



Mission Statement:

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

Growing Old Together

As you grow up, the number of friends doesn't matter. What matters is the number of true friends that you have. One of the greatest titles we can have is 'old friend.' Today is the day to invest in those people we hope will call us 'old friend in the years to come.'

~Anonymous~



Mike Oberg

I met Bret Beavans in 1999 while volunteering in the greenhouse at Special K Ranch. It didn't take long for our friendship to blossom into a bond that was based on unconditional love for each other. He taught me so many things about what it was like to

have developmental disabilities on one hand and also a desire to experience the things in life that "Normal" people do. You know, the house with the white picket fence, 2.5 children, and a few solid friendships in your life. We tried to meet in my office on Thursdays after lunch to enjoy a Snickers candy bar and a fresh cup of coffee. It was always a time I looked forward to and together we would solve most of the issues in our lives. Our friendship grew to include an unofficial adoption, of Bret, into my family. He developed quality relationships with each one of my children and especially my wife Carla. We would have a group of residents spend the weekend at our house and pretty much have a party weekend. Sitting in the hot tub on Saturday nights was always a highlight and Carla would make homemade Frappuccinos with whip cream and chocolate syrup swirled on top. Bret was always the first to get his!

The last couple of years, we were seeing Bret's mental and physical health declining and getting to a point of concern for his

safety. After several conversations with Bret and his family, it was decided that Special K Ranch was not a safe environment for Bret to live. This was a very hard decision to make, but one we all agreed needed to

happen. Bret had been calling Special K Ranch home for 30 years and had become a close friend to many people around the surrounding communities. His sister, Judy, arrived from Shelby, Montana and we began to pack Bret's stuff up. He was moving to an assisted living facility in Shelby. While we were packing, Bret received phone calls from all three of his adopted family members, (my 3 children). It filled my heart to hear their conversations. Bret will always know he was loved while living at Special K Ranch and it was God's plan for his life to live here. I will never forget how Bret greeted new people he met. He would shake their hand and then ask them this question, "Do You Know Jesus Loves Ya Man?"

As I sat down to write this article, I became overwhelmed with how blessed my life has been and felt a sense of gratitude for being part of God's ministry at Special K Ranch. I must admit that it produced a few tears that trickled down my cheeks. Talk to you soon 'Old Friend!'

— God is in this story

Have I told you how much I Love my Job/Life!

Thank you, Jesus!

Mike and the Gang at Special K Ranch!



Larry Goehner and Mike reminiscing with Bret



Bret at his new assisted living home.

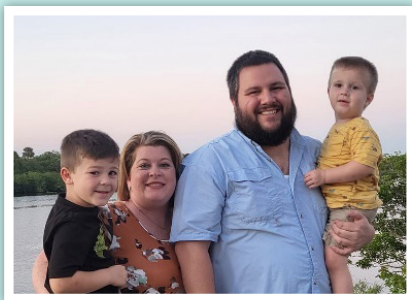


Kathy Lee

Happy Spring!

It is hard to believe we are ramping up for another greenhouse season, especially as I watch the snow pile up outside. Residents are also preparing for Special Olympics bowling and some have been skiing. They are also gearing up for ticket sale outings (a favorite of theirs) and already talking greenhouse delivery days for our customers. Busy, Busy, Busy!

We have hired a couple from Florida to be house parents at McCormick House - **super excited!** Tiffany and Scott Sloan arrived February 22nd with their sons, Mason, and Colten. They are very happy to be here and cannot wait to be ensconced in all the ranch has to offer.



Tabitha moved over to Stumvoll House; she will continue with long term relief until house parents can be found for Stumvoll. She has done an amazing job at McCormick; a temporary position that became full time for her. I am sure she will continue her awesomeness at Stumvoll. We are very lucky to be able to keep Tabitha in our family.

We also welcomed a brand-new resident this year, David Teeling, who comes to us from the Billings area. He has fit right into the Craig House and is a really great guy. He was on our waiting list for over 10 years!!!



David is a kindhearted soul who is a perfect fit in the home and in the vocational world. Many of the residents knew David from Special Olympics and the dances we attend in Billings.

It is ever changing here, but we strive to always follow our vision:

To nurture the human and spiritual potential of people who have learning disabilities through respectful relationships, living, and working in an independent community, raising their self-esteem, and making them valued citizens.

I hope to see everyone at our open house on June 10th and the annual fundraising dinner on August 18th; YES, August 18th!!

*Blessings,
Kathy Lee
Residential Director*

*"The smallest family
will grow to a thousand.
The least important of you will
become a powerful nation.
I am the Lord, and when it is
time, I will make these things
happen quickly."*

- Isaiah 60:22

Open HOUSE

Plants & Produce Sale

JUNE 10, 2023 • 12:00PM

SPECIAL K RANCH

34 SPECIAL K LANE • COLUMBUS, MT 59019

Visit specialkranch.org for more information

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2ND ANNUAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

MARK YOUR
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2023 Fundraising Dinner

August 18

YOU WON'T WANT TO
MISS IT!

Join us at
Columbus MT Gives
May 5, 2023

As part of our work here at Special K Ranch, the vocational staff not only serve as teachers, we also work on helping the residents improve their social skills. For instance, as we work together doing Montana Silversmiths buckles and jewelry, there will be interactive opportunities to complete tasks. Some unwrap, some barcode, while others place the items on their respective display pads and into the display boxes. We encourage them to speak words of encouragement instead of speaking criticism or harsh rebuking when something is not done to our standards. At Wednesday devotions we have been helping them (and ourselves) look at what words they use, how they see each other and what is the Godly way of dealing with their strengths, weaknesses, personalities and one another. Naturally, since we are a Christian focused group it is important to look at what the Bible has to teach us, and share with each other how this is supposed to impact our lives together as we live and work on the same ranch - and in some cases - in the same home.

In 1 Corinthians we find this sentence: *"It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."* The focus in this passage is to help the resident(s) associate with the given subject and foundation for this scripture/sentence. What is the "it" that is spoken of? The "it": "God is love", it says in 1 John 4:8. In James we find: *"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them*

show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom". A question for them on this phrase is from where or from whom, is the "wisdom" this passage talks about? James 1:5 tells us the answer to the question: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."*

Then in 1 Thessalonians it adds: *"And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia (we use Special K Ranch, extended family and friends). Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders . . .".* If we are willing to look for answers that apply to our lives here at Special K Ranch, in whatever location or activity we are involved in, we only have to be willing to ask of God, and He will give us direction. Is your love and wisdom what it should be? Just ask, that's what we do.

Marvin Schieldt
Program Director



Marvin Schieldt



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.

Montana Income Tax Credit for Endowed Philanthropy

Montana taxpayers are eligible for a tax credit of up to \$10,000 (\$20,000 per couple). Planned gifts, such as charitable gift annuities, qualify for this credit, which is worth 40% of the charitable gift amount. In many cases, a \$10,000 charitable gift annuity can be created for about \$3,500 out-of-pocket, after tax savings.

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.

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.



Steven Aadland

Looking Forward

Life at Special K Ranch is gratifying during all seasons, but turning the page from a long winter and experiencing the first glimpses of spring, makes for a magnificent March. The warmer and longer days awaken the heart of our vocational programs. The bedding plant/greenhouse season is already underway,

and calves and lambs will soon be playing in the bright-green pastures. When summer arrives, tomato plants will grow like rainforest foliage, and the impressive garden and vast melon patch will take center stage.

Planning for our Open House (June 10) and Fundraising Dinner (August 18) is another exciting part of spring. The event committee is making some entertaining plans for these occasions, and not surprisingly, JD, Jeremy, and Laurie are

already weighing in with their event ideas and proposals. We look forward to having the banquet a bit earlier this year, before autumn gets busy with things like school starting, hunting season, and we mustn't forget, FOOTBALL and the abundance of sports activities for all ages.

The looks of excitement and anticipation on the faces of our residents is the best part in all of this. While every, single day is their time to shine, nothing can compare to springtime at Special K. Heartfelt thanks to YOU, our supporters, for giving our residents such vivid and warm experiences. There is so much to look forward to in the coming months; for that we cannot possibly thank you enough.

Steven Aadland
Development Director

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

- Audrey Hepburn

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."

- Margaret Atwood

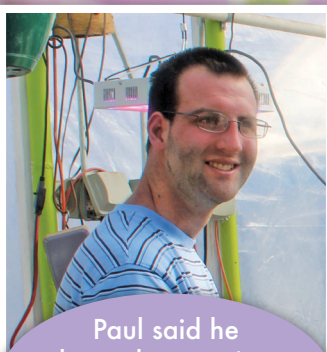
"Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn."

- Lewis Grizzard

"When spring came, even the false spring, there were no problems except where to be happiest."

- Ernest Hemingway

The residents were asked what they love about springtime on the ranch.



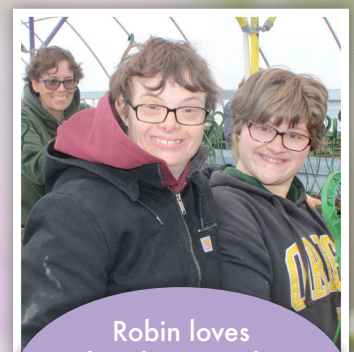
Paul said he loves the growing flowers and the baby lambs.



Ben said this is the busiest time of the year and he loves to stay busy. He also loves all the new babies that come every spring.



Angela loves the colors of the flowers and loves the big baskets when they are all ready.



Robin loves that there is a lot to do, and she loves all the new babies.

"Spring won't let me stay in this house any longer! I must get out and breathe the air deeply again." - Gustav Mahler

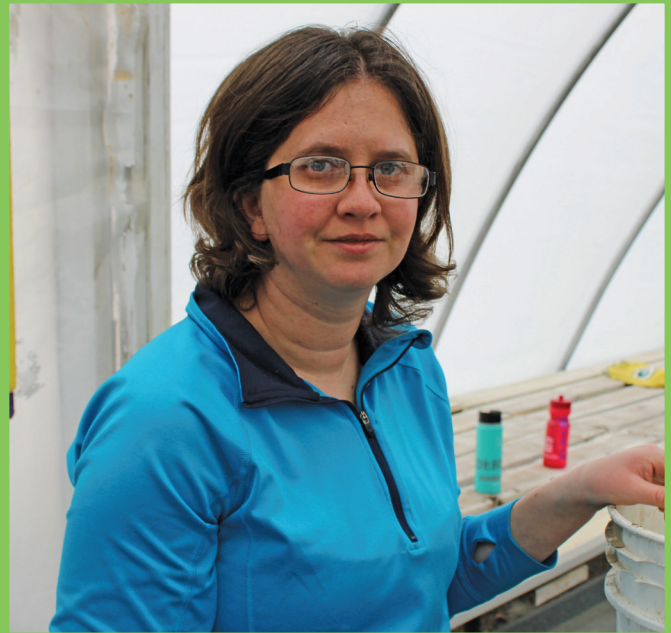
Ranchers of the Month

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



OCTOBER - Morgan

Morgan likes being Rancher of the Month because everyone looks at her differently.



NOVEMBER - Rachael

Rachael told me she just does her job, she doesn't think about being Rancher of the Month.



JANUARY - Angela

Angela likes being Rancher of the Month because it shows she works hard.



FEBRUARY - Kiele

Kiele said she is really happy and proud to be Rancher of the Month and she worked hard to get it.

Honorariums and Memorials

NOVEMBER 1, 2022, THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023

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:

KEITH & DEBBIE

BAKESLEY

Donna Beutler

BRET BEAVANS

Wayne & Linda D. Hodges

Richard & Risa Kinney

DONNA MAE BEUTLER

Hanz & Sylvia Haynie

JUDY CUFF

Mrs Mary Ruetten

DALLAS EIDE

Marshall & Gwen Haferkamp

Doug & Kim McRae

ERIK & DESTA GOEHNER

Larry & Joy Goehner

JOHN GONITZKE

Mary Hansen

DEB HADLOCK

Emily Burns

Trish Ingvalson

FAMILY HAMM

John & Jeanne Mohr

HANSEN FAMILY

Mary & John Hansen/Gonitzke

SLYVIA & HANZ HAYNIE

Donna Beutler

TOM HELM

Myrna M Stone

TOM HINTHORNE

Sandra Anderson

BETTY HOEKSEMA

Wayne & Linda D. Hodges

PATRICIA HOLMAN

Sandra Anderson

ALEX KLEE

Jack & Vivian Klee

Mark & Jamie Klee

STEPHANIE LALIM

Larry & Beverly Thompson

DOUG & JANE LARSON

Donna Beutler

KATHRYN LAVEAU

Thomas M Hauptman

JOHN LOCKIE

Marshall & Gwen Haferkamp

LYNNE DEWHURST

MCBURNIEY

Sue & Scott McBurney

STEPHANIE MORELLI

Malcolm & Mary Haraway

PAUL & VICKI NUNBERG

Donna Beutler

CONNIE & SHERALD

REMMICH

Donna Beutler

RAY & ANN REMMICH

Donna Beutler

SKR STAFF & RESIDENTS

Kent & Traci Oblender

BILL & MAYBELLE RITTAL

Donna Beutler

JIMMIE & MAE RITTAL

Donna Beutler

ALLEN & MOLLY SASSER

GOEHNER

Larry & Joy Goehner

ALIEDA STONE

Myrna M Stone

ROBIN WILLEMS

Greg & Cindy Brazell

DAN & DARLA ZIER

Donna Beutler

IN MEMORY OF:

EDIE ANDREWS ADAMS

Mary Kasner

DALE AHRENS

Dorothe Fisher

RAYMOND ALESNDRINI

James & Lori Jay

BILL ALLEN

Bob & Betty Saxbury

Mickie Stone

NICK & MARIA BADILLA

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ALICE BAIR

Terry & Rena Laughery

ANNA & PETER BAKKER

Eide Bailly LLP

Jeremy & Julie Siemens

STEVEN BAKKER

Helen Bakker

WILLIAM BAKKER

Helen Bakker

JIM BAYS

John & Vanessa Bays

PEGGE BAYS

John & Vanessa Bays

VIRGINIA BOGRETT

Joan Lee Graf

JOHN BOYLE

Barbara Boyle

PETE BRANO

Maurice & Susan Kaiser

VIOLA BRATEN

Jim & Linda Peters

ARLENE BRAUN POUNDS

Donna Beutler

CAROL CHRISTENSON

Darlene Fox

HARRY CUFF

Judy Cuff

LAUREN DAMSCHEN

Evelyn Damschen

NEAL DANIELSON

Gordon & Doris Radke

RICHARD EGEBAKKEN

Robert & Phyllis Willems

NOLAN ERICKSON

Hollis Taylor

RUSS EWAN

Gary & Carol Daniel

VICTOR FRANK

Mike Oberg

KELLY FULTON

K. Kent Koolen

BUD FUNK

Judy Smith

EVELYN FUNK

Judy Smith

ALICE GETSINGER

Emily Burns

FLOYD GETSINGER

Emily Burns

JOHNNY CRAIG GIBLER

William T & Amy Brown

DELBERT GOEHNER

Lee & Barbara Anderson

Marshall & Shandell Baker

Mike & Deanna Bennett

Diane Bercaw

Michael Binsacca

Vicky Bowden

Tim & Kim Briggs

Mark & Angela Chriest

Kenneth Darrow

Paula Eismann

Blaine & Lynda Fetter

Leland & Valeria Fischer

Travis Gelbrich

Darin & Dawn Goehner

Elaine Goehner

Keith & Lisa Goehner

Larry & Joy Goehner

Donald Jarrett

Ani John

Charles Kahler

Ralph & Jana Kile

Debbie Kinson Newman

Ann Kruse

Lake Avenue Church

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David & Virginia Linciome

Monica Masucci

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Brian McRae

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LEE GUFTASON

Marvin & Susan Carter

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Terry & Elaine Hall

JUDY HADLOCK

Emily Burns

BARBARA HEISER

Kay Kraft

BOB HEISER

Mary Kasner

BILL HINER

Robert & Phyllis Willems

DONNA HJELVIK

Brent & Karla Shay

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Gerard & Bonnie Huck

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Darlene Huschka

TERRA GROSHELLE
JAKOBSEN
Beverly Harper

ROBERT 'BOB' KAPPEL
Nick & Dora Badilla
Wanda Eastlick
Wayne & Carol Eisenman
Corinne Fisher
Donald Groscop
Jeffrey Groscop
Kevin & Gayle Hoffman
Mary Hoffman
Marvin & Kay Kappel
Norma Kappel
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Janice Marshall
Mark Mattheis
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Richard & Joanne Nauman
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Melvin Strauch
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GEORGE KROLL
Mary Kroll

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DALE LALIM
Cheryl Holton

DALE LAMPHREN
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Ron & Bartie Lebsock

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Bob & Betty Saxbury

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Donna Beutler

DOUG MILLER
Evelyn Miller

CHARLES "CHUCK"
MORELLI
Mr. R. Haraway

DOROTHY NELSON
Richard & Joanne Nauman

CARLA OBERG
Gerard & Bonnie Huck
Mike Oberg
Jeffrey R Peete
Jim & Jo St John

HELEN OBERG
Gerard & Bonnie Huck
Mike Oberg

PAT OBERG
Gerard & Bonnie Huck

TIM OBERG
Gerard & Bonnie Huck

SHIRLEY PARSONS
Sue & Scott McBurney

FRANK PELICAN
Linda Fox
Rick & Brenda Kraft

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Ron & Bartie Lebsock

R.L. & ELIZABETH
SANDERSON
Evalena Monaghan

FRED SANDOVAL
Dodie Zweifel

ALICE (BETTE) SCHREINER
Richard & Joanne Nauman

KEN SCHREINER
Loren & Tancy Frank

LINDA USSIN SCOZZARI
Dan & Vicki Kenyon

DENNIS O. SEATON
Dan & Vicki Kenyon

JERRY SIMONS
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HENRIETTA SMITHSON
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BOB SOLIE
Mary Rivers Solie

DALE STAHLECKER
Winston Stahlecker

DARYL STAHLECKER
Winston Stahlecker

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Adrienne Gibson

JIM SYME
Adrienne Gibson

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Hollis Taylor

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Richard Woodley

ZIGGY ZIEGLER
Roger & Darla Huebner
Stella Ziegler

BERTHA ZUMBRUN
Brenda Meyer

EARL ZUMBRUN
Brenda Meyer

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.

These pictures say it all. Snapshots of my time at the ranch thus far.



Kay Hotchkiss
Marketing/Communications



Valentine's



Working



Skiing



Bowling



Halloween



Basketball

THERE ARE SO MANY BEAUTIFUL REASONS TO BE HAPPY.