



HERDER

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

What are you grateful for?

*"Every time I think of you,
I give thanks to my God" (NLT).
– Philippians 1:3*

Building relationships takes time and must be intentional. So recently our administration staff had some fun with our residents during a sack lunch outing. Kathy, Sue, and Bonnie had lunch at the Wommack Center with the ladies, and Marvin and I had lunch with the guys in the park along the river. The ladies spent time talking while making a Christmas craft. The guys made a fire and enjoyed roasting marshmallows for s'mores. We spent some time, while eating our s'mores, talking about the things in our lives that we should be grateful for. The focus of our conversation turned to their families and the staff that invest in our residents' lives. It was our hope that they realize both their family and their ranch staff family deserve their respect and gratitude. The More Grateful You Are, the Happier You'll Be!

After our discussion it was time to have some fun. Some of the guys set up some cans and Marvin pulled a couple of .22 rifles out of his truck. We took turns and everyone got to take 10 shots at the cans. I was surprised at how many of our guys were hitting the cans and the pride they each had just shooting the guns. Time well spent with both the ladies and the guys; I am sure we will be doing more of these sack lunch investments.

"When you give someone your time, you are giving them a portion of your life that you'll never get back. Your time is your life. That is why the greatest gift you can give someone is your time."

– Rick Warren, The Purpose Driven Life.



Mike Oberg

Have I told you how much I Love my Job!

"Press On"
Mike and the Gang at Special K Ranch!



Merry Christmas

We Have the Best Supporters

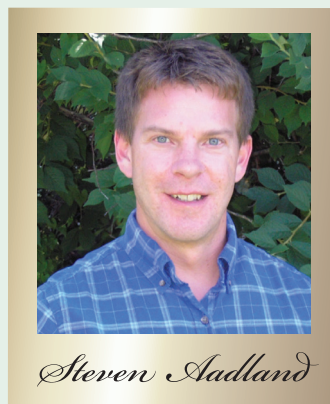
As we celebrate the Christmas season and all the wonderful things it brings, I like to reflect on the best memories of the past year. On the topic of celebration specifically, in September we were grateful for the opportunity to resume an in-person format for the SKR Fundraising Dinner. After holding the event virtually in 2020 and 2021, this year our generous supporters were excited to celebrate the ranch with our residents, and the evening was, for lack of a better word, perfect. The outpouring of generosity from our guests is something I'll remember forever. Our emcee, Bob Norbie, and our auctioneers, Kelly and Quinn Donovan of First Montana Title, worked their magic. Residents, guests, and staff had so much fun. Kathy and Marvin presented awards for



Ranchers of the Year and Most Improved Rancher by asking the residents to play a hilarious game of "Where's Waldo" to discover the winners.

Emcee Bob Norbie and Rancher of the Year Deb Hadlock

The game was a complete surprise to our residents, and it was something Marvin and Kathy had been wanting to try for years. It certainly didn't disappoint.



Steven Aadland

More than \$220,000 was raised for ranch operations and for the SKR Recreation Center. Outstanding! We cannot possibly convey how thankful we are to YOU, our amazing supporters, for making the evening so special for our residents.

Merry Christmas from all of us at SKR! We hope you enjoy this beautiful season of giving and receiving as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.



Steve Aadland
Development Director

S p o n s o r s

We thank our generous sponsors who have supported the 2022 Fundraising Dinner Celebration and Fund Drive with pre-event gifts of \$500 or more.

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Bob & Sherrie Willems
Robert & Phyllis Willems
Wyo-Ben

Normal, near normal, new normal...



Kathy Lee

No matter what one calls it, the residents are experiencing life again after two years of cancellations, delays, and inconvenience.

We were able to have our annual dinner in person, we have gone to dances, gone back to church, and finally get to play some basketball with other teams in two different tournaments. We hit Billings at the end of October and

then head up to Butte for the state tournament. (I am sure both tournaments will be done by the time this goes out). The resiliency and determination our residents have shown staff during the pandemic can teach all of us a thing or two about Faith, Love, and Brotherhood. Disappointment, frustration, and sadness could have taken over, but somehow residents persevered far better than staff.

It is hard to believe that 2022 is coming to an end as we plan holiday meals and parties. The residents are excitedly planning on their trips home and family time. Then BOOM, before you know it, we are on to greenhouse season #24!!



Marla and Levi arrived in October and took over Carla's House. Levi worked for the ranch for many years before moving to Missouri/Ohio. What a blessing to us that they wanted to come back to Montana.



I am still looking for a set of house parents for McCormick House. In the meantime, I have a wonderful full time relief gal, Tabitha Griffis who is doing an amazing job at taking care of the guys.

I wish all of you an amazing holiday season with your loved ones near and far. We are truly Blessed to have all of you in our lives.

Take care and be Blessed,

Kathy Lee
Residential Director



*"Finally, all of you,
have unity of mind,
sympathy, brotherly
love, a tender heart,
and a humble mind."*

– 1 Peter 3:8



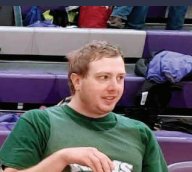
Christmas Blessings



This year we welcomed two new sets of house parents to the ranch. Angie and Lee Harrison arrived in August and took over the Hawkins House. They have settled in nicely and are enjoying their

time thus far. They arrived here from Virginia via New York, so our winters will not be a big shock, LOL.

Basketball Tournament in Butte 2022



Mop!

Mop! It's a simple word that almost everyone would have some sort of experience with, or know about. Yet it seems like such simple things can be enormously complicated. One of the typical chores around the vocational programs and at the homes is for the residents to clean up messes on the floors. We routinely do this around our work areas for safety, and because we like a clean environment.

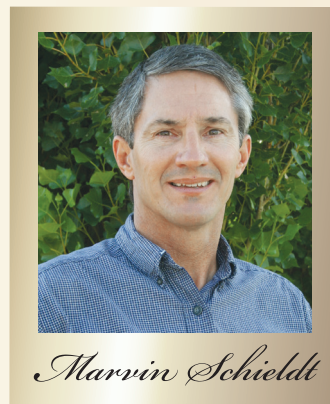
I don't know if you have checked "mops" out recently, but I am staggered at how many mops are now on the market, and how many different ways the word "MOPS" can be used. If you google "mops" you will find: microfiber mops, spin mops, hands free spin mops (I'm eagerly awaiting a "hands free" mop), easy wring mop, deluxe dust mop, Swiffer mop, and even Cyclomop (comes with a warning). MOPS can even stand for "Mothers of Preschoolers."

Let's face it, we live in a "mopping" culture, almost like what many older movies had as daily life for sailors serving in the Navy. They were often put to work mopping whether the deck needed it or not. It was just to keep them busy and out of trouble. Mopping can also give a person a really good anaerobic workout, if done with lots of effort and intention. Some people shop for a very specific mop for a very specific job, while others look for that one mop that can be used

on a variety of floor types – all to accomplish a simple job – cleaning a dirty floor.

The last few months, we have been working with our residents on what it takes to make a good "community". It's part of our culture here at SKR because we live and work together daily. Unfortunately, we sometimes miss the basics, the simple things, about making a healthy community. It can be complicated, just like finding the right mop. We are all very different, with different personalities and different abilities yet we are still . . . people . . . and have more similarities than differences. You would think it would be simple – just match resource with requirements, and shazam – community happens. Here is a thought, Jesus told us to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. Then he added: and your neighbor as yourselves (Mark 12:30-31). Not a complicated system or design, but one we struggle to accomplish. Maybe MOP could stand for:

Many Opportunities with People, as a challenge for us to remember that God always intended us to be better in community than we would be by ourselves. Have you been involved with a mop lately? Grab ahold of one and enjoy cleaning up a little. That's what we do.



Marvin Schieldt

Marvin Schieldt
Program Director



Best Wishes for a Joyful Holiday Season



Ranchers of the Month

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



JULY - *Justin*

What Justin likes most is all the friends he has made at the ranch.

Justin you are the best!



AUGUST - *Ben*

Ben loves tomato world and selling at the Farmers Market.

Keep up the good work Ben!



SEPTEMBER - *Andy*

Andy told me he has been very helpful and that is why he won Rancher of the Month.

Great job Andy!

Ranchers of the Year

Exceptional behavior all year long.



Debbie

Debbie has been at the ranch for more than 26 years. During this time, she has made so many friends.

Deb you got this!



Robbie

Rob said he wanted to be Rancher of the Month. WELL, he went one step further and became Rancher of the Year.

Way to go Robbie!



Justin

One of Justin's favorite things to do is spend time in town with his house parents.

Go get 'em Justin!

Most Improved Rancher

Honorariums and Memorials JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH OCTOBER 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.

IN HONOR OF:

CATHY AEXEL

Mark H. Larson

DALLAS EIDE

Cindy Lou Meccage

BETTY HOEKSEMA

Denise Bowser

ALEX KLEE

Jack & Vivian Klee

REV. DAVID &

KATHY MUNSON

Dennis & Nikki Olson

KARI NOVASIO

Lawrence & Carol Barber

GREG WENNEMAR

Cindy Lou Meccage

IN MEMORY OF:

JOHN AEXEL

Mark H. Larson

MIKE AMEN

Norma Kappel

STEVEN BAKKER

Beverly & Marvin Johnson

WILLIAM BAKKER

Beverly & Marvin Johnson

FRED BESE

Gary & Donna Pippin

DUANE CARLSON

Larry & Kathryn Minch

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Larry & Marilyn O'Dell

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Mary Ann Guenther

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Kent & Traci Oblender

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Hollis Taylor

MARY TEEPLES

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KENNETH VOLDSETH

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DON W. WALTER

Norma Walter

BOB WEATHERFORD

Iline Rehling

IRVIN WEATHERMON

Cathie Kautz

Kathy Manfull

Barbara Wennemar

LLOYD WEBBER

Gerry Webber

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.*

TEE OFF FOR SPECIAL K RANCH

*Watch for the announcement
about our Golf Tournament*

COMING SUMMER

2023



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 Special K Ranch for a complete list of job responsibilities.

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.

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I Believe in the Mission



Happy Holidays, I'm Kay Hotchkiss and I have the pleasure of being the new Marketing and Communications Associate for Special K Ranch. I've only been here for about 14 weeks but have experienced such amazing things in that short time.

My very first event was the awesome fundraising dinner for the ranch. Watching the residents running out in their basketball uniforms while our guests clapped and cheered them on is something I will never forget. Then observing all our supporters give so generously made my heart happy.



On another day I went to the ranch to take pictures and meet some more of the residents. Everyone made me feel welcome and treated me like I had been there for years. A few told me stories about how much they loved the ranch, and how they

had forever friends, and one told me she never feels alone anymore. I left that day feeling very grateful to be a part of this beautiful ranch.

Then came the HALLOWEEN FUN. The residents were all



dressed up and ready to dance. They had the best time with all their friends.

In short, I am blessed to work with such amazing residents and staff and have learned how rewarding your job is when you totally believe in the mission.

I want to wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year."

~ Kay

