

# HERDER



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



*Houseparents Bill and Sue with Alan, Brian, John, and Alex*



*House Mom Lauren with Cindy, Robin, and Ember*

## Blessed to be a Blessing

*When you focus on being a Blessing,  
God makes sure that you are always Blessed in  
abundance. – Joel Osteen*



*Mike Oberg*

There are many things that I love about the ministry of Special K Ranch. One thing that caught my attention early in my career, is that when a resident decides to become part of the ranch family, their whole family becomes part of the SKR family. Moms, dads, brothers, sisters, grandmas, and grandpas as well. Yes, as with most families, especially big ones, not everyone agrees with how things run, or the methods used to get there. But I think most of us agree that if the path holds true to our Motto, Mission Statement, Vision, and Core Values, it must be the course that God has chosen for us.

Our family has had a hard year and three of our residents have lost their fathers in the past six months. We now have

four residents that have lost both their mom and dad and eleven residents who have lost either mom or dad. Recently, as I was praying for the ranch, God reminded me what a Blessing the ministry of Special K Ranch is for these families. There is peace of mind knowing that their family member is living at the ranch, and they didn't have to worry about their future. I am so grateful that Special K Ranch can fill that need for all our families.

I want you to know what a Blessing you all have been over the past 35 years. Thank you very much for all your prayers and support. God has laid this ministry on your hearts, and you have Blessed us in abundance. We could not be the Blessing to these families without the many Blessings you have provided. I hope and pray that it has been a Blessing to YOU as well. Thank you!

*Blessed are they who see  
Beautiful things in Humble places,  
where other people see nothing.  
– Camille Pissarro*

*"Pressing On"*  
Mike and the Gang at Special K Ranch!





*Marvin Schieldt*

It's getting to be that time of year. Spring is just around the corner, when we look forward to what this new year may have for us. Looking back at the past year there may be a few things to remember and a few things that we would love to forget. It will be fun to look back (at more than just this past year) and find things that help us see a positive direction for the year we ahead. After all, our residents need to know that we live with hope, support, and encouragement in this new year.

Being a part of SKR leadership means your path crosses with government oversight issues. This past year we were reminded of the challenges of having a government that tends to direct things it knows nothing about, which is why Ronald Reagan said: "Government is not the solution, but rather the cause of our problems."

We have also been involved with making decisions about programs, travel, supplies, and even vaccinations during the now two-year struggle with Covid-19. The lingering effects have disrupted so many areas of our lives. Yet, Hellen Keller had her struggles in life, more than most of us, and she said: "Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it."

On the international scene, we have been dealing with shortages of supplies we use around the ranch. Many are concerned about how China may disrupt international markets. President John F. Kennedy said "When written in Chinese, the work 'crisis' is composed of two characters. One represents danger and the other represents opportunity."

So, we have covered several major challenges of this past year, now we are looking in a positive direction for this year, (or at least a smile as we think things over). With more challenges ahead of us we can be reminded that: "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." Madame (Marie) Curie.

As we strive together to do better at our jobs and in our community living, I appreciate what Michael J. Fox had to say: "I am careful not to confuse excellence with perfection. Excellence, I can reach for; perfection is God's business."

I appreciate even more what Jesus provided to give us hope and encouragement as we move forward: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33 (NIV). Don't lose hope, and if you need a little inspiration, then come and see us! Greenhouse season, calving and lambing are all part of our spring, and you will find us striving to serve our God and his people.

*Marvin Schieldt, Program Director*



## *Spring Sheep Shearing*



*Dallas helping herd the sheep into the chute*



*J.D. is all smiles on the ranch crew*



*Brice and Morgan tending to the freshly sheared wool*



## *Greenhouse Season*



*Ben L. working the dirt table for the seedlings to be planted*



*Andrew posing with the hydroponic tomatoes*



*John L. doing the heavy lifting*

# Ways to Help and Save on Taxes

*Special K Ranch operates independently of government funding.*

## IRA Charitable Rollover

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.

## 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.

## Montana Endowment Tax Credit

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.

## 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).



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You shop. Amazon gives.

- You can support the ranch by shopping at **smile.amazon.com**, rather than amazon.com.
- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchases to the ranch.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know.
- Same products, same prices, same service.

## Interested in working with the Special K Family?

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 which 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 employer for a complete list of job responsibilities.

## Save the Date

**JUNE 11**

*Open House @12:00 p.m.*

**SEPTEMBER 23**

*Fundraising Dinner @ 5:00 p.m.*





# Family



*Steven Aadland*

It was an unseasonably warm day in November 2011 when I first visited Special K Ranch. After a very lengthy but enjoyable meeting with Larry Goehner (I was interviewing for the open development director position that day) he and I, in the ranch's 90s Buick LeSabre, slowly drove out to the greenhouse complex for a tour. This job interview had been completely different than any other I had experienced, and that trend continued as the day went along.

The greenhouse facility was empty due to the time of year, but it was still incredibly impressive. Even more remarkable was how the people I met at Special K made me feel on that tour.

Never had I met a more welcoming group of people. Staff and residents alike were so excited to accept a perfect stranger into their family. This made me realize: this ranch isn't a business, an organization, or merely a "social services nonprofit." It is a family.

I officially joined Special K in February 2012. The last 10 years have been a rich and inspirational experience, and I've been blessed with a delightful family. That being said, the SKR family includes many more people than just residents and staff. It also encompasses donors, volunteers, relief staff, and all the caring individuals in our community and beyond who are the backbone of the ranch's survival. Just as we have experienced a loving family here on the ranch, our supporters have graciously welcomed us and a growing fundraising program with generous and open arms.

Today we have so much to look forward to, such as the new Recreation Center, growth of our endowment, and expansion of the ranch itself. We also look forward to enjoying the love of our family



*Cat, Deb and Angela hanging with their favorite Aadland, Development Assistant, Kari Aadland.*



every day. Thank you so very much for all you do, for being in our family, and for welcoming us into yours!

*Steven Aadland, Development Director*



## *Hello everyone!!!*



*Kathy Lee*

Longevity applies to so many things in life and with longevity whether it be work related (raises and bonuses) or provider related (discounts/perks) it is a good thing. Here at Special K Ranch longevity means a forever home for our residents and that is a VERY good thing. Parents find a great peace knowing that their child will have a loving forever home and that meaningful work will keep said child fulfilled. Most of you know

that Dallas, Deb, Steph, and Laurie have been here 25 years plus. Our oldest resident, Cat has been here 10 years and she just

turned 70!! I got to thinking about longevity when she excitedly told me she was turning 70 and she did it with such enthusiasm and joy. I wish every time I thought about my age, I did it with her happiness—maybe these frown lines would go away!!

I asked Cat what her favorite thing about the ranch was and she piped up quickly with "I have a lot of friends and family right here!" Cat is always ready with a smile, hug, and "I love you", she'll tell you about her dad who lived to be 99 and that she will too. LONGEVITY!!

Our youngest resident, Morgan has a long way to go until 70 knocks at her door, but how wonderful for her to know, she is living and working at her forever home already. Morgan is a go getter and adores working on ranch chores. She too, always has a smile and a hug to hand out.

These 2 ladies are friends and sisters in Christ; there is no age gap in their eyes, they are there for each other and friendships like that are golden.





# Ranchers of the Month

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



## OCTOBER - *Andy*

Towards the end of the year ranchers tend to get antsy to go home and lose focus, but not Andy. He won rancher of the month because he always stays on task, is known for being rock steady and ploughs through his work. He does a variety of ranch chores including tending to the sheep, but really wants to be a cattle rancher. Andy said he loves the ranch because it is a nice place to work and live. In his spare time, Andy likes to go bowling and play basketball. He plays a mean fiddle and always has a hug for friends. Even after fourteen years, Andy still likes to go home to North Dakota to hang with Mom, Dad, brother and pets.



## NOVEMBER - *Robbie*

Robbie received the Rancher of the Month award in November because he lifts rancher and staff spirits. Not only is he a hard worker but he completes his tasks with joy. He has an infectious smile and laugh that can uplift anyone. Robbie likes to relax by watching cartoons, hanging with LuLu, enjoying the outdoors, and playing on the swings at home. Robbie is also a very talented artist and painted a beautiful picture. He is passionate about God and loves praying to Jesus. And if he could be any superhero, it would be Spiderman. Congratulations on Rancher of the Month!



## DECEMBER - *Debbie*

Housemom Tiffany nominated Debbie for rancher of the month because she is helpful, willing to do anything and all around awesome. Kathy Lee says she is a rockstar with a great smile and I think we can all agree. When Debbie is not feeding the animals on the ranch crew or working in the greenhouse, you can find her relaxing and watching the Hallmark channel. Other interests include coloring, word searches, basketball, and collecting seashells. Deb loves to get in God's word, and she wants everyone to know the Jesus loves them. Deb has lived at the ranch for 25 years and loves that she has lots of family and friends there. This veteran's goal is to win Rancher of the Year again at the Annual Fundraising Dinner. Keep up the great work!

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***Proverbs 9:11 -  
For by me thy  
days shall be  
multiplied,  
and the years of  
thy life shall be  
increased.***

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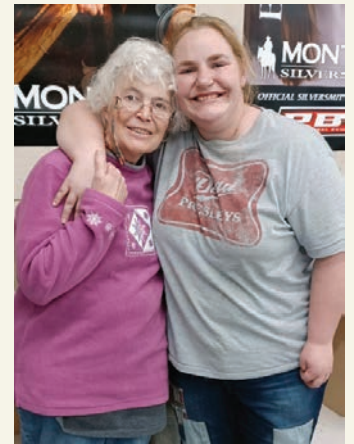
Our forever homes are here because of our faith, perseverance, and the great support of many donors.

Have I ever told you how much I love my job?



PS. Spring is coming!! My favorite time on the ranch, come check out the greenhouses!!

*Kathy Lee, Residential Director*



# Honorariums and Memorials

DECEMBER 1, 2021 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2022

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.*

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KEITH & DEBBIE

BAKESLEY

Donna Beutler

ANGELA BEADLE

Helen Eastwood

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Darin & Dawn Goehner

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HELEN & ROBERT WILKE

Sue & Scott McBurney

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Donna Beutler

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Fay Haynie



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Carol Sands

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ROBERT HIARING

Ruth Cleveland

Joy Hiaring

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HOFFMAN

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Robert & Peggy Kappel

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Gilbert Larson

WILLIAM HUSCHKA

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Marjorie Sunvold

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Bob & Debbie Hull

Earl & Katherine Sibley

HENRY

WESCHANDFELDER

Gary & Darlene Ostrum

DIANA WOOD

Ronald & Karen Wood

DONNALEEN WOODLEY

Richard Woodley

## *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.*

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

# Valentines Day Dance 2022



*Ranchers Steph, Rod, Jeremy and Robin dancing their hearts out*



*Greg, Ben and Robin breaking for some punch and goofing off*



*Alex Klee always tearing it up on the air guitar*



*Ben Cheshire dressed to impress*

## Greetings friends and family of the ranch!



*Nicki Terrell*

A reoccurring theme you will hear from Special K Ranch employees say, "I love my job!" and I am not the exception. Although, I tell everyone "I have the best job in the world" and I truly believe that. I am excited to be back from maternity leave and unveil new projects I have been busy reviving. We are now on Instagram so please follow us along with Facebook. Also, coming soon Special K Ranch will have

a new website! Keep an eye out for all our fun updates! I am grateful to be back in the company of my extended family, the amazing people that make the ranch so special.

All were missed immensely, and I could not wait to introduce everyone to my daughter, Maizie Ann. Maizie got to go on her first ranch meet and greet in February. She was all smiles and happy to interrupt the ranchers' workday. Bret said, "she's adorable and we will keep her" and if you know Bret, he usually tells you that you are hired or fired. Cindy always asked me if I had a "peek-a-boo" in my pregnant belly, and Cindy was so excited to finally play peek-a-boo with her. Dallas was my secret Santa this year and bought her the cutest pajamas for Christmas. He was over the moon to be able to hold her. The whole experience was very heartwarming.

I am so grateful the Special K Ranch is part of her growing up. I am confident the ranch will be a huge impact on her life in many positive ways. First, she will always be spoiled with attention and unconditional love from her extended ranch family. Secondly, she gets to grow up with understanding and acceptance of people who have disabilities. All our ranchers have a uniqueness that we can learn from. Lastly, I hope the ranch



*Boots, Dallas, and Cindy entertaining baby Maizie*

teaches her the importance of philanthropy. Regardless of what her passions are, she gives back to her community, whether that means donating time or money and to always live graciously. We are all so blessed to be a part of the SKR family.

***"You cannot mandate philanthropy. It has to come within, and when it does it is deeply satisfying."***

***Azim Premji***

***Nicki Terrell,  
Marketing and Communications Associate***



*Dallas first in line to meet Maizie*

