



HERDER



Mission Statement:

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

In Loving Memory of Larry Goehner, 1944 - 2025



On October 31, with family by his side, our founding father, Larry Goehner, passed into the loving arms of Jesus.

Larry was born in Wenatchee, Washington on Dec. 14, 1944.

His mom and dad, Otto and Lorene Goehner, had an orchard up the valley outside of a small town called Dryden. He had a good childhood there, roaming the hills above the orchard and sledding down those same hills in the winter.

From picking fruit and driving the tractor, Larry learned to have a can-do spirit

and strong work ethic that would be a part of his character for the rest of his life.

Larry's favorite sport was basketball, and in High School, he was the starting point guard on a team that came close to winning two divisional championships. He also played basketball at Cascade College in Portland, Oregon, where he earned a degree in psychology and a minor in music. He later attended graduate school at an American Baptist seminary just outside of Los Angeles. While studying for his degree he had the opportunity to travel to Hawaii to work as a youth minister at a church there. His decision to take the job would change the direction of his life.

While working at the church he began directing the choir. A young woman named Joy caught his eye. The two began dating and not long after, they were married. They moved back to California, and Larry finished his master's degree.

Larry and a close friend and colleague eventually met a family with a son with developmental disabilities. They understood the

family's concern about having a place for their son to live and work as he got older. Larry and his friend felt called to start a nonprofit for adults who have developmental disabilities. Over the next three years, Rainbow Acres in Camp Verde, Arizona, became a working ranch serving these folks.

Then Larry and Joy received a call to help start another ranch for developmentally disabled adults in Goldendale, Washington. It took a lot to start this new nonprofit ministry, and Larry was often on the road. But whenever he could, he spent time playing sports with his boys, Allen and Erik, and doing family activities like hiking and cross-country skiing.

In 1986, Larry received a call to start a third nonprofit in Columbus, Montana. This ministry became known as Special K Ranch. Larry spent the next 29 years establishing and building the ranch, and for most of this time, Joy was working in the office by his side. They were not always sure how they were going to pay bills to keep the ranch going, but they had faith that God would provide.

Larry lived a life of faithful service to others as he sought to follow the way of Jesus as best he could. During a week-long stay at the hospital last May, Larry told almost everyone who came into the room that the most important thing they needed to know was, "... that God loved them, and not just them but the whole world." This is what Larry was about, wanting to share God's love. He was a person whom you could say with confidence that the world is better because he had been in it.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to those who would like to make a tribute gift to Special K Ranch in memory of Larry. A cobblestone bearing Larry's name will be placed next to Joy's in the Special K Ranch memorial garden.

The Day I Met Larry

It was an unseasonably warm day in November 2011 when I met Larry Goehner. I was working for the University of Montana Foundation in Missoula at the time, and what brought me to the ranch that day was Larry's wisdom, gentle but unbending persistence, and love for the people he served. After hearing me sing at a benefit concert in Absarokee earlier that year (nonprofit work and music were my focusses at the time), Larry became intrigued by the possibility of me becoming the next development director for Special K Ranch.

We hadn't met or spoken, but Larry trusted his intuition, and he kept calling and leaving polite, persistent voicemails. He did not give up. Even though I had no intention of relocating, I finally called him back. Somehow, a few weeks later, I found myself at the ranch, sitting across from him at his desk, having a lengthy but fascinating conversation. I listened. Then, in the ranch's 90s Buick LeSabre, we slowly idled out to the greenhouse facility for a ranch tour. This job interview had been quite different from any other I had experienced, and that distinction continued as the day unfolded. Given the time of year, the greenhouse complex was empty and undergoing maintenance, but it was still

incredibly impressive. Even more remarkable was how the people of Special K Ranch made me feel.

Never had I met a more welcoming, accepting, and loving group of people. Residents and staff alike were so eager to instantly accept me, a perfect stranger, into their family. It made me realize: this ranch isn't a business, nor simply a "human services nonprofit." It is a *family*. Why? Because Larry Goehner created this ranch.

Larry poured a foundation of love, hard work, faith, encouragement, perseverance, kindness, and wisdom, on which Special K Ranch has thrived. A one-of-a-kind man built a one-of-a-kind organization. Thank you, Larry, for mentoring me, for being my dear friend, and for making this ranch the amazing place it is today. To you we are forever grateful.

Steven Aadland
Development Director



Steven Aadland



Marvin Schieldt

Changes are always happening at SKR. In fact, I believe they are inevitable. I am in my 13th year of serving as the Program Director here at Special K Ranch. I have seen the expansion of our resident homes from seven to eight and residents living here from 31 to 35. Of those residents that were here when I started, 21 out of 31 are still here. That means we have added 14 new residents

since the beginning of 2013. Change has offered opportunity for other developmentally disabled adults to have great lives with many learning experiences and wonderful support from family and friends. Though it may seem like a lot of faces have come and gone, we still have a good representation of longevity with Dallas of 39 years. Laurie Bogrett, Steph Lalim and Deb Hadlock have been here 29 years. Angela Beadle, Rod Cochran, Greg Wennemar, Ben Johnson, Robbie Larsen and Bryan Fortin have all been part of SKR for 20 to 30 years. It's amazing to me to look back, even before I became one of the gang, and see what they have all done for themselves and numerous others. They have built a successful bedding plant/greenhouse business, raised and sold thousands of sheep

and cattle, and are renowned for great tasting tomatoes and melons. Plus, they have assembled tens of thousands of Rite Bobbins and beautifully displayed items for Montana Silversmiths. Well... change will continue to happen. We have a new Executive Director who is now bringing a new vision that will help address the challenges of those things that are changing around us. Our residents will continue to adjust to their own personal changes/challenges that surround them in life.

All our accomplishments should be understood as something that only our Heavenly Father could have accomplished, as this ministry has chosen to continually keep HIM foremost in our focus and allow HIM to change and grow every one of us. As we have seen so much change it's also really great to know that what is most important to us is that God does not change: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17. We are now heading into another winter season so join us in trusting in our Heavenly Father to strengthen us and be assured that we all are praying for you.

Marvin Schieldt
Program Director



Kathy Lee

Hello everyone! The days are shorter, and it is cooling off; the weather has been kind this fall. I am hoping it doesn't mean a harsh winter. The teasing has begun for me, as everyone knows, winter is not my favorite season. I already have a countdown starting for spring!! That is probably why time seems to fly for me; I tend to always be months ahead for some reason or another.

I sat down with two residents this past week, interview style, like I did last spring. Angela, who was one of our first female residents, and Eryn, who joined the ranch this last September.

Angela is 51 years old and has lived here on the ranch for 24 years. She is from Wisconsin.

Why did you move here?

I couldn't make it on my own, had no transportation, and people took advantage of me.

What is your favorite part of the ranch?

The greenhouse, learning about plants and animals.

What is your least favorite part of the ranch?

Not enough trips home and not enough Special Olympic sports (wants to do track and field)

What is your favorite story you like to tell?

Rod and I were on a plant run with Grandpa Bob in the old rickety blue school bus, which had a hole in the floor by the driver and NO A/C!!! (wide grin and chuckle). We stopped at the gas station, and Grandpa Bob was checking the oil and lost the dipstick. We looked everywhere under the bus, and then Rod found it lying inside the engine by the battery. I said, "Look who's a dipstick now!" (much laughter at saying that)

What is something you have learned from living on the ranch?

To be somewhat semi-independent, help others, and it is ok to ask for help.

What is your favorite pastime?

Skiing, reading, and making jewelry.

What is your favorite job in the vocational program?

Always the greenhouse.

What is something you want everyone to know about SKR?

We are Christians; we pray and care about everyone, not just the ranch. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ.

Eryn is 21 and has lived here for three months. She is from Idaho.

Why did you move here?

To have the opportunity to move out and meet other people.

What is your favorite part of the ranch?

Working and getting to know others.

What is your least favorite part of the ranch?

Different moods (hahaha)

What is your favorite story you like to tell?

Everyone has been there for me since day one.

What is something you have learned from living on the ranch?

I've learned not to interrupt others and to respect their voices.

What is your favorite pastime?

TV, coloring, and diamond art, when I feel like cleaning that mess up! (plenty of laughs)

What is your favorite job in the vocational program?

All aspects of jewelry.

What is something you want everyone to know about SKR?

It is a good place to be, everyone is friendly, and I don't ever want to leave.



These two gals thoroughly enjoyed talking about the ranch and each other; it was a joyful half hour and amazingly light-hearted. You never know what will be said or what squirrel we may chase after.

I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Kathy Lee
Residential Director

*"And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased."*

– Hebrews 13:16

Honorariums and Memorials JULY 1, 2025, THROUGH OCTOBER 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:

DALLAS EIDE
Mark Mattheis

JANINE PICKENS
Curt Rentsma

IN MEMORY OF:

ALICE GARTMAN STENE
Kathleen Chaffee

ALMA LITTON
Mike & Kathy Sampson
Kathy Shay

ARDIS HANSON
Monte Malnaa

BARBARA HOPPEL
Barbara Wennemar

BEN BROWN
Jim & Linda Peters

BESSIE LEHMAN
Norma Kappel

BETTY COMBS
Robert Buyan

BETTY GOODMAN
Carol Sands

BETTY STEINMETZ
Brenda & David Hatten
Delores Simons
Fred & Mary Lee Steinmetz

BEVERLY NORSTRUM
Sheri Loughney

BOB SOLIE
Gary & Ingrid Jagodzinski

BOE BROWN
Jim & Linda Peters

BRANDON SCHMIDT
Dale & Pamela Bilyeu

BRIELLE RYLEE BRUBAKER
Dan & Vicki Kenyon

BRITTNEY DIMICH
Jeanette Cain

BRUCE TEETERS
Dean & Betty Fausnaugh
Richard & Vicki Farnes
Doug & Julie Kautz

BRYON OSTWALD
Jim & Ruth Hatten

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Mike Oberg

CAROLE ZUNDEL
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CARTER HENDERSON
Mike & Cheryl Horning

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Steve & Jan Aadland

CONNIE ANDERSON
Kathleen Chaffee

CRAIG KOLSTAD
Don Kolstad

CURT KOLSTAD
Don Kolstad

DAVID T. WILLIAMSON
Dana & Janyce Strobel
Patricia Benzel & Kim Dresch

DEAN MCCABE
Roger & Connie Eissinger

DEB CARTER
Daniel & Toni Schultz
Ruth & Sean Erickson
Jim & Paula Mandeville
Heidi Harsha

DIANA KENYON MAYLAND
Dan & Vicki Kenyon

DOROTHY STROBBE
Ed & Roxie Kraft

DOROTHY THAUT
Doyle & Crystal Sutton

EARLE 'PINKY' PELLETIER
K. & Virginia Huckins

ED HERGETT
Jim & Linda Peters

ELDON UNGEFUG
Richard & Joanne Nauman
Doug & Julie Kautz

FRANK FORTIN
Jack & Arlene Oakes

GREG GONSER
Erin Mohr

GREG WEAST
Afton Lamoreaux
Sandra Peck

HEIDI ANDERSON
Dale Anderson

ILA RONNING
Ardel Ronning

JIM BOTT
Heidi Harsha

JIM HORTON
Larry & Kathryn Minch

JOANN LARSON
Ruth & Sean Erickson

JOE NIEMI
Dan & Vicki Kenyon

JOHN OSTLUND
Doug & Julie Kautz

JOY GOEHNER
Loren & Nancy Sasser
Tonia Fisher-Clark
Twyla Steinburg
St. James Lutheran
Arleen Wepler
Kirsten & Karsten Lundring
Adrienne Gibson

JUDY CONRADSEN
Donna & Keith Nelson

JUDY KENYON HATTEN
Dan & Vicki Kenyon

JULIE BEADLE
Lorna & Michael Krueger
Dan & Vicki Kenyon

KATHY FINNEY
Sandy Western

KATHY HETTINGER
Doug & Julie Kautz

KATHY KEENER
Carol Sands

KEN NEIBAUER
JC & Janet Horton

LARRY KOBER
Stan & Judy Eisenman

LAURA RUTH MCGLOTHIN
Steve & Barbara Riveland
Valerie Smith

MARGE BLAIN
Gary & Carol Daneil

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MAXINE BUERKLE
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OSCAR HANSON
Monte Malnaa

RAND CARLSON
Jim & Ruth Hatten

RAYMOND KOLSTAD
Don Kolstad

RICK WEGNER
Dan & Vicki Kenyon

ROBERT 'BOB' KAPPEL
Sandy Western

ROBERT 'BOB' SAXBURY
Judy Smith
Larry & Kathryn Minch
Richard & Joanne Nauman
Sandy Western

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TERRY O'CONNOR
Robert Buyan

TIA KOBER
Norma Kappel

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Carolyn & Jack Lauf
Jean Huff

TOM LENHARDT
Doug & Julie Kautz

WAYNE EISENMAN
Linda & Jerry Fisher
Lesly Pardew
Norma Kappel
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Brenda & David Hatten
John & Maureen Gottula
John Markegard
Gordon & Toni McKittrick
Fred & Mary Lee Steinmetz
Daniel & Carole Driscoll
Rebecca Lenhart
Toni Rardin
Jim & Ruth Hatten
WILLIAM 'BILL' FORTUNE
Esther & Ron Fischer
Steve & Konny Martin

*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.



December might seem like a strange time to be looking at next year's garden but for those of us who enjoy and eagerly anticipate the chance to get our hands in the soil, the thought of next year's garden is always rattling around in the back of our brains. There is no better time than the present, from learning new composting techniques to new seed varieties to try. There are endless amounts of information and ideas to dabble in. That is why when I was presented with a new idea for a vocational program, it immediately piqued my interest.

A few months back, Jay asked me to come and talk about this program he was looking into...vermicast, also known as worm castings. Black gold to a gardener. God's natural fertilizer, free of chemicals and pesticides.

Many of us over the years though well intended have learned that gardening consists of tilling the soil and fertilizing the plants. Well over a course of time this regiment has depleted the soil of its natural bacteria and fungus. That is where the worms come in, building good healthy soil.

Special K Ranch is now home to some 20,000 new worms who have been put to work converting compost into worm castings. They are pretty much eating, sleeping, and...well you get the idea. The hope is that by next summer, we will have natural, local vermicast to package and sell to an ever-growing customer base of people who are becoming more aware of the essential nutrients in worm castings.

Stay tuned for good things to come.
Levi McKim



Dr. Jay Forseth

SPECIAL K IS A FAMILY

If you've been near Special K much, you might've noticed "two old fixtures" around these parts. Both these "gentlemen" have showed devoted care to our residents without fail. We like to give them a good ribbing sometimes, but deep down we cherish them dearly.

Please help me honor two famous staff members, Dana Strobel and Gary Jones!

Dana Strobel is in his 19th year at Special K. He was a house parent for 12 years (with his wife Janyce) at both the Kunkel and Stumvoll houses. He's always been involved in our farm crew with residents like Mike Himes and Greg Wennemar. Mike says, "Dana is fun to work with, and he has taught me a lot." Greg says, "Dana is nice. He cares about us."

Gary Jones is in his 21st year here. He and Linda were at the Hawkins house for 13 years. He's done it all here, from greenhouse delivery to tomato world to working maintenance in our shop. Former resident Andy Hedstrom states, "I love Gary, he was a great house dad!" Shane Rodgers adds, "Gary meant the world to me, and he was always willing to spend time with me."

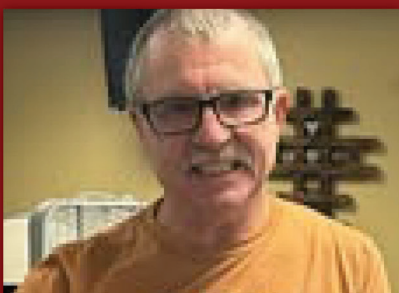
From all our Special K family, thank you Dana and Gary for serving here so well!

Dr. Jay Forseth
Executive Director



RANCHERS OF THE MONTH

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



AUGUST
Rod



OCTOBER
Cassidy



SEPTEMBER
Jeremy

We thank our generous sponsors who supported the 2025 Fundraising Dinner and Fund Drive with pre-event gifts of \$1,000 or more.

BARONS

Elaine Goehner

Sibanye-Stillwater

The Fangsrud Stone Group at
Morgan Stanley

Wheaton Precious Metals



HERDERS

Ballard Petroleum Holdings

Bank of Bridger

CDW Construction

Cladis Investment Advisory

Columbus IGA & Stillwater Family Pharmacy

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Darrell & Sally Ehrlick

K.C. & Jennifer Hickok

Jones Construction

Karell Kimmet Beddow PLLP

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PARTNERS

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First Interstate Bank

Hardy Construction

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Montana Silversmiths

Carol Vincent

Robert Jr. & Sherrie Willems

RANCHERS OF THE YEAR



RANCHER OF THE YEAR

Ember



RANCHER OF THE YEAR

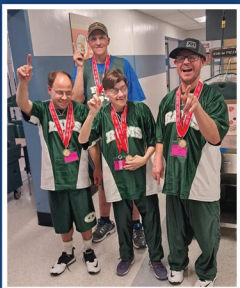
Alan



MOST IMPROVED RANCHER

Brice

WE HAVE SOME OLYMPIC BASKETBALL PLAYERS!!



Ways to Help and Save on Taxes

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.

GIFTS IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF

Pay tribute to a loved one by supporting the ranch in this special way. A listing of the tribute gift is included in our newsletters.

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.

Jesus is the Gift

