



### Mission Statement:

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

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11*



Mike Oberg

Hello Family Members,

I wanted to make sure you were getting your information from me instead of from the Columbus area "Grape Vine". Two years ago, I gave my Board of Directors a three-year notice of my pending retirement. Well, this is the third year, and I will be retiring at the end of 2024.

I can't even begin to tell you how fulfilled my life is because of this ministry and all of you that support this mission. It truly has influenced my whole personal family as well.

We began praying for God to make known who he would be providing as my replacement. I am so pleased to introduce Jay Forseth as the new Executive Director of Special K Ranch. We will be starting the transition of the Executive Director on November 1, 2024. Jay will be shadowing me for six to eight weeks until the end of the year.

I have been friends with Jay and his wife, Lisa, for 30 years and truly believe that he is the perfect leader for this next season of Special K Ranch.

He served as the Lead Pastor of the Columbus Evangelical Church for 15 years, then he was elected to a four-year term for Superintendent of the Western Conference of Evangelical Churches. After that term was up, Jay was elected for three years as General Superintendent of the denomination of The Evangelical Church. As Pastor of the Columbus church, Jay became well- acquainted with our residents and the staff at Special K Ranch. He is the perfect mix of a candidate for this season. He knows our people and the ministry at SKR, as well as bringing in a fresh approach to foster the complicated culture we are facing today, not only in this ministry but in our country as well.

I will be introducing Jay at our Fundraising Dinner in August. Hope to see you there!

Have I told you how much I have Loved my "Season" at Special K Ranch?

Thank you, Jesus!

"Press On"  
Mike



## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



The ranch could not do what it does without caring, dedicated, loving employees. Every year, the residents vote on their favorite employee. Well, this year we had three winners. Sue White won Employee of the Year, with Dawn and Clay as runner ups. Thank you all for what you do.

*The Ranchers obviously love you!*

## *Patriotic Gala*

Friday, August 16, 2024  
*Fundraising Dinner*

The Evening starts at 5pm  
with hors d'oeuvres  
& a Silent Auction

Dinner at 6pm  
Followed by a Live Auction

Billings Hotel and  
Convention Center

### **Alex Klee June 29, 1987 – April 29, 2024**

We have lost a dear friend and long-time resident, but Heaven has been brightened by a charming fellow with an irresistible soul. On April 29, 2024, Alex Klee jumped into the loving arms of Jesus. At birth, Alex weighed just under two pounds, but he was a fighter, and he finally came home after spending the first 18 months of his life in the Denver Children's Hospital.

Alex graduated from high school in Columbus, Montana, and he joined our Special K Ranch family in 2012. He continued to thrive and grow during his time at the ranch, where he accomplished so many things. He was very proud of being named Most Improved Rancher (2016 – 2017) and Rancher of the Year (2019 – 2020). He loved rock music, Guitar Hero, Nintendo, and he also enjoyed playing a mean "air guitar."

Alex lit up every room he walked into. Anyone who spent time with him has a funny "Alex story" to share. He was always happy, and his standard reply if you asked him how he was doing was, "Awesome!"

*We will always remember you, Alex, and how you brought a huge smile to the faces of your fellow residents and everyone in your presence!*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4:

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance . . .*



# Honorariums and Memorials

FEBRUARY 1, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

*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:

BRET BEAVANS

Peter & Carol Brejcha

LAURIE BOGRETT

Joan Lee Graf

KRISTIN CREIGHTON

Elaine Goehner

EMILY DOZIER SMITH

Frances Dozier

DALLAS EIDE

Mark Mattheis

BRYAN FORTIN

Julia Clark

TY GRAF

Andy & Joy Holman

JANINE PICKENS

Scott & Patricia Moore

JAMEN WURM

Elaine Goehner

## IN MEMORY OF:

BEN ARNOLD

Lawrence Lofing

GENE AUBREY

Gwen Aubrey

ARLO JAMES RYLES

AVERETT

Jim & Ruth Hatten

STEVEN BAKKER

Helen Bakker

WILLIAM BAKKER

Helen Bakker

BONNIE BERNSTEN

Theresa Leone

WALT BEUTLER

Donna Beutler

BARBARA BOYLAN

Ruth Drange

BOB CARDONA

Terry & Judy Krum

MARTHA DAVIDSON

Chris & Janet Southworth

RAMONA DOWNS

Bruce & Lillian Devries

BETTY & GLENN

EASTLICK

Clarence & Kayla Eastlick

William & Linda Strauch

WANDA EASTLICK

Bev & Ralph Amen

Clarence & Kayla Eastlick

Stan & Judy Eisenman

Norma Kappel

Jean Kerr

Kristy Kronfuss

Robert & Debra Meyer

Ralph & Donna Mitchell

Carol Sands

Julie & Thomas Steen

William & Linda Strauch

Donna Wagner

HEATHER FELLOWS

Bob & Betty Saxbury

FRED FEUERBACHER III

David & Betty Neibauer

LOREN FRANK

Robert & Roberta Fox

Gary & Linda Frank

Darlene Huschka

Ed & Roxie Kraft

James & Valorie K Kraft

Kayrene Kraft

Doug & Carol Moore

Warren & Kristin Ostwalt

Tom & Pam Robertus

Kenneth & Connie Schreiner

Brad & Sandy Wilder

Ervin & Peggy Wood

VICTORIA FRY

Mark & Cynthia Fry

AGNES FUNSTON

Bob & Betty Saxbury

CRAIG HALL

Rick Letz

LINDA "GWEN" HANSEN

Mary Ann Guenther

LOLA HANSEN

Donna & Keith Nelson

VIOLA HELGESON

Stan & Judy Eisenman

Brenda & David Hatten

Betty Simons

Delores Simons

VALERIE DOLYE

HENNING

Dale & Pamela Bilyeu

HERSH & JERRY

HERSRUD

George & Mary Ann Mathes

JERRY HERSRUD

Kathleen Chaffee

Roger Hanson

WARREN HILL

Roger & Nancy Beeter

BETTY HOEKSEMA

Randall & Bridget Brass

Peter & Carol Brejcha

Ron & Cynthia Flaherty

Dennis & Barbara Gurnsey

Lynne Hoeksema

Jerry & Sheila Jennings

Robert & Connie Johnson

Richard & Risa Kinney

Carolyn & Neil McCammon

Melanie McCammon

Dennis & Linda Miller

Jerry & Margaret Pezzetti

Charles & Katherine Saffris

David Shadle

MARK HOHN

Sunshine Apiary

SISTER MARY LAURA

HUDDLESTON SCL

Sister Eileen Haynes

GEORGE HULL

Dan & Vicki Kenyon

WILLIAM HUSCHKA

Darlene Huschka

KATHIE JESS

Freida McLaughlin

LIZ JOHNSON

Otto & Joanne Dringman

MIKE JOHNSTON

Terry & Nancy Hart

JANE JONES

John & Barbara Turcotte

DON KAHLE

Kenny & Peggy Hanstrom

JEANNE KAHLE

Karen Brace

Kenny & Peggy Hanstrom

Jack & Farol Kahle

Kris & Kim Kahle

Patricia Tripp

MILLARD KETTERLING

Thelma Shay

JIM KIMMERY

Loyann Kimmery

LEORA KLAUS

Steve & Kari Aadland

Bob & Deb Starling

Margaret Webber

Chris Wilgers

ALEX KLEE

Steve & Kari Aadland

Butch & Shannon Bratsky

Lawrence & Karen Klee

Sharon Bock

Elliott & Martha Connell	CAROL MATHISON	ERIC OSGOOD	DOROTHY & JOHN STRAUCH
Rick & Dawn Donaldson	Cindy Lou Meccage	Brenda & David Hatten	William & Linda Strauch
Dorothy Eberle	LAURA MATTHEIS	TOM PARKER	JIM SYME
Kenneth & Colleen Ekle	Freida McLaughlin	Mary Kasner	Adrienne Gibson
Heidi Harsha	JAN MCCANN	Carol Sands	RONALD THOMAS
Lori & Rob Jay	Rick Letz	JACK PAWLITSCHEK	Mary Underwood
Shane & Stephanie Johnston	BOB MCFARLANE	Gary & Rita Campbell	DENNIS WAGNER
David & Laura Kane	Richard & Beverly Hageman	PHIL & BETTY POPE	Beverly Harper
Kathryn Laveau	JO MECCAGE	Ralph & Carolyn Granner	Jim & Ruth Hatten
Sue & Scott McBurney	Brenda & David Hatten	YVONNE POPE	MELVEN WALTER
Gary & Annette Mellard	Jim & Ruth Hatten	Ralph & Carolyn Granner	Norma Walter
Molly Metzger	SHIRLEY A. MICHAEL	OLEN RAISLAND	Ronald & Donna Walter
Melaine Mullins	Norma Walter	Robert & Charlotte VanOosten	JUDY WARDEN
Carole Munns	BONNIE MILLER	NATHANIEL REDFERN	Mary Kasner
Carol Nelkin	Evelyn Debock	Dan & Vicki Kenyon	ROBERT WILKE
Sunshine Apiary	JANE MINCH	WALT REID	Helen Wilke McBurney
Becky Webb	Norma Kappel	Carol Works	ROBERT WILLEMS
Wheatland Memorial Healthcare	PAULA MJELSTAD	TOM ROLANDO	Doris Olson
ROBERT KOPPEL	Roger & Darla Huebner	Theresa Leone	Bill & Debbie Tierney
Donald Groscop	Joan Michael	ILA RONNING	JOE WOLD
DAN KRAFT	KATHLEEN MOHR	Ardel Ronning	Peggy Kappel
James & Valorie K Kraft	Stan & Judy Eisenman	GERALD SHAY	Mary Kasner
Kayrene Kraft	Laurie & Tom Glover	Kayrene Kraft	GREG WOOD
JOHN KROLL	Gary & Diana Harding	Ervin & Peggy Wood	Maurice & Susan Kaiser
Mary Kroll	John Markegard	LARRY SIMONS	James & Valorie K Kraft
MARION KRUG	Mary Matule	Gary & Diana Harding	Kayrene Kraft
Carl & Gloria Fox	Betty Simons	Jim & Ruth Hatten	Ervin & Peggy Wood
Terry & Nancy Hart	Chris & Janet Southworth	Dan & Vicki Kenyon	KEVIN YEDLICKA
NANCY LASATER	Fred & Mary Lee Steinmetz	BOB SOLIE	Mary Ann Farias
Anthony & Virginia Typanski	William & Linda Strauch	Chuck & JoLynn Sommers	LESLIE ZEIGLER
JOYCE LORASH	Carl & Linda Tedlund	BENJAMIN SOMMERS	Kenneth & Colleen Ekle
Dan & Vicki Kenyon	PAULINE MOODY	Chuck & JoLynn Sommers	Ennis & Susan Geraghty
JACK LUNGER	Stanley & Cheryl Pelton	JIM SQUIRES	
Bill & Kathleen Dorsett	GEORGIA MOORE	Donna Beutler	
HELEN LOUISE MACE	Jason & Tammy Robertus	GERALDINE STALEY	
Al Havens	CARLA OBERG	Terry & Nancy Hart	
MILLIE MARSH	Loyann Kimmerly		
E. Robert Marsh			

*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.*

# Ranchers of the Month

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



## MARCH - Mike

Mike has been at the ranch for 16 years. He knows the livestock better than anyone else on the ranch. Mike is a hardworking, caring, and helpful rancher and we are lucky to be able to work with Mike.

*Great job Mike!*



## APRIL - Robbie

Rob has been at the ranch for 23 years. Robbie always has a smile and a handshake for you. The ranch would truly not be the same without Robbie.

*You always do a remarkable job!*



## MAY - Steph

Stephanie has been at the ranch for 28 years. She is a great friend and colleague. Steph is also a wonderful big sister.

*Way to go Steph!!*



## JUNE - Cat

Cat has been at the ranch for 12 years. She is a wonderful part of the ranch. Cat is always friendly and open to new people and to the ones she's known for years.

*We need more people like Cat!*

## Ways to Help

### Have an IRA?

Individuals who are 70½ or older can transfer up to \$100,000 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.

### 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.

### Montana Endowment Tax Credit

**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.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:steve@specialkranch.org).



# THE RANCH HAD A MARVELOUS OPEN HOUSE WITH FOOD, FUN AND FAMILY.



## ***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 Special K Ranch for a complete list of job responsibilities.

**[specialkranch.org](http://specialkranch.org)**

