at the Post Office to purchase stamps and mail letters home to family. Columbus, Montana you are so good to us! In the words of Bret Beavans, wait for it... We love you!

Fun Fact:

50 residents and staff x 3 meals a day =

150 individual meals a day

150 individual meals a day x 365 days a year =

54,750 meals for staff and residents a year! Whoa!

All made possible because of gifts from
generous people like you. Thank You!

CONSIDER A GIFT

New or used passenger car/economy
for administration
Hay, Feed Grain
Calves, Ewes
Commercial Vacuum
Designate gift to a project:

1. Food Storage Building
2. Greenhouse heater \$1,150
And an installation kit \$430
3. Propagation mat \$120 (4 mats per table)
and 1 thermostat @\$85
4. Chairs and round folding tables for Delta Community room in
lower level of new home



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