



# HERDER

## Mission Statement:

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

## Look What God Did

*The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.* Proverbs 16:9

I was recently going through some historical notes on the history of Special K Ranch. After a few minutes of reading, I was in awe at the many blessings from God and the sovereignty in which he directed those blessings. They are too numerous to tell you about all that He has directed, but it is apparent that Special K Ranch is in the palm of God’s hands.

One theme that I noticed as I absorbed the information, is that God used so many people at just the right time to achieve those many blessings. Staff, volunteers, and just as important, donors, that came together at just the right time to achieve His Will. I love to watch God at work as He touches the heart of so many people for his ministry at Special K Ranch. Thank you ALL for being obedient to the whispers from God to your heart.



Mike Oberg

*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



First four residents January 1987

Yes, we have been punched in the gut a few times along this journey. It’s what happens when you are trying to be independent and do things better than those in authority have been able to do. I guess we just don’t fit into their proverbial box. Have you ever noticed

how many times Jesus used sheep in his teachings? I guess, if we weren’t doing something good here, Satan wouldn’t be interested in us! Ok, time to climb off my soapbox before I get us in trouble. “Again!”



*Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.* John 15:4

I have put together a few cornerstone pictures of the Ranch for your enjoyment!

Mike



Built five resident homes by 1990



Special K Ranch 2023



Philippians 4:19: *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*



*Steven Aadland*

This year has already brought some exciting developments we'd like to share with you. We're of course looking forward to all the lovely things that happen as springtime approaches – the greenhouse season progressing, calves and lambs playing in soon-to-be green pastures, and tomato plants growing so quickly they look

taller daily – but there are also some vital new projects on the horizon.

We're thrilled to announce we will begin construction of the SKR Recreation Center this spring. How cool is that?! Thanks to an abundance of support from so many who are dear to this ranch, funding for the project has been secured, and sights are set on completing the building during fall of 2024. The Center will have a multi-purpose gymnasium, exercise facility, office space, and a multitude of storage for our vocational programs. It will fulfill so many recreational and vocational needs. The best part is that our residents can use this FUN building year-

round, whereas our current, undersized, makeshift gym is available for only a few months per year.

Another huge improvement coming in 2024 will be a new propane distribution system, which will save the ranch \$20,000 - \$30,000 per year. The system will replace the endless rows of propane tanks along the greenhouse complex. It will have underground lines fed by an 18,000-gallon bulk propane tank, and it will also supply fuel to the Recreation Center and surrounding vocational buildings. We will experience these savings because we will gain the ability to purchase propane at bulk pricing rates.

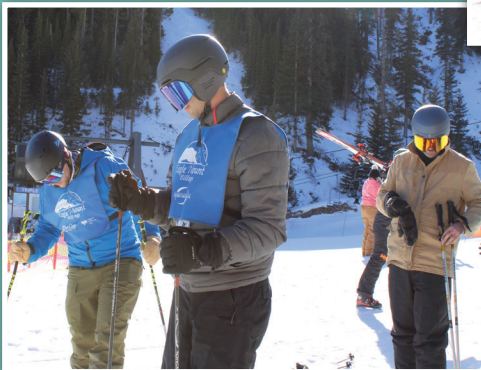
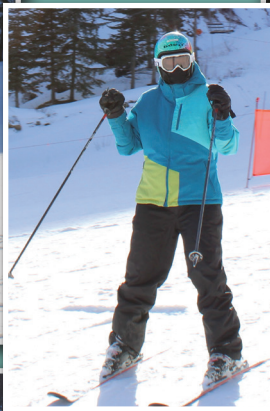
During the planning stages, these projects seemed like they might be out of reach financially; however, our family of supporters blessed the ranch immeasurably to ensure their completion. Thank you for all you do for the ministry of Special K Ranch!

Feeling Blessed,

Steve Aadland

*Development Director*

## THEY WORK HARD ...AND ...THEY PLAY HARD





# Busy Keeping Things Going

Overseeing our vocational programs is, most of the time, interesting and challenging. If you have been involved in any of them, you most likely see the staff who are busy keeping things going in the proper direction. You will also see our residents busy putting things together, planting, filling pots with dirt, watering, helping weed and harvest the produce from our garden, melon patch and tomato world. You may even witness our crew feeding or moving livestock around to different pastures, fixing fences and generally keeping tabs on the sheep as they like to check out the grass on the other side of the fence. What you won't see are the months of planning and prepping that precede the different vocational programs.

## Greenhouse/Bedding Plants

In July, we purchase soil, plastics, and if needed, fertilizer for the upcoming bedding plant/greenhouse season, and we inventory anything left over from the previous season. All produce seeds and all the plants we use for bedding plant season need to be purchased in the fall as they may sell out and leave us with other varieties that are untested and unknown for our programs. By October, our Greenhouse Manager has visited our customers that we serve, has started helping them put together another season's orders, and has worked with them on how we can be of better service for their retail business. Also in October, we take advantage of a local air compressor to blow out the water lines in the greenhouses and all of the sprinkler systems. By Christmas, the facilities have been cleaned, sterilized, and stocked with new bags of soil.

## Livestock

July/August is haying and irrigating time for the ranching program, but any farming or purchasing of haying supply needs are taken care of in March or April. Fertilizer is ordered in January and spread in March/April. In May/June, we start cleaning the ditches and also soil preparation for the garden and melon patches. By January, they have been feeding hay for about two months.

## Produce and Native Seeds & Seedlings

When September rolls around, we are starting to decline in tomato and melon crop picks, but looking back, we planted the tomato plants during the first week of February so that we can get a tomato crop by Memorial Day weekend. Melons were planted back in April to hopefully start picking cantaloupe by the third week in July. Fall is also harvest season for many of our native plant species that we grow in our Native Seed and Seedling Program. Some are grown in our own grow-out area. Other varieties require us to travel to gather seed from wild native stock.

Everyone enjoys a field trip, right? Good programs are often preceded by good pre-planning and putting in the work that is needed to be ready to have a good season.

Proverbs 30:24-25 says; "Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: 25 Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer;"

Sometimes it's best to pay attention to the little things that help us be prepared for what is yet to come. Ants teach us that.

Marvin Schieldt  
*Program Director*



Marvin Schieldt

## Ranchers of the Month

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



NOVEMBER - Alan



JANUARY - Ben



FEBRUARY - David

*Wow*, I can honestly say spring is right around the corner and I have no idea where January and February went. I was completely taken off guard when I was told our spring newsletter needed to be done!! My house moms helped me out by answering these 4 questions:



*Kathy Lee*

- 1. What brought you to Special K?**
- 2. What one thing have you learned about the residents you didn't know about before?**
- 3. What is the best part of your "job"?**
- 4. Use one or two words to describe your house.**

*Hawkins House~Angie*

1. My drive to do GOD'S work and the love I have in helping others
2. Quality care involves patience and grace
3. Seeing the positive impact my work has on the lives of the residents
4. Loving and caring

*McCormick House~Tiffany*

1. God's calling to work with special needs; we moved across the country.
2. Their love to work, their pride to show and sell their products.
3. Working in a Christian atmosphere and seeing the residents' love for Christ, getting bombarded with hugs and high-fives every time the residents see me, and seeing that connection being made when the specific skill they have been working on is mastered.
4. Kind & consistent

*Ostrum House~Becky*

1. The Residents
2. They're terrific Humans
3. The Residents
4. Progressive, and thoughtful

*Goehner House~Dawn*

1. The reason I came to Special K is easy...I desperately needed a job. I realized during my first weekend that I was exactly where I needed to be.
2. The one thing I've learned about the residents is that they are all individuals, not one is like the other.
3. The best part of my job is that I can teach them as well as care for them. Also, I learn from them every day.
4. Love and acceptance...when we aren't being a little crazy!



*Agape House~Jilee*

1. The first thing that caught our eye was that it is a Christian organization. We had wanted to get involved in a ministry and this just called to us. My husband has previously worked in mental health and so the ranch sounded like a perfect fit and dream come true.
2. Their love for the Lord. Seeing them sing to Him and praise Him at devotions, not caring what they sound like or look like. Pure love and joy.
3. Knowing we can help produce a loving and stable home. Seeing the growth and improvement with each of our guys.
4. Agape (our house name), loving

*Carla's House~Marla*

1. God. Coming back here wasn't even something we were considering, but the opportunity came to us, and we felt called to come.
2. How deeply they feel things
3. I love that no two days are alike, and hugs from my girls!
4. Helpful and complimentary

*Craig House~Cathy*

1. Was working in the field 33 years ago and in-laws moved into this area and introduced us to Larry Goehner and the ranch. We were enticed by the small family atmosphere. (At that time there were only 12 men.) We both went away saying we wanted to be a part of this. We wanted to work somewhere where what we did would be an influence and we wouldn't just be another staff all doing the same thing. We loved the small family feel where you really knew those you cared for and those you rubbed shoulders working beside. Since then, we have returned several times because "it's still family".
2. I am always impressed with what the residents can do when they are given an opportunity and motivation. Most of them really want to work right along with the staff and feel as good as we do about accomplishments.
3. There are many best things, but to sum it up the ranch is a family, and the residents have a big love to give. It's a great place where everyone can get on the same page and have the same goals in mind to help each other. I love that we have raised our kids here and we are just an extension of their family and they ours.
4. Chasing squirrels 🐿️...probably not what you want. Social, caring, united (most of the time)

*Stumvoll House~Julie*

1. My family was looking for more than just a job. We found Special K, and immediately loved the way it was described as a community doing God's work.
2. That they have so much to teach us, and how happy they are to share their knowledge.
3. The little moments we get to see when a resident is proud of themselves; the huge smile and twinkle in their eye is priceless.
4. Endlessly entertaining



Colossians 3:14

*"And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."*

### *Broyles House ~ Tabitha*

(permanent relief/food coordinator)

1. I had family working at the Ranch, while I lived in Maine. I knew I needed a lifestyle change, but I wasn't sure how or where to do that. The Ranch is a special place for the residents to live, learn, and grow... But it's a special place that has changed my life and helped me grow closer to God.
2. How to just be happy and present in the moment. It's so easy to get wrapped up in little things in life, that you forget how to enjoy what is happening here and now.
3. For me, being able to spend the weekends with the residents. Watching them have fun and live life with their friends, seeing the smiles and hearing the laughs. I am truly blessed to be part of their lives.
4. And the last question doesn't really apply to me 😊 as my home is all of the above!

I appreciate our house moms taking the time to do this and help me out!! Made my assignment much easier.

*So many reasons, so much learning,  
and a whole lot of love makes this  
wonderful place a home.*

Be Blessed,

Kathy Lee

**Residential Director**

## Wish List

*No act of kindness, no matter  
how small is ever wasted.*

The ranch is in need of the following items:

- Kitchen Appliances
- Small kitchen appliances
- Silverware sets
- Vehicle

# 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).





# Honorariums and Memorials

NOVEMBER 1, 2023 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 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:

KEITH & DEBBIE BAKESLEY  
Donna Beutler

ANGELA BEADLE  
Helen Eastwood

BRET BEAVANS  
Wayne & Linda D. Hodges  
Richard & Risa Kinney

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Donna Beutler

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Terry & Nancy Hart

BILL & JUNE ANDERSON  
Donna Keller

WAYNE ANDREWS  
William & Linda Strauch

BILL ATKINS  
Sandra Atkins

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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.*





House Parents  
at Carla's House

Well another year has come and gone, and like the pages of a book, time continues to march onward. Here, we find ourselves back at Special K Ranch, and what a blessing it has been. After a three year hiatus, it's like returning home to see old friends and family. The ranch has changed some, but much

remains the same. Our family has grown some as well, we now have four children, and what a joy they bring to our life, along with a new level of busy-ness. 😊 The girls (ranchers) in our home are very helpful, and together we all make sure everything runs smoothly.

As I sit here writing this, I look out the window at our oldest children playing in the yard, and our youngest lying on the couch, and think to myself, "what a blessing to have our children grow up with the opportunity to be blinded to the differences in people and to learn to judge a person based on their character, and not their differences." People can always find reasons to divide and alienate others, but to have the ability to unite and find common ground truly takes a supernatural ability to see beyond the tangible and into the spiritual. To truly love your neighbor as yourself. To truly live a selfless and sacrificial life. My prayer is that our children could grab hold of this concept and carry it with them throughout their lives. Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." Matthew 5:9 May we all strive to be called the children of God.

The McKim Family

## Look What's Begun!



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**12:00PM**

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for more information

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**AUGUST 16, 2024**