



Mission Statement:

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

Best Foot Forward

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40



Mike Oberg

Occasionally, Special K Ranch has an opening for a new resident. This occurred when Billie Jean Nelson had to move to a nursing home this past year. Billie lived at the ranch for 11 years until her failing health required more care than we could provide. Concerned about her health, the Screening Committee made a very tough call asking Billie's family to start planning for her to move into a facility designed for this stage of her life.

The Screening Committee does a thorough job of choosing a possible candidate for an opening. The choice is not who has been on the waiting list the longest, but rather, who is the best candidate that will fit in the house where the opening is. They look at personalities, disabilities, and past lifestyles of both the residents in the house and the possible candidates. Once a decision is made, a six-week trial period is offered to the candidate and their family.

We really try to set the stage for success during their six-week trial period. This trial period can be filled with excitement, fear, and loneliness without their family. One very important way that we help them through this period is to assign them a big sister or brother. It is very comforting to all as we watch this relationship develop into a much-needed friendship. On this particular occasion one of our long-time residents, Kiele, decided that she would become new resident Kaycee's big sister. Kiele has been a resident at Special K for 25 years, and she told me she remembers all the emotions that accompanied the six-week trial period. I am very proud of Kiele as I watch the two of them truly become sisters. I have seen both of them blossom as their relationship has developed into a true loving friendship. Thank you, Jesus!

True, humble, joyful, and perseverant love is not born out of raw duty, but out of worshipful gratitude.

"We love because he first loved us." New Morning Mercies

"Pressing On"

Mike and the Gang at Special K Ranch!



Kiele & Kaycee

God, thank you for this day and for the love shared by all gathered here.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Marvin Schieldt

Sometimes I have to simply step back and enjoy the wonder of all that happens on this ranch and fully admit how amazing are the blessings of God on those who pursue following his lead. For instance, we had a much better *Tomato World* season this year than we have for the last few years. It doesn't make sense, as we began

with Levi (House Dad, VA) starting the plants from seed and getting the young plants located in the greenhouses that serve as our *Tomato World* home. Levi then trained and passed this area of responsibility to Scott (a new House Dad, VA) as Levi moved his focus to helping in the Bedding Plant and Native Seed and Seedling programs. So, Scott was learning on the fly, doing a splendid job of taking care of 1,100 tomato plants. Then, we moved Scott into the livestock area and he trained and passed the tomato growing on to Sam (another new House Dad, VA). Sam is a quiet, gentle, thoughtful guy who is interested in learning all about the tomato/produce area of our vocational programs while still helping around in some of the other areas. This all happened in the timeframe of keeping healthy plants, getting the tomatoes

picked, cleaned, sorted, sold and delivered. Scott and Sam had to learn about mixing fertilizer, clipping and hanging plants, pruning limbs and fruit clusters, and watching for predatory bugs and bacterial killers of the plants. All this happened while learning about our resident populations who were also learning about their new house parents and vocational advisors. There isn't any way that we should have had a good tomato growing season. It was filled with all the opportunities that usually harm the production of tomatoes, rather than making it better. Oh, and did I mention that we had numerous power outages from the electric company hooking up a new transformer substation? All of our watering, heating and cooling systems work on electricity. It just shouldn't have worked to our advantage. . . yet:

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

Sometimes I just have to step back and wonder at it all.

Marvin Schieldt
Program Director





Unique

Using the word unique to describe the last few years is sugar-coating, but it is also a fitting term in many ways. The world has experienced vast changes in economic climate, labor shortages and inflation. Instability in so many parts of the world is rampant. Through these remarkable times, I've learned a lot about the supporters of Special K Ranch. No matter what is happening on our planet, you, as part of our family of donors, show up big for this ranch, and for that we are immensely grateful.

During these unique times, I have also been impressed by the adaptability and resiliency of our residents, staff, and organization as a whole. It's equally impressive that our donors prove, time and time again, that they share these powerful qualities with the people of the ranch. Thank you

for continuing to understand that our residents always need your help.

Our mission hasn't changed, and neither has your generosity. You are the reason the ranch is successful, during all times. Thank you for helping Special K and its residents thrive!



Steven Aadland

Wishing you a Blessed and Merry Christmas,

Steven Aadland
Development Director



We thank our generous sponsors who have supported the 2023 Fundraising Dinner and Fund Drive with pre-event gifts of \$500 or more.

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Kathy Lee

Hey everyone,

2023 went where? 🤔

As I look at my calendar, it is hard to believe that holiday plans are being made and winter is on the horizon. Our holidays start a tad early here with our Christmas party and exchange before

Thanksgiving!! This ensures that most residents can participate and enjoy the holiday party before heading home.

The last six months have once again brought many changes to the ranch:

We welcomed Sam and Julie with their son, Jon, to the Stumvoll house, and Dennis and Cathy with their daughter, Charlie, to Craig House.

We also said goodbye to Bill and Sue from the Agape House after an eight-year run; they will be greatly missed! We welcomed Jilee and George Kruse in mid-November to fill that spot at Agape House.

Change is good, right?

One of my favorite and exciting changes is the upcoming switch from Broyles girls to Goehner girls!! 🤯 This move brings the girls closer to the rest of the homes and with a much-needed remodel, it will be home in no time. Laurie, Ember, Robin, along with Dawn are super excited to be moving “uptown” 😊. The Broyles House will become a relief home for Tabitha, who is our new food coordinator and HA relief.

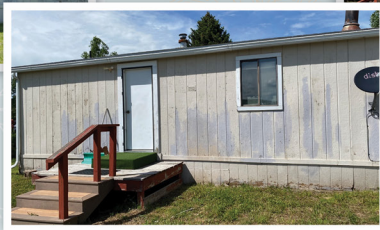
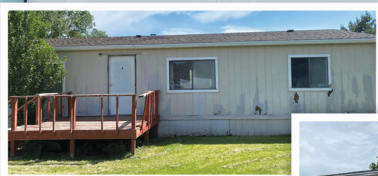
Change:

make (someone or something) different; alter or modify.
replace (something) with something else, especially something of the same kind that is newer or better; substitute one thing for (another).

The ranch is a constant change in motion, which as I have said before, keeps us on our toes! Ever evolving and working towards the best we can be!!

Take care and Merry Christmas!

**Kathy Lee
Residential Director**



2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

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 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.

Ranchers of the Month

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



JULY
Mike H



AUGUST
Bryan



SEPTEMBER
Angela



OCTOBER
Kiele



RANCHER OF THE YEAR
Bryan



RANCHER OF THE YEAR
Steph

MOST IMPROVED RANCHER - *Rachel*

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.

Honorariums and Memorials JUNE 1, 2023, THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 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:

CATHY AEXEL
Mark H. Larson

BRET BEAVANS
Charles & Katherine Saffris

DALLAS EIDE
Mark Mattheis

RUTH & SEAN ERICKSON
Mylo & Kay Sather

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ALICE GETSINGER
Emily Burns

FLOYD GETSINGER
Emily Burns

SANDY GILLITZER
Eric Gillitzer
Nick Gillitzer
Roman Gillitzer
Ronda Thompson

ART GOUDET
Barbara Wennemar

GARY HADLOCK
Mark & Margaret Heaphy
AmyLyn Kellogg
Warren & Evelyn Norton
James Stevenson
Charles Todd
John & Karen Tyra

JUDY HADLOCK
Emily Burns

MARIE HALVORSON
Carl & Bonnie Wallila

CLEVE HULL
Dan & Vicki Kenyon

DONA JEAN JUHL
Cathie Kautz

MELANIE MAYES KANUIT
Maurice & Susan Kaiser

ROBERT 'BOB' KAPPEL
Brenda Frank

RONALD KEENER
Kerrie Koski & Deb BaRone

Jan Hunter Gibson
Jerry & Anne Heiser
Sharon Heiser
Sharon & Dave Herman
Carol Sands
Terrie & Harry Smith

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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.

Thanks to everyone who attended our 2023 fundraiser!

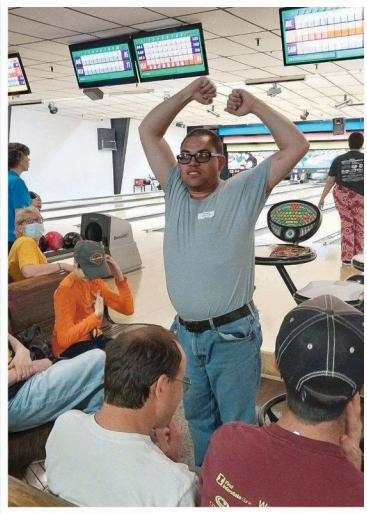




It is hard to believe I have been at the ranch for over a year now. The time has flown by. I remember when I made my first trip out to the ranch not really knowing what I'd see or experience. Well after my first year, I can tell you it is one of the best places I have ever been. I love the residents (family) and I love the way ALL the staff (family) treat the residents. This is truly the most rewarding job in which I could ask to be involved.

Reminiscing is all about happy recollections and thinking back to photos during my time at the ranch. Please enjoy them.

Kay Hotchkiss
Marketing/Communications



Be Thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more!