



Let the Growing Begin

Mission Statement:

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

The idea for Special K Ranch is 40 years old this year! Since the Ranch officially began in 1986, we've had only TWO executive directors. Both Larry Goehner and Mike Oberg have my ultimate respect, and I want to grow up to be just like them. Their longevity speaks volumes about the legacy of Special K.

I would rather talk about the residents than myself, but I've been advised to introduce myself briefly. I've worked for non-profits for over 25 years, first as Athletic Director and Vice-President at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, secondly as I pastored many residents and house parents for 15 years while living in Columbus, finally as the leader of our denomination. My past should be good training in this new endeavor at the ranch.

I've coached basketball for 25 years and enjoy recreating in the outdoors with my wife, Lisa. We have two kids but are empty nesters. We currently have one bird dog and one cat, which is sometimes entertaining. I am a fan of any team out of Colorado, as that is where I grew up. Most of all, I love Jesus and am thankful to serve Him with the abilities I've been granted. But enough about me...

These residents are a joy (most of the time). What a hoot to watch them participate in Special Olympics,

daily work, as well as plant sagebrush with the BLM. Lisa and I have fed every house a special dinner and have done weekend relief in our Columbus home.

I am doing my best to get to know the many stakeholders of Special K, including Board members, parents/guardians, donors, staff and especially residents. Please be patient with me as I learn the ropes and pray my way through the early days of this new adventure! May God bless Special K! I will close with a poem from rancher Laurie Bogrett for our new year:

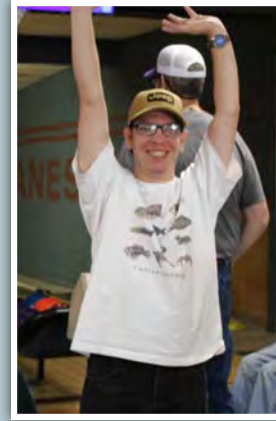
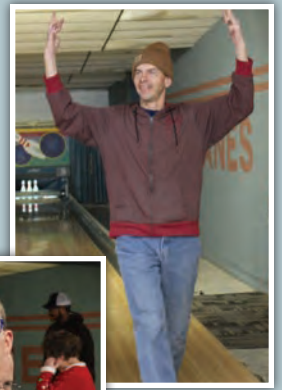
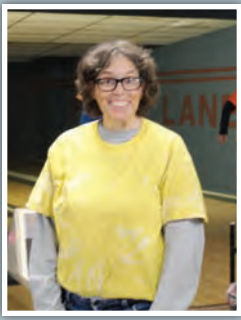
"Times change, people change, but do they have to change so much they can't be friends? I want to say thanks for lending me an ear, for understanding and wanting to be my friend!"

-Laurie Bogrett

Dr. Jay Forseth
Executive Director



LET THE PINS FALL WHERE THEY MAY



It's all too common, as development director for the ranch, to let fundraising goals, deadlines, and long to-do lists overshadow the sole reason my position exists. It's all about our amazing residents! Making sure we can provide them with a quality, loving home in which they thrive and are happy is really what my job is all about.

For this article I've decided to pay tribute to a particular resident whom I greatly admire. His name is Paul. With his gentle, calm demeanor and uncanny musical talent, he plays a very special role at our fundraising dinner by singing God Bless America. As a fellow vocalist, I understand what it's like to sing a cappella in front of 600 people. It's very rewarding to share a beautiful song and to communicate in this extraordinary way, which is only possible through music, but it is also extremely challenging.

Last year, when I asked Paul if he would sing God Bless America for us once again, he responded as he always does. "Yeaah," he softly replied, with a small grin. This past year was particularly special, because residents Ben and Ariel, who are also long-time friends of Paul's, agreed to

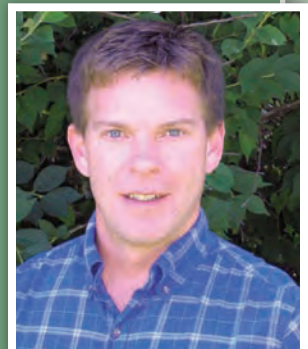


sing with him. Even though Paul had returned from an overseas trip the day before the event and was jetlagged, he sang so beautifully, as he always does, every time. One year, I filmed him singing this terrific song in his living room, when we were forced to host the event online during the Covid years. He of course performed it with the same, beautiful results. No matter the circumstances, he is always so willing, dependable and consistent, and his voice brings joy and comfort to our guests, year after year.

Thank you, Paul, so very much, for your willingness to share your talents with us! Thanks, too, to Ben and Ariel for singing with him last year.

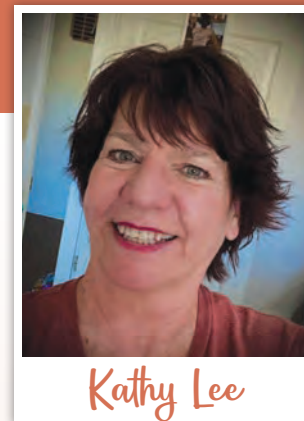
Please join us on August 22 for another opportunity to enjoy fellowship with our residents and hear Paul's beautiful song.

Steve Aadland
Development Director



Steven Aadland

Happy Spring!



Kathy Lee

I say that as I am looking out my window at somewhere between 16-18 inches of snow on the ground and it is quite chilly. It is hard to believe another greenhouse season is right around the corner and longer days are headed our way. I, for one, cannot wait!

I sat down with two residents this past week, interview style. Laurie, who was our first female resident and Kaycee, who is our most recent female resident (at this very moment). I asked them the same questions and although their answers varied, the theme was definitely the same.

Kathy Lee
Residential Director

Laurie is 68 years old and has lived here on the ranch for 28 years; she is from Wyoming.

Why did you move here? Because my life was empty, I had no people in my life.

What is your favorite part of the ranch? The greenhouse

What is your least favorite part of the ranch? Having certain days to do things because there are others that need time to do things as well. It works out well, but sometimes I would like to do things on the spur of the moment. (laughter erupted)

What is your favorite story you like to tell? My dad sent money so I could take the whole house to the movies, we had so much fun. I also bought huckleberry ice cream bars for my house parents because they never had huckleberries, they got hooked!!

How many houses have you lived in and how many sets of house parents have you had?

I have lived in 5 houses and have had too many sets of house parents to count, hahaha.

What is something you have learned from living on the ranch? Having Jesus in my life.

What is your favorite pastime? Watching TV and writing letters.

What is your favorite job in the vocational program? Working in the Greenhouse

What is something you want everyone to know about SKR? It is a special place for people that have DD.



Kaycee is 25 and has lived here for a little over a year, she is from North Dakota.

Why did you move here? To be a part of something and to be able to work.

What is your favorite part of the ranch? Seeing everyone smile at me.

What is your least favorite part of the ranch? Waking up (giggles)

What is your favorite story you like to tell? I always get hugs from everyone at the office when I go to the office.

How many houses have you lived in and how many sets of house parents have you had? I have lived in one house and have had 2 sets of house parents.

What is something you have learned from living on the ranch? Helping others and to be kind.

What is your favorite pastime? artwork

What is your favorite job in the vocational program? Doing Silversmith's jewelry.

What is something you want everyone to know about SKR? It is a really good place to be.

These two ladies are such a joy to have here on the ranch and both enjoy being social and thinking of new ideas for things to do.

I hope you all have a splendiferous spring and are able to come join us at Open House on June 14th, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Psalm 100:2 "Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!"

RANCHERS — OF THE — MONTH

These ranchers displayed exceptional behaviors and work ethics recognized by peers and staff and deserve special recognition.



Marvin Schieldt

In the vocational area of Special K Ranch, we strive to provide challenging yet achievable results for improving our resident's knowledge, skills and/or behaviors. In the behavioral area, that can mean we help them gain confidence in themselves and their abilities and expand their grasp on being better human beings. Sometimes though, it can be a challenge for us to convince a resident to try something new in the vocational area, when we know they have chosen to believe in a falsehood about the area we want to introduce to them. A new area is often something they have never done before. I want to give you a shortened look at two residents who were good at doing the work in the ranching and livestock area, but I wanted to challenge these two capable guys to try out our Greenhouse program and see if there would be something that they could learn and be good at.

At first it was a big struggle because these two guys thought that they were the only residents that could do the livestock work, such as calving and lambing, which are happening during Greenhouse season. Plus, as both guys have grown up in ranching families, they thought that working in the greenhouse was for lessor capable residents. They leveraged these two false perspectives to keep themselves out of the greenhouse. Yet, being the instigator that I am, I challenged (with all the staff involved in this) these two men and placed them on crews that were working in the greenhouse. It took a month or so before we stated seeing them respond favorably to their new vocational work, and by the end of the greenhouse season they were doing a great job. So much so that they were telling everyone how important it was for them to be in there and how much they were enjoying it.

One of these guys has always enjoyed irrigating on the ranch and did a respectable job here at SKR. The other one enjoyed raising and tending to a purebred angus herd at home as well as helping with haying. Both guys are very eager workers. Maybe you know who I am talking about. Greg Wennemar and Mike Himes. To Greg, we gave the task of watering hanging baskets (his 6' 7" height was a bonus,) and Mike became very good at helping staff. Specifically he was good at trimming back extra growth on some of our varieties of plants that require it.

When we evaluate the value of our vocational programs, this is one of the successes we love to see, as everyone benefits from someone in our midst improving their skills. When those who improve realize it, they become more confident and can challenge the other residents to try something new. Who knows, maybe they will find something new they really love and are really good at, just because they were challenged to go beyond their false assumptions.

Marvin Schieldt
Program Director



NOVEMBER- Alan

Alan loves pulling weeds, working the dirt table, and packaging jewelry. He does a wonderful job at all 3 of these.

Great Job Alan!



JANUARY - Brice

Brice loves being a mechanics helper and knows his stuff in the garage. He is so much help wherever he is on the ranch.

Congratulations on a job well done Brice!

A huge Thank You to the companies who provide the ranch with goods and service donations.



We cannot do what we do without amazing companies like Staley's Tire and Automotive.

Please call them for all your tire & automotive needs.

Interested in working with Special K Ranch?

Special K Ranch is a non-profit Christian organization looking for an energetic, loving couple to live with and assist 4 developmentally disabled adults on a working ranch. The ranch has a strong Christian emphasis in philosophy and practice and is looking for like-minded couples. We have 8 family-oriented homes serving 35 adults.

The ranch is located near Columbus, Montana on 220 acres along the Yellowstone River. It offers a living and learning experience in a rural agricultural setting for people with developmental disabilities. Sheep and cattle are raised on the ranch. The residents operate a greenhouse business with bedding plants and hydroponic tomatoes. Special K Ranch is a forever home for our residents; our vision is to nurture the human and spiritual potential of our residents.

Salary and Benefits provided. Experience with a group home setting is desirable.

Must pass background check and have a valid driver's license with good driving record. Will perform general household duties, organizing recreational activities, transporting residents to and from appointments. Will operate a company vehicle. Please contact Dr. Jay Forseth for a complete list of job responsibilities.

jay@specialkranch.org

Ways to Support Our Mission

Montana Income Tax Credit for Endowed Philanthropy

Important Update! The Montana Legislature has increased the maximum credit to \$15,000 (\$30,000 for couples filing jointly) for Montana taxpayers. Planned gifts, such as charitable gift annuities, qualify for this credit, which is worth 40% of the charitable gift amount. For businesses making an outright gift to a qualifying endowment, the maximum credit has increased to \$15,000. This popular and tax-wise way to give to the SKR Foundation Endowment supports our residents permanently.

Have an IRA?

Individuals who are 70½ or older can transfer up to \$108,000 from an IRA, directly to a qualifying charity, without recognizing the assets transferred as income. This tax-wise way of giving counts toward meeting the required minimum distribution (RMD) from IRAs. Distributions must be made from the IRA custodian directly to the ranch.

SKR Foundation Endowment

The endowment is the best long-term way to support our residents. This pool of invested funds distributes five percent of its fair market value, annually, to the ranch for general operating and other expenses.

Appreciated stock

Giving appreciated securities yields powerful tax benefits. Generally, the full fair market value can be deducted, and capital gains taxes can be avoided.

Bequest

Including the ranch in your will is a great way to help our residents and leave a legacy. Consider naming Special K Ranch for a percentage, a specific amount, or as the sole benefactor of your estate. Bequests can vastly improve estate tax situations.

How will my gift be used?

Gifts can be designated for the Operating Fund, SKR Foundation Endowment, or special projects. If you have questions or would like to support a specific project, please contact Development Director Steven Aadland at (406) 550-2224 or steve@specialkranch.org.

Honorariums and Memorials

NOVEMBER 1, 2024 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2025

The people honored and memorialized on these pages are part of the ongoing ministry of Special K Ranch.

A special thank you to those listed for making these gifts.

IN HONOR OF:

STEVEN AADLAND
Ms. Jennine Budge

KEITH & DEBBIE
BAKESLEY

Donna Beutler

BRET BEAVANS

Wayne & Linda D. Hodges
Richard & Risa Kinney

HOPE E BURTON

Mike & Carol Preyer

EMILY DOZIER SMITH

Frances Dozier

DALLAS EIDE

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JAY FORSETH

Kurt & Sandra Alme

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TOM HELM

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PATRICIA HOLMAN

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STEPHANIE LALIM

Larry & Beverly Thompson

DOUG & JANE LARSON

Donna Beutler

STEPHANIE MORELLI

Malcolm & Mary Haraway

KEN MOSS

Dennis Moss

PAUL & VICKI NUNBERG

Donna Beutler

MIKE OBERG

Cathie Bell
Dale & Pamela Bilyeu
Greg & Cindy Brazell
John & Cathy Claxton
Tim & Stacy Compton
Rob Germany

Larry & Joy Goehner

Dan & Monika Gray

Beverly Harper

HGFA Architects

Gary & Kathryn Hickle

Wayne & Linda D. Hodges

Andy & Joy Holman

Darrell & Joan Hopkins

Missy Jenkins

Allan & Pat Karell

Kathryn Laveau

K.C. & Jennifer Hickok

Gregory & Kari Novasio

Adam & Katrina Petersen

Vicki Ripley

Layne & Myrna Rolandson

Mylo & Kay Sather

Norma Schanck

Joe Stribley

Sarah & Duane Van Arsdale

Robert & Sherrie Willems

CONNIE & SHERALD

REMMICH

Donna Beutler

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Donna Beutler

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RITTAL

Donna Beutler

JIMMIE & MAE RITTAL

Donna Beutler

DANIELLE SILVA

Mike & Carol Preyer

ALIEDA STONE

Myrna Stone

DAVID TEELING

Dr. Donald & Carol Roberts

DAN & DARLA ZIER

Donna Beutler

IN MEMORY OF:

ANNE ALESANDRINI

Lori & Rob Jay

BILL ANDERSON

Donna Keller

JUNE ANDERSON

Donna Keller

NICK & MARIA BADILLA

Jeremy & Julie Siemens

THERESA BAINBRIDGE

Melody Bilden

ANNA & PETER BAKKER

Jeremy & Julie Siemens

STEVEN BAKKER

Helen Bakker

WILLIAM BAKKER

Helen Bakker

JIM BAYS

John & Vanessa Bays

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John & Vanessa Bays

BERNICE BJERTNESS

Thomas & Robin Hanel

JOHN BOYLE

Barbara Boyle

JUDY BURKE

Doug & Julie Kautz

DAVE CARLSON

Maria & Bee Burton

JOANN COBURN

Gary & Donna Pippin

LYNDON COBURN

Ed & Roxie Kraft

Carol Sands

HARRY CUFF

Judy Cuff

ERIN DAILEY

Leonard & Kathy Dailey

LAUREN DAMSCHEN

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Darlene Huschka

VICTOR FRANK

Mike Oberg

VICKIE FRY

Judy & Michael Weatherton

VICTORIA FRY

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Emily Burns

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JIM HORTON Ryan Burrows Mike & Cheryl Horning Charlotte Horton Judy Horton Steve & Valarie Krum Robert Mann Steele Accounting Solutions Yellowstone Bank Laurel	MILLIE MARSH E. Robert Marsh	PAT OBERG Gerard & Bonnie Huck	DALE STAHLACKER Winston Stahlecker
HILDAGARDE HUCK Gerard & Bonnie Huck	MALCOLM MCBURNEY Helen Wilke McBurney Sue & Scott McBurney	TIM OBERG Gerard & Bonnie Huck	CHUCK STEADMAN K. & Virginia Huckins
JIM HUCK Gerard & Bonnie Huck	LISA MCJUNKIN Donna Beutler	DON PARSONS Sue & Scott McBurney	PEGGY STOLTZ Mary Kasner
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WILLIAM HUSCHKA Darlene Huschka	ROBERT T. MENZIES Donna Menzies	SHIRLEY PARSONS Sue & Scott McBurney	PAULETTE VIIG Ed Viig
JANE JONES Rita Rowand	LEE MEYERS Ed & Roxie Kraft	MICHAEL PEASE Jim & Linda Peters	HOWARD VRALSTED Bill & Shelley Bernhard
ROBERT 'BOB' KAPPEL Peggy Kappel	AARON MILLER Doug & Julie Kautz	BERNIE PERLEBERG Bob Perleberg	PHYLLIS WASSON Brenda & David Hatten
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		SHARON SNOW Bonnie Owen	EARL ZUMBRUN Brenda Meyer
		BOB SOLIE Mary Rivers Solie	

If you have made a tribute gift and have not been listed, please contact us.

Leaving Your Legacy

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. The blessings you have received will continue to bless and help others.

When updating your will, check with your attorney for the proper legal forms and wording.

Wish List

No act of kindness,
no matter how small,
is ever wasted.

Chef's Knives

Shovels

Rakes

Couch for residents

Air Fryer

Fencing material

Microwave

Heavy duty dish rags

Shelving for garages

Pitch forks

Bolt storage bins



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2025
11AM - 2PM



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calendar for the
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Fundraising
Dinner**

August 22, 2025
5:00 PM
Billings Hotel