

HERDER



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

Thank You for the Blessings!



Mike Oberg

"Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done."
- Psalm 105:1

I have so many things to tell you about and not enough space to write about it. I do have some pictures to share with you and because a picture is

worth a thousand words. I think you will understand what I am trying to convey to you.



Two ponds became one in the lower-lying pastures

Pioneer Park under two-and-a-half feet of water

Thank you, God, for keeping the flooding Yellowstone River from cutting the ranch in half. In 2015, the Lord gave us a vision and funding to install a levee or dike across an old riverbed channel. This year, when the river kept rising and came over the top of the levee, we experienced flooding

in places that I have never seen at the ranch. Pioneer Park was under two-and-a-half feet of water, and the two ponds became one and looked like a small river. But it was nothing compared to what it would have been if we ignored God's nudging. Long story short, we lost power for a couple of days and our staff rocked getting generators to vital areas of the ranch. A big Thank You to the Beartooth Electric Co-Op and NorthWestern Energy for working 24/7 to get the power back online.

God also provided some much-needed and timely volunteers for the ranch, as well. We were blessed by two groups of interns and their mentors from the CHS Environmental Engineer Team. They cleaned up a couple of big cottonwood trees that we had cut down to prevent them from falling and causing more damage in a storm. They also gathered up and stacked hay bales from our fields, while another group of them worked in our nursery transplanting and pruning nursery stock. Thank You, CHS, for some much-needed help!



Special thanks to these CHS Environmental Engineer Team members for lending a helping hand!

I try to take a walk through the vocational programs every day. It usually ends up with a lot of joking and kidding around. It is so fun and it replenishes all our souls. Tomato and melon seasons are upon us, so there is plenty of meaningful work that needs to be done.

"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

Thank you for continuing to support the Ministry of Special K Ranch!

"Press On"
Mike and the Gang at SKR!



Summer is here!!!



Kathy Lee

This past spring was a roller coaster of events and changes here at the ranch. And, as per usual, we could all take lessons from our very resilient, kind, fun loving, and patient residents. Spring is greenhouse season and life is fast-paced and a little crazy. During that time and shortly thereafter, we added some extras; just to keep us on our toes.

In May, it was determined that the Craig House needed to be used for our aging and frail residents. This meant moving some residents to make room for the few we knew needed to move. We have a female wing and a male wing now. This started the ball rolling, and when it was all said and done, we moved fifteen residents. Thanks to Marvin and his crew of volunteers, we physically moved everyone in the space of about three-and-a-half hours one Saturday. He put together crews and an organized chaos that worked very well. All our House Moms helped to pack up in the days prior and then helped residents set up their new spaces. A huge shout out to my House Moms for a task well done! Residents have settled in very well and once again showed me their resiliency!

We had our annual Open House the second Saturday in June; the residents and I wanted to do something a little different. We had FIVE TOP SECRET meetings prior to Open House, and we created an "Employee of the Year" award. The residents were super excited to keep a secret! We discussed qualities of love, patience, working well with others, and most importantly, wanting to teach with love. The residents voted AND kept the secret until the moment of announcement. They also wanted to do more than just a plaque, so they chose to put in their own monies and get a gift card to Scheels. Marvin Schieldt won hands down. The best kept secret ever!!! Once again, residents showed me their patience and love.

The following week, floodwaters arrived, and we lost power and water. We had local residents head home for a few days, staff opened their homes, and some toughed it out as Marvin and his crew (our heroes!) got generators going. Two different power companies worked together and had us up and running within three days. And again, residents showed me their "can do" spirit with love and patience.



Community at its best.

God is good.

*Kathy Lee
Residential Director*

***"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18***



***Marvin Schieldt receiving
the inaugural SKR Employee
of the Year Award***



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.

Tomato World

Thanks to our eager and skillful House Dad/Tomato Extraordinaire Perry Bump, this year's tomato crop is truly a "Bumper Crop" (no pun intended). Tomatoes are available at Albertsons Stores in Billings, the Stillwater Market in Absarokee, and the Columbus IGA. They are also used by chefs at Walkers Grill and the 307 Bar and Grill, to name a few.



Ember working in Tomato World



Pick Day!



Vine-Ripened Deliciousness

Honorariums and Memorials

FEBRUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 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.

IN HONOR OF:

DEL GOEHNER
James Dobson
JOHN & MARY
GONITZKE
Martha Rowe
DEB HADLOCK
Emily Burns
BETTY HOEKSEMA
Wayne & Linda Hodges
Judy Richman
TOM HOHN
Ray & Kathy Copeland

IN MEMORY OF:

DALE AHRENS
Bill & Karen McDonald
ANDREW TYLER ALLEN
Jan Lehman

MIKE AMEN
Marvin & Kay Kappel
Freida McLaughlin
Norma Walter
GENE AUBREY
Gwen Aubrey
WANDA BACOT
Anita Buzzy
DEAN BAILEY
Beverly Harper
STEVEN BAKKER
Helen Bakker
WILLIAM BAKKER
Helen Bakker
GLORIA BENCE
John Haberlock
MARK BERRY
James & Eileen L. Barnum
Harry & Jeanne Harsha

EARL BLAKLEY
Rita Wichman Seavy
JERE BOGRETT
Ken & Faye Moss
CLAUDIA BOYD
Jack & Audrey Parks
GARY BROCKEL
Norma Walter
CAROLYN BROOKS
Richard & Joanne Nauman
SHIRLEY CALNAN
Bob & Betty Saxbury
Mickie Stone
ROCK CHARLTON
Larry & Marilyn O'Dell
TOM CLARK
Carolyn Clark
HONOR CONLEY
Robert & Phyllis Willems

CLAYTON CROFT
Karen Jo Erdie
Robert & Phyllis Willems
STEVE CULBERTSON
Harry & Sue Staley
LAUREN DAMSCHEN
Evelyn Damschen
BETTY & GLENN
EASTLICK
William & Linda Strauch
ELROY ERICKSON
Judy Erickson
NOLAN ERICKSON
Judy Erickson
RUSS EWAN
Lorri & Paul Williams
FRED FEUERBACHER III
David & Betty Neibauer

VICTOR FRANK

Loretta Frank

Mike Oberg

DICK FRANKS

Barbara Britt

VICTORIA FRY

Mark Fry

ROSE JOANNE GERRY

Scott & Patrice Harcharik

ALICE GETSINGER

Emily Burns

FLOYD GETSINGER

Emily Burns

SANDY GILLITZER

Lorraine Borowick

Ben & Jennifer Brown

Mark & Constance Cowett

Robert & Sharon Gillitzer

Mary D Kasner

Harold Kelso

Park City Senior Citizens

Club

John & Barbara Turcotte

TERRY GODDARD

James & Eileen L. Barnum

Bob & Lanita Maurer

Sandra Peck

Lila White

STEPHANIE GOODMAN

Carol Sands

JUDY HADLOCK

Emily Burns

MARY 'MJ' HALL

Richard Dege

Leslie Gronneberg

LINDA HALVORSON

Art & Marie Halvorson

Lawrence & Mary Anne

Halvorson

Rodney & Linda Halvorson

Beverly Harper

Judy Holzman

Maurice & Susan Kaiser

Jeff Ritteman

Tom & Pam Robertus

Steven & Pauline Tostenrud

JOANNE HAMWAY

Barbara Wennemar

ALVINA HELZER

Richard & Joanne Nauman

CHAR HOINESS

Robert & Peggy Kappel

Kelly & Mary Smarsh

GLADYS HORTON

Kenneth & Cheryl King

BUD IWEN

Donna Beutler

OTTO JENSEN

Larry & Linda Ennis

Prospector Oil Inc.

SANDRA KESSLER

Bill & Shelley Bernhard

KEITH & CAROL

KIMBALL

Todd & Kaylene Hauck

DENNIS "BUTCH" KLEIN

Robert & Bette Brester

Dean & Betty Fausnaugh

Sue & Dean Hallen

Brenda & David Hatten

Phil & Lecia Letz

Gordon & Toni McKittrick

Sam & Sharon Robertus

Carol Sands

BARBARA "BOBBIE"

KRAMLICK

Norma Walter

DONALD "DIZ" KROLL

Mary Kroll

MARY KUNDA

Robert & Peggy Kappel

BILL LACKMAN

Kathleen Chaffee

PAUL LAVEAU, SR.

Diane Bailey

Bill & Anne Cole

ALLAN LEENS

Jim & Ruth Hatten

ED LENHARDT

Ed & Roxie Kraft

BRUCE LOCKIE

Dave & Donna Marmon

MAX LONG

Jim & Ruth Hatten

Randy & Jennifer Strending

Sandy Western

SHANE MARVIN

Dave & Sara Ruff

MARY J MATTHEIS

Stan & Judy Eisenman

Richard & Lorna Kappel

Freida McLaughlin

DARRELL MCCAMMON

Wayne & Linda Hodges

Judy Richman

DON JOHN MCMILLAN

Lynn & Terry Williamson

MERVIN MEIDINGER

K. & Virginia Huckins

JOSEPHINE

MENDENHALL

Richard Mendenhall

RENA METCALF

Jane Minch

J. O. MILLER

Terrill Ostrum

CHARLES "CHUCK"

MORELLI

Duane Dittmer

PAT MORLEDGE

Dave & Sara Ruff

ARTHUR NELSON

Kathryn Jensen

DORIS NIELSEN

Mary Underwood

CARLA OBERG

Carol Aexel

Loretta Frank

Mike Oberg

Sherrie Ringstad

HELEN OBERG

Mike Oberg

GARY OSTRUM

James & Eileen L. Barnum

Gordon & Doris Radke

Julie Sanders

WAYNE PAULI

Laverne & Sheila Heavirland

TIM POTTS

Big Sky Septic

BARB POTZMAN

Bill & Karen McDonald

BETTY REID

Gladys Bernhardt

Norma Walter

MARVIN ROBINETTE

William Keith & Elizabeth

Fitzwater

SHIRLEY RODGERS

Jim & Ruth Hatten

REN ROGERS

David Rose

BETTY RYDER

Anita Buzzy

KAY SHARTZER

Carol Sands

SAM SHOOP

Claire Leland

BOB SOLIE

Mr. & Mrs. Chadwin Lutey

HAZEL STEVENS

Larry Stevens

DOROTHY & JOHN

STRAUCH

William & Linda Strauch

JANICE STRUTZ

Andy & Joy Holman

GENE VAN OOSTEN

James & Eileen L. Barnum

JERRY VOGEL

Richard & Vicki Farnes

BOB WEATHERFORD

Beverly Harper

Bob & Betty Saxbury

Barbara Wennemar

KEVIN WHITFORD

James & Eileen L. Barnum

ROBERT WOMMACK

Richard & Joanne Nauman

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.*

Gratitude



Steven Aadland

An admirable quality of our residents is how profoundly they experience gratitude. Here's a little story about Jeremy I would like to share with you.

In March and April, I spend a lot of time giving ranch tours and taking pictures in the greenhouse complex. Each year, Jeremy finds the perfect moment to say hi, and he always – in an extremely polite and innocent way – quizzes me

on plans for the Open House. It's neat to hear that he is already excited about the event, and it serves as a reminder that I should be thinking about it, too. As music lovers, Jeremy and I share a special connection. His first question is always, "Steve, have you thought about what kind of music we'll have at the Open House this year?" Usually I give some sort of wisecrack answer like, "Well, Garth Brooks called and said he's interested in coming, but I turned him away because I didn't think he'd draw a big enough crowd!" Then we laugh together and toss crazy ideas back-and-forth, and he gets even more excited. The main reason he asks about music, is that for many, many years, he has wanted to be the official D.J. of the Open House. That question is part of our conversation, every year, like clockwork.

We decided that 2022 was Jeremy's year to shine in this role. When event day finally came, the excitement and happiness he radiated was one of the most uplifting things I've experienced. He jubilantly helped with every step of getting the audio equipment ready and hooked into his iPad. When everything was set, he did the rest, and he did a terrific job. He chose a tasteful variety of music, was beyond entertaining, and he had so much fun. Something else that inspired me, was how thankful he was to have this opportunity. He thanked me literally dozens of times throughout the day, and I thanked him, too. It's a lot of work to stand (he didn't want a chair) in the heat for more than three hours and keep things going as an event D.J. At the very end of the day, he said, "Steve, thank you SO MUCH for allowing me to do this!" I said, "Thank YOU, Jeremy, for all your help and hard work today. You did an absolutely amazing job!"

On the topic of gratitude, thank you for your unwavering support. You are the people who make these experiences happen, and you ensure the SKR family thrives!



*Steven Aadland,
Development Director*

*Open House
D.J. Jeremy Litton*



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.

News and Announcements



2022 SKR Fundraising Dinner

Mark your calendars! The 2022 Fundraising Dinner will be held **IN-PERSON** at 5:00 on Friday, September 23, at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. Invitations will be mailed in August, with instructions on how to register/buy a table for the dinner. We're excited to reboot the principal fundraising event for Special K Ranch.



Please visit our residents and staff each Saturday at the Yellowstone Valley Farmers Market.

Delicious Tomatoes, tasty melons, and a variety of produce will be available as harvest season approaches! The market runs from now until October 1.

The Special Olympics Montana State Basketball Tournament is on! Residents are super excited to compete at the event, which was cancelled during 2020 and 2021. The tournament will be held November 10 - 12 in Butte.



Ranchers of the Month



These residents received special recognition by their peers and ranch staff for displaying exceptional behavior and work ethic.



January
Deb



February
Jeremy



March
Greg



April
Ember



May
Mike



June
Paul

