

THE RANCH VOICE

Magazine for friends and donors of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

Spring 2017



A resident shares some quiet moments and comfort with his horse, Cheyenne, during his occupational therapy session.



www.DakotaRanch.org
1.800.344.0957

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Message from President/CEO



Joy Ryan
President

God's Gift of Quiet

Hello Dear Friends,

As I sit down to write this the world seems very “noisy.” The political conversations are loud. Concerns about taxes, our environment, foreign affairs, and immigration are loud. Hockey, football, soccer, basketball, baseball and all the various sporting events are HUGE and loud. Movies, theater, and entertainment all find new ways to be loud.

Yet, when I think of the work at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, this work that is so important, it happens in the quiet.

The quiet of a therapist—listening, waiting and healing, as a child shares their deepest fears.

The quiet of a horse's breathing—walking slowly to allow a child to use the horse's calm as their own.

The quiet of a classroom—where students find their voice through art, or their intelligence through science, or their gift through math.

The quiet of the chapel—as Pastor Rick baptizes a beautiful young woman on her day of discharge, the other children joining in the prayers for her success.

The quiet of a smile—as a young man shows his Youth Care Worker the tie he tied “all by myself.”

The quiet of faith—as we believe that Christ came to carry the burden for each one of these children.

It would be easy to get caught up in the noise, and sometimes each of us do just that. But, it is important to look for the small, quiet places, where we can find those important moments with God.

As one of my favorite prayers says, “We give thanks for the presence of our loving God—visible to us in one another, in countless daily gifts, and in the miracles and wonders of creation.”

Thank you for being part of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch story, success, friend network and faith community. God bless you. I wish you a few moments of God's gift of quiet.

In His love,
Joy

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Locations

Minot
6301 19th Ave. NW
P.O. Box 5007
Minot, ND 58702

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7151 15th St. S.
Fargo, ND 58104

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Bismarck, ND 58501

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1-800-593-3098

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1-800-344-0957

DakotaRanch.org

Understanding Our Kids

The Sights and Sounds of Learning

By Tina DeGree, Principal
Dakota Memorial School, Minot

If you were to walk the halls of Dakota Memorial School, you would notice the presence of the sights and sounds of learning. The sounds of student/teacher discussions regarding math problems, historical events, and the themes of classic literature flood through the building. The sight of students bent over their projects in science lab, and curled up in bean bag chairs reading books, dot the landscape.

If you don't know our kids, you may not realize what a miracle this is.

For many children, school is a place to shine. But for most of our kids, school has not been filled with the memories of learning, friends, and success. Learning has been a struggle, friendships are few, and anxiety overwhelming.

When students enter DMS, we meet them at their level, and teaching from a textbook is only part of what we do. We are part of a team at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch that guides them not only through education and learning, but to tools and strategies they can use to address their unique challenges so they can be successful in the future.

The foundation of this success is built on relationships. Human beings are created for connection—we have a basic need to belong to a group and form relationships. So, one of our first tasks with new students is to build trust—trust that each day is a clean slate, and that we will be there to help them learn and succeed.

Teachers and staff don't expect or look for easy or smooth—we want to be there for our students during the tough times because that is how our students will learn to cope with difficulties when they leave us. Teachers and staff meet times of



Tina DeGree is available for each and every student, making sure they have what they need to live, learn and grow.

anxiety, stress, or frustration ready to listen. We show our students that the present is only a small chapter of their lives—they can grow and accept a new set of tools that will help them have richer lives.

When supporting students through healing, we have come to expect that no two students are the same. Although students might have similar interests, learning styles, or grade levels, each child walking through our hallways can expect individual attention. We look for starting points, points where we can build confidence that learning is possible and

relationships are good. Students soon find that they can't push us away—we will search for creative ways to make connections, and remain a part of their journey, no matter how hard they push.

Just as I know I don't have all the answers, teachers and staff know they don't have all the answers. We look to each other, kids' families, therapists, and youth care workers for ideas. We blend ideas and techniques to create something unique, sometimes finding out what doesn't work before we find what does.

Watching our students gain confidence in a strategy that helps them control anger or frustration, a technique that helps them get over the anxiety of a hard math assignment, or the skills to help carry on a conversation with a peer, is filled with rewards and celebration. Dakota Memorial School is a unique place, a place where we see transformation, transformation that is often quiet and slow, but sometimes remarkable in its speed and intensity.

As much as we cherish our students, our goal is always to send them off to the next chapter of their lives. We may never see the outcome of our work—but we trustingly and lovingly send them off with the faith and prayers of all of us who have been part of their journey towards healing and change.

Healing Through Helping

On Saturday, March 4, children at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch baked and packaged over 450 caramel and frosted cinnamon rolls as a fundraiser for Jurnee Rust. Jurnee is a 4th grader from Minot who has an inoperable brain tumor and has been undergoing treatment at the Children’s Hospital in Minneapolis.

One female Ranch resident said, “No matter how much I help, even if it is just packaging a few caramel rolls, I know I help.”

Another said, “[the] best thing was knowing I was helping a little girl that needs help.”

Ranch staff placed orders for the rolls and generously donated toward the cause.

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Chaplain, Rick Jones, said, “The

youth at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch have been through a lot, so they know what it is like to go through a struggle like this. When they see an opportunity to connect with someone else who is going through something similar, it is a powerful thing. They are so gracious and supportive. They don’t want to see anybody hurting or in pain. It was incredibly humbling to see our residents reach out with compassion and mercy to this girl that they have never met.”

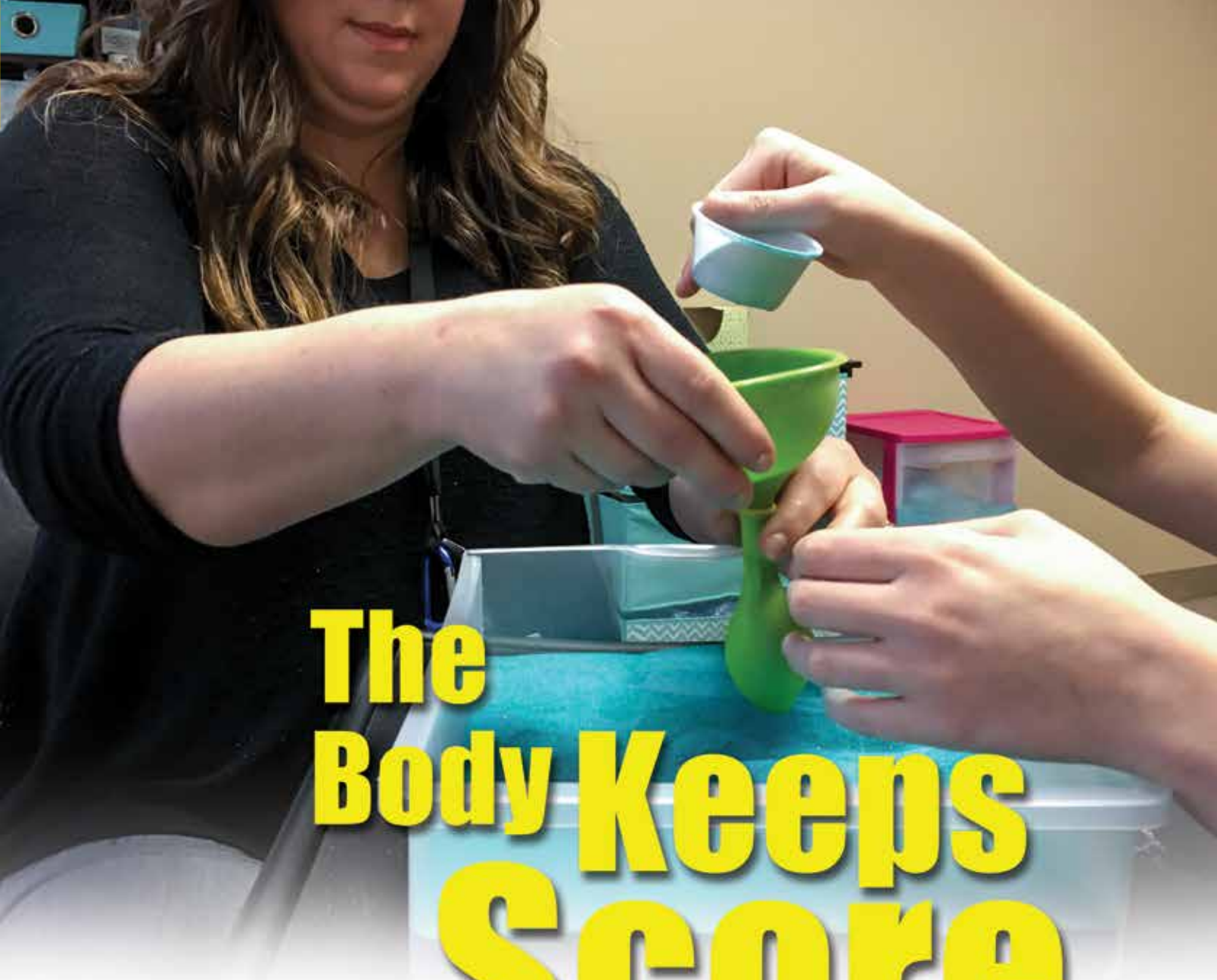
This was the second of two roll sale fundraisers for Jurnee Rust. The first, in February, was led by Erin Dodd and friends at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Minot (where Jurnee and her family are members), baking and selling over 1,300 rolls! Thrivent Financial generously issued a grant to get things started with the

purchase of some supplies and food for volunteers.



Ranch kids learn compassion and kindness as they bake caramel rolls and make posters and cards for Jurnee.

Ranch kids made beautiful and powerful posters and cards for Jurnee.



The Body Keeps Score

Most people learn about Occupational Therapy when they, or a loved one, are recovering from an accident, illness, surgery or stroke. We see these gentle occupational therapists, working hand-in-hand with physical therapists, helping people relearn or find new ways to put on socks, cook meals, and navigate the world.

In reality, occupational therapy has a much broader definition, and it is a critical component of the holistic care we provide to the amazing children at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

The name itself is misleading.

Occupational therapist gives Ranch children a new language to express and control their feelings

When we hear “occupation,” we think it pertains to our work or career. But, in this case, an occupation is defined as the everyday activities people do to occupy their time, and the things that bring meaning and purpose to life. Occupational therapists focus on helping develop, improve, sustain, or restore independence to people who

have had an injury, illness, disability or psychological challenges.

It is the area of psychological and psychiatric care that where kids need occupational therapy (OT).

Many of our Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch boys and girls couldn't tell you, or even visualize, what it feels like to be calm.

“A lot of our kids have had pretty significant trauma in their lives. The trauma affects their brain and body functioning and puts them in constant fight or flight mode—they are on edge or amped up all the time,” says Shea Brogren, occupational therapist on the Ranch’s Fargo campus.

While psychotherapy and psychiatric care are vital parts of the work we do, children can’t always find the way to talk about the anger, tension, fear, or confusion that they are feeling in their bodies. Some of our kids say, “I can’t feel calm. I don’t even know what that means!”

As psychiatrist and writer, Dr. Bessel Van der Kolk, says, “The body keeps the score.”

Occupational therapy at the Ranch focuses on helping kids learn to be aware of what they feel in their bodies, and to find ways to manage or “regulate” their bodies and emotions. Self-regulation happens for most of us automatically. We know what is appropriate terms of what we can do, and when we can do it. Because of the trauma our kids have experienced, many have never learned to self-regulate... and self-regulation is a critical “occupation” that can be learned through OT. We do that in a variety of ways, including the use of zones of regulation, sensory tools, and horses.

Zones of Regulation

“Kids who have been traumatized,” says Ranch psychiatrist, Dr. Wayne

Martinsen, “have an internal level of arousal or hyperawareness. They startle more easily. Get angry more easily. Some kids can face the trauma and talk through it. But for some, OT may be the key to unlocking and lowering the internal arousal. There is a healing piece with that, and it really does make a permanent difference.”

“You can calm the emotional turmoil or agitation with medication, but perhaps we can use lower dosages, or eliminate the need for medication over time, if OT can help kids identify their feelings and learn ways to calm down. Less medication means lower side effects,” says Martinsen.

To help children learn to identify when their self-regulation is an issue, and begin to teach them to independently regain control, Ranch OT’s first teach the child about their own personal “zones of regulation.”



Zones of regulation, as described in “The Zones of Regulation” by Leah M.

Kuypers, OTR/L, teach students how to regulate and control their emotions.

Ranch residents each have their own zones of regulation chart. By tracking their zones throughout the day, they can learn to understand their personal triggers. The goal is for students to recognize times and situations that may be difficult for them, so they can use the tools before they move up the ladder to the red zone.

Students begin to realize they are more successful when they remain in the green zone where they are in control of their behavior and emotions.

Occupational therapists introduce residents to the zones of regulation and help them identify what they are feeling. The zones are also integrated into every aspect of the children’s lives—at school, in therapy, and in the cottages where the children live, sleep, eat, and interact with their peers.

When Chloe* came to the Ranch, she was very aggressive and had been in multiple placements (extended family, foster homes, group homes, residential treatment and hospitals). Chloe had been subjected to physical, emotional and sexual abuse, most of it when she was



Occupational therapist Renae Fettig helps children learn how to control their reactions to different textures, sounds, and smells.

under five years old.

When Brogren introduced Chloe to the zones of regulation, it was like a lightbulb went off.

“It seems so simple,” Brogren said, “but the zones of regulation gave Chloe a tool, a language, really, to help her understand what she felt.”

Chloe said, “I never had the ability to communicate what I was feeling before. This helped me do that.”

Chloe put the zones of regulation chart up in her bedroom and used the chart to identify and communicate her feelings.

Often, our kids our unable to identify what they are feeling and where they are at in the zones chart. All staff at the Ranch are trained in using the zones so they can notice when a child may be moving into an unhealthy zone, and suggest to them that they may need a sensory break or to go to the OT room for a few minutes.

In additional, Occupational Therapy Assistants are with the kids throughout the day—in the morning before school, at school, and in the cottages until bedtime—so they can work with the children as they go about their activities of daily living.

Sensory Tools

Once children learn the zones of regulation, OT’s can guide them in finding “sensory tools” that will help them calm themselves and focus.

Sensory integration is based on the concept that all the information

we receive about the world comes through our sensory systems—our sense of smell, touch, movement, taste, sight, and hearing. The ability

to integrate the massive amounts of information coming into the senses develops normally in most children, and allows us to concentrate, reason, think, control our actions, and learn. It also is

vitaly important in developing self-esteem and self-confidence.

When sensory integration is interrupted by trauma, or in the case of kids on the autism spectrum, doesn’t develop properly, children are unable to regulate their emotions and actions.

Sensory tools range from small to large. Swings, rocking chairs, lights, and ball pits are used by Ranch OT’s to help children learn what helps them get back to the Green Zone. Smaller items, like stress balls, Thera-putty, and gum are very useful in that children can have them with them, or teachers can have them in the classroom.

Occupational therapy is especially important in the classroom, where children need the ability to focus on learning. The teachers at Dakota Memorial School in Minot all read Kuyper’s book last semester, and worked with Occupational Therapist Summer Van Rooyen and the students to create coping skills tool boxes for each classroom. The tool boxes include sensory items like stress balls, Thera-putty, Play Dough, moon sand,

writing grips, hand-held stretchy items, and sugar-free hard candy.

Rena Fetting, OT on the Ranch’s Bismarck campus, works closely with children in the classroom. “What do they need to do to learn? If I see a child shaking his leg, I can assume he needs to move to concentrate.”

Some kids who are stressed need to wrap a blanket around themselves. Others need to find a quiet place where they can collect their thoughts and calm themselves down.

At the Ranch, we have several balanced learning classrooms—classrooms that let kids choose the environment best for their learning style. These include specialized work stations, and special lighting. If students feel restless or unable to focus, they are encouraged to move around to find the space that is best for them at that time.

In addition to helping children feel calm, these techniques and tools also help them feel safe so they talk and open up more.



Coping skills toolboxes in each classroom help children focus on learning.



Occupational therapist, Shea Brogren, guides residents through the Zones of regulation.

“Getting a child’s sensory system organized can improve their vocabulary and speech,” Fetting says.

Horses and Empathy

Van Ooyen has found that bringing horses and children together can be very successful in

helping kids learn to self-regulate.

“We don’t just put them on a horse and make them ride,” said Van Ooyen, OT on the Minot campus. “We start them out by building a relationship with the horse. The horse can tell right away if a child is



Summer Van Ooyen provides occupational therapy using horses. Riding horse can be invaluable for helping the brain and body make important connections.

feeling anxious or on edge, and will pull away from the child. One young boy was so dysregulated that he walked up to his horse and the horse darted away to the other side of the arena.”

The kids learn that they must control their emotions if they want to spend time with their horse. And, just like Van Rooyen doesn’t force the child to engage with the horse if they are uncomfortable, she doesn’t force the horse to engage with the child.

Balance, and the ability to know where your body is in space, are two additional pieces of sensory integration where working with

horses can be valuable. By sitting on a horse, children learn to feel where their bodies are in space, and learn how to balance. Riding horse is also good for motor skills and helping the brain and body make important connections.

Finally, Van Ooyen can tell a lot about a child by how they sit on the horse as they ride around the arena. If they are folded in on themselves, she can see they are unsure of themselves and not open to the experience. If they look tight, she can see they are storing something in their bodies that needs to be resolved.

The cutting edge

Martinsen says, “Everything we do here—psychotherapy, medication, OT—is a different pathway to healing. Our goal is to get these kids back to the community and back to their families as soon as possible. The more different approaches you use, the more successful you can be, and the more quickly you can do it.”



In terms of using occupational therapy as a tool in residential treatment, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is

on the cutting edge.

“In terms of complexity and integration, there isn’t even anyone who comes close to what we do, especially in North Dakota,” Martinsen says.

**Name changed to protect confidentiality*

What the Kids Say

“Renae gives us perfect opportunities to get better. I really like brushing, it helps with my sensitive skin, stress, and many other things. She sets up a little course for me since I can’t stop moving. She also gets the bouncy ball out and I sit on it and bounce. When I’m done, I feel 100% better than before.”

16-year-old girl

“I use a weighted blanket to help me calm down. Brushing helps me get relaxed. I also like how the sand feels.”

17-year-old boy

“The chair is really good and relaxing. It helps me calm down whenever I have anxiety or feel really angry. Just rocking back and forth feels good. I play with the putty or play games with Nicki [OT assistant], and feel a lot better when I can put my mind on something else. You can think about something else instead of what you’ve been thinking of.”

15-year-old boy



Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch 12TH Annual BLT Day

Saturday, May 13, 2017

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch
6301 19th Ave. N.W., Minot

BLT Lunch

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Program at 12 Noon

Spring Plant Sale

(plants raised by Ranch residents and staff)

Vegetables

Herbs

Ornamental Grasses

Flowers

Succulents

Perennials (*NEW!*)

Potting Station

(Bring your own pots, buy our plants,
and we will pot them for you!)

Birdhouse & Yard Sign Sale

(built by Ranch residents and staff)

Dakota Cruisers Car Show

Proceeds benefit the Verendrye Electric Greenhouse Technology
Program on the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Minot campus.



For more information, call 701-839-7888
or visit DakotaRanch.org.

Primitive Weapons Historian Visits Minot Campus

John Martinson, a primitive weapons historian, spent a class period with Mr. Miller's English students. Martinson displayed bows, arrows and arrowheads used by the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Indians of this area. He also demonstrated flint knapping, the process Natives used to create cutting blades to use as arrowheads, spear points, knives, etc.



Ranch Wildlife Club Introduces Kids to Fishing

The kids in the Ranch Wildlife Club spent a cold Saturday huddled in ice-fishing shelters on Scobey Lake this winter. While the wind blew the anglers about some, they stayed optimistic and even caught a few fish. For most of the residents, this was their first ice fishing excursion.

The Wildlife Club has an overnight trip planned to the Turtle Mountains in late March.

Funding for the excursions is provided by the Minot Conservation Group. In exchange, members of the Wildlife Club build pheasant transport boxes for Pheasants for the Future.

NDSU Students Volunteer at Thrift Store

Members of the NDSU sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta, spent an afternoon sorting clothes at the thrift store. They were part of a larger group of students sent out

into the community by the NDSU Volunteer Network on Martin Luther King Day.



Give360 Grant to Purchase Seeds, Bulbs and Greenhouse Supplies

Give360, a grant program administered by the Minot Area Community Foundation awarded \$4,000 to the Ranch's Greenhouse/Horticulture Program. Funds will go towards purchasing seeds, bulbs, pots, and other greenhouse supplies.

Minot Area Foundation representatives present the GIVE360 donation to representatives and students from Dakota Memorial School.

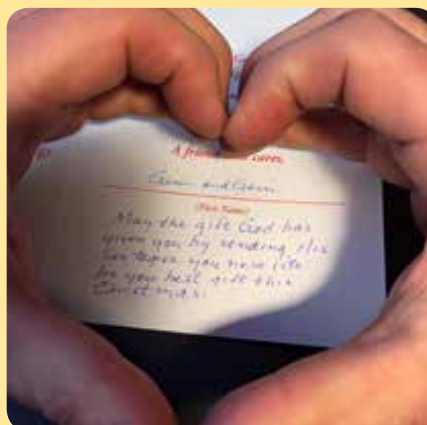
From left: Ken Kitzman, President, Minot Area Community Foundation; Barb Clementich, Greenhouse Attendant, Dakota Boys and Girls

Ranch; Chelsea Kirkhammer, Marketing Coordinator, Minot Area Community Foundation; Wendy Keller, Give360 Representative; Marcia Bartok, Superintendent, Dakota Memorial School; Amanda Mosser, Corporate and Foundation Development Officer, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch; James and Chris, Students, Dakota Memorial School.



Christmas Cards for our Kids

Each year, we send a Christmas mailing to our donors that includes a Christmas card—a card they can write to one of our kids. Every Thursday during the holiday season, Chaplain Jones reads from a few of the cards, and then hands them out to the kids. It's a blessing to receive hundreds of cards each year, cards delighting in the beauty of the season, telling our kids that God loves them, and letting them know that hundreds of people are praying for them.



Donors share God's love with Ranch children by sending cards.

Winter Fun

In March, the boys from Seegers Cottage visited Bottineau Winter Park for some tubing. They had a blast and well... so did the Ranch staff who accompanied them! We all got to be kids for a day.



Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Receives \$25,000 Award from Farm Credit Services

Farm Credit Services of North Dakota awarded Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch \$25,000 as a recipient of the Rural Community Grant Fund (RCGF). The grant funds will help the Ranch integrate science, technology, engineering, art, and math into instruction for at-risk youth.

Marcia Bartok, Superintendent with Dakota Memorial School, the on-campus school of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, was pleased to accept the check and use the grant funds towards upgrading the school's instruction curriculum.

"We are pleased to support [the Ranch] with funds to update their instruction so the youth receive



From left: Claude Sem, CEO, Farm Credit Services of ND; Tina Degree, Principal, Dakota Memorial School, Minot; Marcia Bartok, Superintendent, Dakota Memorial School; Clara Sue Price, Farm Credit Services of ND Board of Directors; Todd Erickson, Manager, Farm Credit Services of ND.

a better quality education," says Claude Sem, CEO of Farm Credit Services of North Dakota. "This will help them provide a successful learning environment that benefits everyone involved."

Farm Credit Services of North Dakota, Farm Credit Services of

Mandan, and AgriBank established the Rural Community Grant Fund to assist in the implementation and development of projects and programs in communities and rural areas in western North Dakota, which have been impacted by mineral exploration.

Homebuilder's Association of Fargo-Moorhead Holds Toiletry Drive

Every year, Homebuilders Association of Fargo-Moorhead (HBA) holds a holiday drive for a local organization. In 2016, they chose Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. From Nov. 28-Dec. 29, 2016, HBA members collected more than 2,500 toiletry items for Ranch residents.

We now have enough shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, lotion, facial tissues, and toilet paper to stock all three campuses for nearly a year!

In addition to the toiletry drive, they purchased Christmas gifts for all residents of the Fargo Youth Home and the Fargo Residential Treatment Center. Thank you HBA staff and members for your commitment to the Ranch.



Jennifer Erickson, Director of Development & Education, HBA F-M and Tahra Doll, Office Coordinator, HBA F-M, coordinated the Toiletry Drive for the Ranch.

Staff and Donors Share the Love on Giving Hearts Day

On February 9, Giving Hearts Day, you shared the love with the kids at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch—by contributing badly-needed dollars to support trauma-informed care at the Ranch.

Research indicates that the brains of children who are exposed to chronic trauma and stress are wired differently than children whose experiences have been more secure. When the adolescent brain is exposed to healthy experiences and relationships, it can “rewire” itself.

At the Ranch, we weave trauma-informed practices (providing positive experiences, identifying and building on strengths, building positive relationships) into all residential and educational programs, which is proven to have a long-lasting impact on traumatized youth.



The kids in Seeger’s Cottage, Minot, find a creative way to say “thank you” to Giving Hearts Day donors.

Thank YOU for sharing the love!



Ranch Students Make Music in New Studio

Jay Schaefer, Spiritual Life Specialist, created a music studio in an empty closet on the Fargo campus. Residents can create songs using beats and loops in Garage band. They can then add voice and other acoustic instruments with a microphone.

Donors Hear from Dakota Memorial School Student in Arizona

Every year, we hold two luncheons in Arizona for Ranch donors, and others interested in learning more about what we do. This year, Ranch donors heard from Cain, a young man who attends Dakota Memorial School, Bismarck, the on-campus school of the Ranch.

Cain spoke of the transformation he underwent after going through treatment at the Ranch. You can hear Cain’s speech on our YouTube page (DBGR1952).



Dawn, Cain and Kevin Kaiser attended our Arizona luncheons. Dawn and Cain brought the audiences to tears with their stories of hope and healing at the Ranch.

Thrivent Members Connect Kids to Faith

Are you a Thrivent member? If so, you may be eligible for Thrivent Choice, a program that allows you to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of its charitable grant funds among enrolled organizations like Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

If you were one of the many Thrivent members who directed Choice dollars to the Ranch last year, thank you—Thrivent members contributed over \$35,000 to the Ranch in 2016. Grant funds were used to help connect kids to faith through our spiritual life programming.

Learn more at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.



Snobiah Bellof, a youth care worker in Butt Cottage, taught the kids to weave baskets. Some even took supplies back to the cottages so they could make more. What a way to recycle!

Book Drive Held by Minotaurs Hockey Team

The Minotaurs Hockey Team held a Book Drive for the Ranch. They dropped off several boxes of books we can use to stock our libraries so the kids have plenty reading material.



Delivering Goodies for the Kids



Leah Martell stops by the Ranch periodically to bring goodies for kids at the Ranch. Last week, she surprised us with Easter “baskets.”

“It’s like a hobby for me and my husband,” Leah said. “We shop sales all year round, and then put together

things we can give to the kids.”

In addition to holiday baskets and gifts, Leah also drops off school supplies—and coupons for toiletry items and other things we regularly purchase to stock our pantries.

Students Hold Art Exhibition at the Spirit Room

Dakota Memorial School art students were honored to display their work at the Spirit Room during the month of April. At the Opening Reception of the art show, DMS art teacher, Alana Wilhelm, shared her thoughts about the students and their art.

“We are blessed to work with these remarkable young children who have achieved and overcome so much in their lives,” Wilhelm said. “Our students continue to impress and inspire those around them. They are extremely talented, resilient, and intelligent.”

Throughout the quarter, the students learned how to communicate their ideas through visual imagery—photography, doodle drawings, acrylic and watercolor paintings, and more.

Wilhelm said, “Above all, the goals in the art department are to gain confidence; gain an appreciation for yourself, others and art; as well as to learn how not to be afraid of making mistakes. Failure is what makes us successful. From failure, we learn to get up and try, try, again.”



**DAKOTA MEMORIAL NON-PROFIT
STUDENT ART EXHIBITION**



Title: “Shadows In The Night”

Artist: Dakota Memorial School student

Medium: Digital print on Matte Paper

Artist Statement

People perceive the world with different views. I chose to photograph the tree because the branches are like pathways—twisting, winding, and intersecting. Each branch leads to a different destination. The pathways symbolize life. In life, I find it quite hard when faced with these paths to pick one because there is always a risk or reward, the balance of life. “Shadows in the Night” is a metaphor, a mirror I held up for people to get lost in a world of their own imagination or inspiration to look deep inside themselves and find what is missing.

My inspiration comes from tough times because crisis brings out a thing called “Darwinism.” It helps us strive for survival, for a better situation. One of my life mottos goes, “The hardest walk you take is alone, but it’s the walk that makes you the strongest.” I cannot expect my dad to hold my hand while walking across the street anymore. I cannot expect people to be there to show me which paths to take, nor do I expect them to. It is my life.

I changed the sky from light to dark to represent memories. Memories that lay in the back of the mind. Sometimes if look deep inside yourself you can hear the whispers of your past self and then you find clarity from the reflection of your past.

The Healing Magic of Songwriting



A Dakota Memorial School student works with Dr. Monte Selby to put words to his own "life's song."

Through an Artist-in-Resident grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, Dr. Monte Selby spent a week at Dakota Memorial School (DMS), Fargo (DMS is the on-campus school of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.) The goal of the residency was to give students the opportunity to express their emotions and future aspirations through songwriting. Selby provided a bridge for many of our youth to be creative and expressive with their voice in the world.

Shayla Leinen, principal at DMS, says, "What sets Dr. Selby apart from most songwriters is his ability to connect with students on a personal level, engage them in authentic musical experiences, and inspire them to pursue their own artistic expression. All students had the opportunity to hear Dr. Selby sing and speak about music and songwriting. He connected aspects of effective songwriting to how students can make life choices, practice habits, and use the arts in healthy ways. All

students had the opportunity to write with Dr. Selby in group sessions, and many chose to write their own personal songs."

Students also had the opportunity to experience the support of other students, staff, family and community as their songs were performed in the culminating live concert, and through shared recordings via YouTube.

One student said, "I didn't know I had all of that inside me. When I

started writing the words just kept coming. I shared my song with my mom and I think it helped her understand what I am feeling inside better.”

Another said, “I never thought I would have enough courage to write a song, but I faced my fears and did it.”

When Selby returned home, he recorded and videotaped 14 of the songs he wrote with Ranch kids. Over the next few months, we will be sharing videos of the songs on Ranch social media pages. Follow us on Facebook (dakotaranch1952), Twitter (@DBGR52), and Instagram (dbgr52), to see the videos.

“Monte has a unique ability to put emotions and thoughts kids have that may difficult for them to verbalize otherwise,” said Christie Wilkie, Director of Clinical Services for Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch’s Fargo and Bismarck campuses. “They wrote songs that told their personal stories about loss, triumph, tragedy, confusion, and sometimes, just making it through the day. In every song he sang, it was clear he took the time to get to know the child and honorably told their stories in a way that reflected their distinct personalities.

It was a pretty cool thing to witness.”



Forgiveness

By Dakota Memorial School Student, “D,” and Dr. Monte Selby

I’m speaking from my heart to say
I’m loving God again.
He forgave my past mistakes
Washed away my sins.

*Forgiveness. Forgiveness. Forgiveness
for me.*

*Forgiveness. Forgiveness. Forgiveness
for me.*

I’m listening to my heart
When I feel guilty about my past.
God is watching all I do
And always brings me back, with

*Forgiveness. Forgiveness. Forgiveness
for me.*

*Forgiveness. Forgiveness. Forgiveness
for me.*

I’m feeling in my heart the joy
That fills and makes me whole.
Like flowing water from a stream
That gently calms my soul.

*Forgiveness. Forgiveness. Forgiveness
for me.*

*Forgiveness. Forgiveness. Forgiveness
for me.*

*Forgiveness. Forgiveness. Forgiveness
for me.*

See “Forgiveness” music video at <http://bit.ly/2o393ET>.

Try to Get Better

By Dakota Memorial School High School Girls and Dr. Monte Selby

I told my Mama that’s the last drink
I’d take
Then she caught me on the weekend
Making my next mistake
And I told the judge that’s the last
time I’d run
Then I saw the blue and red lights
They read me my rights. And that
was my life.

CHORUS:

*Mama says I need to try to get better
I should make a change for her
or whomever*

*Take responsibility. Do it for God
or my family*

*But someone else is who I need
To get better for. Now I believe
That someone is me. I’ll get better
for me.*

I tell myself, “Take time to breathe
And try to think it through”
Before I choose the words I speak
And I tell my friends, “Stay occupied
and busy
Keep your mind off bad decisions,”
And it sounds so easy. But
sometimes...

But I’m still learnin’. I’m still hurtin’,
I’m still prayin’, I’m still waitin’,
motivatin’

I’m achieving and believing that
I’m worth getting better for.

REPEAT CHORUS

See “Try to Get Better” music video at <http://bit.ly/2noaXg4>.

We take great care to guard the privacy of our children. The pictures you see are only used with the permission of the children themselves and the written permission of their guardians.

Spiritual Life Specialist, Jay Schaefer, and visiting songwriter, Dr. Monte Selby, collaborated on YouTube videos of our kids’ songs. Follow the Ranch on Facebook (dakotaranch1952) to see more of our music videos.

Our Work is Down the Mountain

Jesus took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. A voice said, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." (Luke 9: 28-31, 35)

What a remarkable experience for Peter, John, and James. At the top of the mountain, they not only witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus, but also had the honor and extraordinary opportunity to be in the presence of Moses and Elijah. To top it off, they heard the voice of God proclaiming Christ as His Son. That's big stuff for one trek up a mountain.

Since these men were just like us, they probably felt humbled, daunted and perhaps, quite honored, at being chosen to join Jesus on this mountain climb. Peter, John, and James could have easily thought this experience on the mountain was the culmination of their work and ministry. What else could they accomplish? Just a few weeks later, Jesus answered this question as he addressed all the disciples;

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

In this passage, Jesus tells three men and the rest of the disciples that their work is down the mountain. He

instructs them that they have much more to do. Instead of resting their laurels on top of the mountain, Peter, James, and John heeded Jesus's words, by spreading the gospel and growing the body of believers.

Collectively, and as individuals of this organization, we have all reached the proverbial mountain in our work at the Ranch. Whether that's completing the capital campaign, successfully discharging a child from treatment, bringing healing and hope to a broken family, or seeing many of our students attain academic honor role. These are all important accomplishments that deserve a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.

But, we need to be mindful that our work at the Ranch is always down the mountain—expanding our mission, taking on more complex cases, building more donor support for our programs, and seeking out those who need our help. We will do this "down the mountain" work through thoughtful prayer, continued education, guidance from others, and by creatively stretching ourselves and our resources to maximize the generosity of our donors.

While it is satisfying to be at the top of the mountain, this special group of people God has brought together at the Ranch—donors, staff, and faculty—will continue to head back down the mountain to continue Christ's work. Thank you for being a part of this work, and the special group of people God has called to do it.

Staff reflections on a devotion given by Pastor Derek Harkins at a recent Ranch board meeting.

Volunteers Critical to Thrift Store Success

Volunteers are critical to the success of our fundraising efforts at the Thrift Stores. Every item that is donated requires time to be sorted and get ready for the sales floor. Volunteers help maximize our production efforts by taking on some of the more challenging and time consuming processes, such as electrical testing; building furniture; sorting crafts, jewelry and books; and even taking on maintenance tasks.

In 2016, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Thrift Store volunteers in eight stores logged 13,376 hours of time. If we weighted those hours at only \$10/hour, we could say that our volunteers "gifted" us with nearly \$134,000 worth of their time. That is amazing, and so are our volunteers!



Thrift store volunteer, Bonnie Ackerman, says, "I volunteer at a Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch thrift store because I find it very enjoyable. I can do something for the community. It gets me out of the house and it's something fun to do."

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch thrift stores support the Ranch's work with children and families through their fundraising efforts. They also provide employment for over 150 individuals and scores of volunteers.

Minot Campus Update

Water Main Break on Minot Campus Brings out the Best in Staff and Donors

On February 17, a water main failed on the Minot campus. It caused damage, disruption and havoc. While facilities staff worked to shut the water off so it would stop gushing up through the floor, staff from all over campus descended on the school to push water out of the building. Then we tore up landscaping and sidewalks, and trenched through our grounds—where we discovered even more leaks and plumbing issues. Our main campus was without water for several days and the Dakota Memorial School building, even longer. We brought in portable toilets and took the kids to the local “Y” to shower.

As always in crisis, we turned to God in prayer, and to you, our supporters. We asked you to help us pull together \$77,000 to complete repairs and fix what was about to fail. We asked you to help us become whole again, and again make this a school and a home where our kids can heal.

And wow did you respond! As of this writing you have shared over \$99,000, above your normal giving, to help us through this urgent issue. At this point, we have repaired the leak, replaced the most tenuous lines, and completed the internal cleaning of the building. It is still cold here, only 21 above this morning, so we will wait for warmer temperatures,



and then replace pipes and valves, fill the trenches, repair the sidewalks, and replant the grass. With the additional funds, we can replace some additional plumbing that is also reaching the end of its dependability.

We work hard to have good business practices... insurance, contingency funds and maintenance practices. In spite of that, some things fall outside the best of planning. Thank you for responding so kindly.

By the grace of God and with the help of so many kind and generous friends, our Minot campus



water main crisis will soon be behind us! There is no BIG ENOUGH way to say “thank you!”

The Science of Learning

Engaging Memory, Motivation, Mindsets, Making and Mastery

Two Dakota Memorial School (DMS) staff, Marcia Bartok, Superintendent, and Tina DeGree, Minot Principal, recently attended an educational conference titled, “The Science of How We Learn: Engaging Memory, Motivation, Mindsets, Making and Mastery.”

This year’s gathering focused on the effect of genes and environment on the brain and learning; and most importantly, what the newest neuroscience proves or disproves about current educational practices. The brain is all about learning. The challenge for educators is to guide students toward learning the things they need to know to become good citizens, and to support themselves in a manner that contributes to society.

Many of the presenters talked about student self-regulation, and how the new neuroscience research can teach educators effective classroom management strategies.

Bartok said these sessions were of particular interest, as our students struggle with self-regulation and engagement in the learning process.

“Of course, this can occur in any classroom relating to boredom, lack of interest, apathy and the list goes on,” Bartok said, “But in addition to the natural tendencies observed in all adolescents and teens, our students also have special education and mental health challenges that affect their learning each and every day.”



At Dakota Memorial School, the on-campus school of the Ranch, we engage students in learning practices that many schools across the nation have only begun to investigate.

Of the many take-aways from the conference, perhaps the most important was the realization that much of what we do at DMS is on the “cutting edge” of peer-tested and neuroscience-backed practices. DMS is engaging students in learning practices that many schools across the nation have only begun to investigate.

While we recognize we have much to learn and even more to implement, we are blessed to be undertaking the difficult task of changing old habits

and implementing new research into our classroom practices to benefit the students we serve.

At DMS, our goal is always to increase student learning and success, both in the classroom and beyond to life’s journey.



6301 19th Ave. N.W., Minot, ND 58702

Phone: 1-800-344-0957

info@DakotaRanch.org

DakotaRanch.org



We all desire significance—to lead happy and fulfilled lives surrounded by family and friends.

For many of us, there is a compelling need to make a difference – to leave a lasting impact on the people most dear to us and the charities we love. The search for significance and desire to plan for the future leads many to ponder their legacy. What kind of legacy will you leave? A bequest is perhaps the easiest and most tangible way to have a lasting impact on the people and organizations that mean the most to you. A bequest may also be an effective way to make a gift to charity and lessen the burden of taxes on your family and estate. Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch has been blessed by bequests from many generous donors over the years.

AN EASY GIFT TO MAKE

A charitable bequest is language in a will or trust that directs a gift to be made to a qualified exempt charity when you pass away. One benefit of a charitable bequest is that it enables you to further the good work of an organization you support long after you are gone. Better yet, a charitable bequest can help you save estate taxes by providing your estate with a charitable deduction for the value of the gift. With careful planning, your family can also avoid paying income taxes on the assets they receive from your estate.

What LEGACY will you leave?



A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. With the help of an advisor, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift to be made to family, friends or charity as part of your estate plan.

YOU CAN MAKE A BEQUEST IN SEVERAL WAYS:

- Gift of a percentage of your estate
- Gift of a specific asset
- Gift of the residue of your estate

Certain types of property pass outside of a will or trust. These assets require that you name a beneficiary by completing a beneficiary designation form. To make a bequest of these assets, you should contact the company or entity from which you purchased the asset. Below are a couple of examples:

BEQUEST OF AN IRA

A retirement asset like an IRA account makes an excellent bequest to charity. If the IRA were given to your family, much of the value would be depleted through estate and income taxes. By designating charity as the beneficiary of part or all of your IRA, the full value of the gift is transferred tax free at your death and your estate receives a charitable deduction. If you wish to leave your IRA to your spouse at your death, you may also designate charity as the secondary beneficiary of your account. Contact your IRA or retirement account custodian to obtain a beneficiary designation form and make a bequest from your IRA.

BEQUEST OF INSURANCE

An insurance policy makes a nice bequest to charity. As an asset of your estate, an insurance policy is taxable at your death. However, if the policy is gifted to charity, your estate avoids paying tax on the value of the policy and receives a charitable deduction for the gift. You may generally name anyone as beneficiary of your insurance policy and change your designation at anytime. Contact your insurance company to obtain a beneficiary designation form and make a bequest of your policy to charity.

The names and images shown here are representative of typical donors and may or may not be actual donors to the organization. Under federal rules your benefits may be different from this example. Please contact us for your specific benefits.

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Friends of the Ranch

“The Lord Gave Me Blessings Galore”

Ed Pohland is a slight man, with an easy smile, hands that belong to an artist, and a deep faith in God.

“When you meet him, you soon realize how important it is for him to share with the kids at the Ranch—both his faith and the blessings he has received from the Lord during his life,” says Lisa Cole, Development Officer from the Ranch, who has gotten to know Ed over the years.

In the mid-80’s, Ed Pohland received a mailing from Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. He responded by sending a check, and then he called the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod District Office to learn more about the Ranch. Since then, he has kept up with what is going on at the Ranch by receiving mailings and visiting with staff in the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation office.

Ed’s giving philosophy has always been, “As more comes in, more goes out.”

Ed had a very successful career in electronics as a technical illustrator—first making illustrations for instruction manuals and later creating schematics—a much more detailed

illustration for the designers of the electronic instruments. For 25 years, Ed worked with a group at Tektronix that designed and built billion dollar testing instruments for integrated circuits.



Ed Pohland worked with Ranch Development Officer, Lisa Cole, to set up a gift annuity for Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

Every time Ed received a raise, he bumped up his giving. “That absolutely worked for me,” he said. “The Lord gave me blessings galore. I learned long ago that the more you give, the more you get in return.”

When he retired after 35 years in the business, Ed decided he was tired of the drizzle, so he moved to Sun City, Arizona. More recently, he moved to Lutheran Haven, an LCMS-affiliated retirement facility in Florida. Before he moved, he needed to sell his home, and his financial advisor suggested he consider using it to fund a gift annuity.

He called the Ranch, where he worked with Cole and a representative from the LCMS Foundation to set it all up. He gifted his home to the LCMS Foundation, they set it up as an annuity, and the proceeds of the annuity will go to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch after Ed’s death. Ed feels like he has always known about the Ranch, and it holds a special place in his heart. “I was never married and don’t have any kids of my own. Supporting the Ranch is a way for me to help young people through

an organization that is affiliated with our church body. As time went on, I really enjoyed doing it.”

He encourages others to never get to the point where they think they’ve done enough. “Nobody has ever done enough,” Ed said. “Considering what Christ has done for us, the little we do is not a payback. It’s just showing our appreciation.”

How a Charitable Gift Annuity Works

A charitable gift annuity is a gift and a contract with our organization. You make a gift to fund a gift annuity and we will make payments to you, your spouse or other beneficiaries, for life.

You will receive a charitable income tax deduction for your gift, and if you use an appreciated asset like stock to fund the annuity, you can avoid capital gains tax. After all annuity payments are made, we can use the remaining funds to support our mission.

A charitable gift annuity is a wonderful way to support the causes you care about. By including a gift to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in your estate plan, you will be able to leave a lasting legacy. If you have questions about making a charitable gift annuity to the Ranch, contact Janet Zinke at 701-551-7012 or j.zinke@DakotaRanch.org.

A Message from Gene...

A Prayer and a Gift

by Gene Kaseman, CEO Emeritus

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch has been blessed with amazing leaders, leaders who had a passion for children and a vision for how they could help them succeed in the name of Christ. We keep in touch with these leaders, and continue to benefit from their wisdom. We asked one of our former leaders, Gene Kaseman, to write an article for this issue of the Ranch Voice.

As you may or may not know, this year represents my 44 years of service to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Now I have retired from that wonderful Christian mission, but my passion for it still lives on!

Because of my long tenure at the Ranch, I have been blessed with growing up with the boys and then girls, of the Ranch. I say that because when I started at the Ranch, I was only five or six years older than the boys we served. In many ways, I was an older brother to them!

I have also been blessed with getting to know the donors of the Ranch. There were many, many supporters when I started. Since then a whole crop of new donors have also come on board to support this wonderful mission.

Through these years I have gained wisdom from you and many other donors, who are committed to the Christian mission of the Ranch. One of those supporters who departed his wisdom to me was Ed Steensland, a successful businessman. I knew Ed

for almost two decades and visited him many times. Ed's commitment to the Ranch was based on his childhood, being raised on a farm in Wisconsin.

He came from a loving family and had a wonderful childhood. Ed could not imagine a child not having the opportunity to grow up the way he did. It saddened him and his wife that many of the boys and girls did not have that experience. So, he was committed

to help support the Ranch, to give the boys and girls in its care, the childhood he had.

When I visited Ed, he always, always said "Gene, gifts are important but what is more important are prayers for the boys and girls at the Ranch. I always knew that Ed and his wife prayed for the boys and girls at the Ranch, along with giving their monetary support.

Having a long relationship with the youth served at the Ranch, I was always amazed how their experience at the Ranch changed their lives. This change positively impacted their family, spouses, children and grandchildren. This change of heart later led them to become contributing citizens to their country, by serving in the armed forces and by voting, to select our leaders. It led them to contribute to their community schools and churches.

There is an old saying: "As the twig is bent, so grows the tree." That quote describes the life-changing experience at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

I am asking you for two things. As Ed would say, first pray for the boys and girls at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. We all know the power of prayer. The second is to support the boys and girls in our care. Your simple gift will not only impact their lives now, but as they become adults, and most importantly, through eternity. As Ed would say, "First a prayer, then a gift!"

Thank you for supporting the mission of the Ranch. It is so important that we continue to give boys and girls the wonderful and caring home that Ed had.

In Christ's love,
Gene

P.S. Remember those prayers!



Gene Kaseman, CEO Emeritus, spoke at the ribbon-cutting of the Fargo campus in September 2016.

Grants and corporate donations

Anonymous Donor through the Minot Area Community Foundation

\$2,000, Dakota Memorial School Library Materials, Minot

Kiwanis Club of Minot

\$500, Greenhouse Supplies, Minot

MN Power Foundation

\$6,000, Appliances, Bismarck, Minot and Fargo

North Dakota Council on the Arts

\$4,000, Artist-in-Residence grant to bring songwriter/musician/educator to campus, Fargo

St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation

\$5,000, Sensory environment updates to Cornelsen Cottage, Minot

Upcoming Events

May 13

BLT Day (Plant Sale and Lunch)
6301 19th Ave. N.W., Minot
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
See p. 8 for more information

July 29

NYPUM Fun Run
Pure Honda, 1520 Hwy. 2, East, Minot
Registration: 10 a.m.
Kickstands up: 11 a.m.
Call Todd at 701-852-3628 for more information.

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Memorials/Honorariums

Unless otherwise designated, donations you give in memory or in honor of your loved ones will be used to help build, maintain, and upkeep chapel facilities on all Ranch campuses. Your gift to the Ranch will live on through the children at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, by helping us teach them about Jesus' unending love. For more information about making memorial and honorarium gifts to the Ranch, contact Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch at 1-800-344-0957 or info@DakotaRanch.org.

Memorials

Nov. 1, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017

ABENDROTH, CARL

Mary Jane Colombino

ABERLE, MATT

Bruce & Norine Johnson

AHRENS, JOANNE

Ilene Bussler

ALBERS, ART & ROSE

LaDonna J. Rossow

ALBERS, DON

Hank & Jan Albers

Jason & Traci Hilsabeck

ALM, MR. & MRS. LEONARD

Ginny Miller & Family

ALLMER, NORMAN

John Allmer

ANDERBERG, LORRAINE

Nancy Thronson

BADKE, DARYL

Richard & Lucille Gust

Gerald & Mary Meyer

BAILEY, ANDREW

Susan Bailey

BAROCIO, CAROLYN ANTHONY

Ethel Mae Kopischke

BARRETT, ADELE

Joyce Henke

BASIC, JIM

Judith & Jim Mittelstadt

BAUER, CALVIN

Kevin & Holly Bauer

Rev. & Mrs. Erhart Bauer

Martha Becker

Marian Kitzmann

Wilbert & Delores Kunz

Evelyn Schwagler

BELK, BILL

Lorraine M. Gabbert

BENSON, MARY

Helen A. Juntunen

BERNHARDT, ELOISE

James Bernhardt

BICE, GALE

Judith & Jim Mittelstad

Rodney & Verna Wolf

"My grandson was at the Ranch when he was 16, and I believe Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch was our family's last hope. We had tried everything for him and nothing worked. The Ranch opened his eyes, taught him valuable things, and helped save his life."

-Grandmother of former resident

BIERMAN, BEVERLY

Mr. & Mrs. Rodger Bierman

BJERKAGER, DENNIS

Duane Kurtz

BOHM, DAN

Hazelle DuBois

BONNEAU, PAUL

Caroline Zuhlke

BOONSTRA, STANLEY

Mrs. Anita L. Peterson

BORN, HILTON

Don & Arlene Schumacher

John & Diane Swanson

BRANDT, ERVIN

Patricia DeBenedetto

Susan Moerer

Kenneth & Florence Powers

BRAUER, RUTH

Ronald Brauer & Family

BRINKMAN, FRED J. &

ELIZABETH A.

Anthony C. Brinkman

BROCKMAN, ARNOLD

Sandra Brockman

BRODEN, DIANNE

Hazelle DuBois

BROSOWSKE, RICK

Harold Brosowske

BROWN, ROSE

Al & Johnne Bierdeman

BUCK, ALIDA

Jennie Rodlund

BUCK, ALVIN

Jennie Rodlund

BUCK, DARREL

Jennie Rodlund

BUCK, EMMA LYNN

Jennie Rodlund

BULTMAN, DAROLD

Marlene Eilts

Ruth Holtkamp

Don & Ratchani Trageser

CARLSON, GRACE

Bernita Beeks

Deniser Gradin

Kyle & Karen Gradin

CARTER, SUE

Bob & Jaunell Roever

CASPERS, GARY

Larry & Carol Crosby

CHAMBERLIN, RUBY

Ethel M. Kopischke

CHARCHENKO, HELEN FEIST

Judith & Jim Mittelstadt

COLE, MILLIE

Pamela Smith

COLLINS, HEIDI

Clarice Mosolf

COMPTON, BETTY

Gene & Marlene Toepke

COTE, GAYLAND

Dorence & Sharon Cote

CROW, BILL

Dottie & Jackie Nelson

CUSHING, WENDAL

Delraine Grosche

Richard & Lucille Gust

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Muriel M. Juers

DESENS, MARY

Denise Gosar

DICE, ANDY

Bill & Joan Ferguson

DIETRICH, MARTIN

Donald & Jean Bertsch

DITTMAN, RENEE

Joann Peterson

DOCKTER, PEARL

Jim & Karen Bonnet

DOOLEY, MARIE

Elmer & Marilyn Frank

Deb Wheelce

DOWNING, CAROLE

Elizabeth Ravenscroft

DUBISAR, VICKI ANN (GROVER)

Rich Berg

Laurie Dannewitz

Vicki Reiner

Sandy Schmidt

Hilary Sorenson

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EKRALL, JENNY

Bruce & Pam Smith

ELM, BEVERLY

Robert & Shirley Detlaff

ENGLER, VICTOR

James & Ruth Lehfeldt

ERICKSON, KATHERINE

Bruce & Norine Johnson

ERICKSON, KENNY

Delores Glessing

FATLAND, JAN

Dean Fatland

FATLAND, SYLVIA

Dean Fatland

Sandra Meyer

FERNHOLZ, RONALD

Lynda Neuman

FLOM, GORDON

Lois Flom

FODOR, STEPHEN "LARRY"

Martin & Ladeen Guericke

GANJE, ED

Katherine Ganje

GERNTHOLZ, MARIAN JOYCE

HUETHER

Dana & Beth Didier

JUDY GILB'S MOTHER

Muriel M. Juers

GLANZER, EDNA

Jon & Dolores Glanzer

GLEITER, BEVERLY

Beverly L. Olson

GRANT, KENNETH

Armond & Vi Isaak

GREV, LES

Mr. Steve Salzman

GRUENBERG, BOB

Mark Gradin

GRUENSTEIN, LORRAINE

Patsy Moerke

*Dear God, Unworthy as I am,
I ask one thing of thee.
Please bless the ones I love tonight,
And help them remember me.*

*I cannot go to them,
And take them by the hand.
But you can, God, Go to them,
And make them understand.*

*Just help them keep me in their hearts,
Until we meet again,
And even though we are far apart,
I love them God, Amen.*

—Unknown

GORES, PATRICK

Robert & Shirley Detlaff

James Goodman

GRABANSKI, LEONARD

Clarice Mosolf

GRAFF, HARLAN

David & Sharon Miller

GUNNES, JUNE

Beverly Olson

GUSTAFSON, MAVIS

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HABISCH, ALFRED

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KLOOS, DELMAR
DuWayne & Joann Kloos

KNUDSON, GLENN P.
Wiley & Richie Butler

KOEHLER, MERVIN
Lonny & Elsie Buchmann

KRENZ, IRENE
Richard & Lucille Gust

KUEBLER, GEORGE H
Esther Kuebler

KULLER, WILLARD
Evelyn Schwagler

KUSKE, KAY
Delores & Wilbert Kunz

LABOUNTY, DONALD
Lorraine M Gabbert

LACINA, MILTON
Frances Priebe

LANGE, LILLIE
Don & Arlene Schumacher

LARSON, HERZELL &
MARGARET
Phillip Lovchik

LAUTENSCHLAGER, ROGER
Lavern Brusven

LEE, INGEBORG & ANDERS
The Palisades Lutheran Church

LEISENRING, BETTY & DEL
Cathe McClure

LOGAN, LYNDA
Kevin & Val Archer
Laurie Dannewitz
David & Lisa Olson

“If it weren’t for Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, I’d probably either be dead or telling this story from a prison cell. The most important thing they did as the Ranch was to point me towards faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of my life. Today my home is a place of love and laughter—a place for my family and I to grow together and to be shaped in the image of Christ.”

—former Ranch resident

LONG, GERRY
Larry D. Knutson

LONNING, GORDON
Evelyn L. Conitz

LUOMA, IRENE
Betty Daniels
Donnley Elsen
Lola Martinson
Russell Martinson
Annikki Marttila
Rose M. Moerke
Robert Saroni
Madella Scheffert
Julie & Ralph Sjostrand
Karen Waite
Ed & Renee Walsh

MARLIN, STEVEN
Ethel Mae Kopischke

MASBERG, JOE
Tylynn Theis

MASSEY, DENNIS
Delores Glessing

Memorials/Honorariums

MATASOVSKY, MILTON

Curtis & Elaine Bening

MATHWICH, SAM

Linda Hill

MAULAND, LYLE EDGAR

Clayton & Zona Pearson

MCCOWAN, MASTER SGT. MARK

Duane & Millie Bueligen

Joyce Henke

MCDONALD, ROBERT "BOB"

Sharon Grondahl

MERKEL, HERMAN

Adeline Rorvig

MERTES, MICHELE

David & Sharon Miller

MEYER, DOUGLAS & ELLA

Wilhelm Meyer

MEYER, FRANCIS

Wayne Kienenberger

Bruce & Pam Smith

MILLER, DEBBIE

Ardys Horner

MILLER, PASTOR DAVID

Ginny Miller & Family

MILLER, FRANK

Lorraine M Gabbert

MILLER, WILLIAM &

ADELINE

Donald & Eleanor Miller

MORAST, MARIAN

Wilbert & Delores Kunz

MORTENSON, DAYTON

Darleen Kemp

MOSSER, MARLENE

Roger & Lisa Cole

Joy Ryan

MOUM, MINNIE

Adrian & Colleen Fitchner

MY FATHER

Stephanie Decourcy

MYERS, LARRY

Jason & Traci Hilsabeck

NATZKE, ELEANOR

Norman Natzke

NELSON, ARNOLD

Wayne Kienenberger

NELSON, DENNIS

Steve Hamre

NEUMANN, VIRGIL

Ethel Mae Kopischke

NEUMILLER, MARIA

Al & Johnne Bierdeman

NOLTE, DOUG

Karen S. Johnson

NORD, TOM

Laurence Charbonneau

NUNEZ, MEDORA KEUTHER

Joyce Henke

OEDER, MYRTLE

Doris Oeder

"The people at the Ranch honestly cared for me and loved me at a time in my life when I thought the whole world was against me. With their help, and the introduction of God as a Father, I realized I could do it and that I could change."

—Former Ranch resident

OFSTEDAHL, JOHN

David & Joan Beecken

Dorothy Ofstedahl

Mary Versteegt

Frederick & Kai Tan Thoni

OLSON, NATALIE

Jeff & Katie Anderson

Clarice & Darrell Bernsdorf

Matthew Brown

Lori Burbach

Leslie Coughlin

Laurie & Dale Dannewitz

David & Marsha Deslauriers

Employees of First Int'l. Bank & Trust

Sonya Fried

Kevin Harmon

Jerry & Lynne Hennessy

High Plains Officials Consortium

Jay Hight

Jane Hirst

Bethany Jensen

Daniel & Jerlyn Langemo

Tracey Lawson

Robert, Connie, Jacob & Adam

Lemieux

Betty Lewis

Men's Basketball Officiating

Consortium

Robyn Mertens

Gayle Moore

Kayla Muehler

Cynthia Black-Neuharth

Dee Ann Notbohm

NSIC Office Staff

Angeline Rixen

Cody & Rondel Roteliuk

LyNelle Sherven

Steven Shirley

Kalli Smith

Dr. & Mrs. Dennis D. Sommers

Gretchen Stenehjem

Nancy Stevenson

Paula Strom

Tracy Stuberg

Matt & Jenny Undlin

Steve & Debra Vangness

Nicole Wilson

Jody Ziliak

OTTERSON, THELMA

Arlys Torgerson

OTTMAR, JULIA

Steve Bittermann

PARKER, DOROTHY

Jim & Judith Mittelstadt

PAUTZ, LOIS

Carol Grieger

PECK, ADALINE

Jerroll Erickson

PECK, WILLARD

Janice Heintz

PETERSON, ALVIN

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Boekelheide

PLUMMER, GUS & MARJORIE

Grace Durkin

POLK, ARNOLD

The Polk Family

POLZIN, GRACE

Beverly Olson

POWER, CHARLES

Judy Barbot

QUINNILD, CLAYTON

Sherry Colehour

RAHN, DEBRA

Eldon & Charlotte Rahn

RAMSEY, DORIS

John Ramsey

RANEY JR, ROBERT G
Jennie Rodlund
REDMOND, ANNA JO
Ronald & LaVonne Matthews
REPNOW, DENNIS
Joyce Henke
REUTHER, OTTO
Steve Bittermann
Keith & Roberta Hoesel
Wilbert & Delores Kunz
RINNE, GERALD
Shirley Gautreaux
ROSE, ERNEST
Ronald Rose
ROSE, PETER J.
Rose Horner
ROSENTERER, ALICE
Bob & Jaunell Roever
ROSSOW, REV. E.J.
John & Irene Berkley
RUBKE, WALTER
Elizabeth Ranvenscroft
RUDOLPH, AUGUST & MARY
Robert Rudolph
RYBERG, HEATHER
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Carow
SCHAMILEC, MARY
Joseph M Kouba
SCHERTENSBY, ANNA
Adeline Rorvig
SCHJERVHIEM, DUANE
Wayne Johnson
SCHLAHT, MEL
Dean Boekelheide
SCHMANDT, JANICE
Don & Arlene Schumacher
SCHMIDT, DIANE
Robert Schmidt
SCHRAB, WAYNE
Curtis & Elaine Bening
SCHUETT, ORVILLE
Gerald & Carol Danuser
SCHULTZ, VERNA
Curtis & Elaine Bening
SCHUMACHER, ALVIN
Travis Lieb
SEUL, VICKIE
Ethel M. Kopischke
SFAIR, JOSEPH
Carroll G Krantz

SHANNON, RON
Clarice Mosolf
SHASKE, ROMIEY & NINA
Willis Shasky
SHUEY, JARED
Renee Stauter
SHUEY, MICHAEL
Renee Stauter
SIMENSON, LOWELL
Arlys Torgerson
SIMKINS, DOUG
Bill & Joan Ferguson
SIVERTSON, SANDRA
Richard & Lucille Gust
SKARO, SHIRLEY ANN
Muriel M. Juers
SMITH, PAM
Janice Dill
SMITH, RICHARD
Mary Jane Colombino
STARK, DUANE
Brenda & Dave Niess
STORM, WILLIAM
Martin & Shirley Hannemann
STOUT, RICHARD
Elizabeth Ravenscroft
SYLVESTER, AUDREY
Charles Sylvester
TENEYCK, BETTY
Jeff & Mona Pithan
TESKE, HARVEY
Darleen Klemp
THIEM, REV. ALFRED
Rebecca Theim
TRAXEL, JAMES
Elsie Wiedenmeyer
TREIS, PETER & LORAYNE
Peter Treis
TVEDT, DAVID
Steve Hamre
ULLAND, GLADYS
Clarice E Mosolf
Bill & Janice Taylor
VARTY, DAVID
Robert & Shirley Detlaff
VOGEL, ESTHER
Marian Kitzmann
VOLK, LILLIAN ROUFS
Bill & Janice Taylor

WALDIE, THOMAS J.
Inez L. Leppert
WALKER, EVELYN
Karl & Kathleen Newman
WASEM, AGNES
Elmer & Marilyn Frank
WATKE, NICK
Jeff & Mona Pithan
WEBER, LLOYD
Steve Hambre
Ruth Rust
Raymond & Sharon Schlichtmann
Norma Schultz
Lee Ann Schultz
Eunice Sondrol
Glenton & Cheryl Wolf

When 15-year-old Jacob came to the Ranch, he was way behind in school. At the Ranch, Jacob has the support he needs to manage his emotions and focus on his goal of graduation.

“I’m actually getting help from the teachers . . . if I have a stressful day, I can turn to them and they’ll listen. From day one, they have been pushing me to do the work.”
—Jacob, Ranch resident

WEGNER, MORRIS
Schiller Grounds Care
WEINLAEDAR, CINDY
Clarice E. Mosolf
WERFELMANN, DOROTHY
Constance Wise
WESTROM, KENNY
LaMae Pettit
WITTY, MERLYN “BUD”
LaVern Brusven
WORRAL, ETHEL
Evelyn Montgomery
YEAGER, ROY
Don & Kay Stoterall
YOUNG, ARTHUR
Rev. David & Mary Ann Young

Memorials/Honorariums

YOUNG, MARJORIE D.
Richard & Sandra Atkinson

ZADE, NORA
Carrol G. Krarotz

ZANDER, LOREN
Delores Glessing
Cheryl Moist
La Mae Pettit

ZARAMBO, STAN
Dorothy Bauer
Bonnie Schlecht

ZIMMERMAN, GERTRUDE
Ethel Mae Kopischke

Honorariums

Nov. 1, 2016 – Feb. 28, 2017

ANDERSON, AMANDA & CHET
John & Inez Larson

ARIAS, KATIE, COCO & FAMILY
John & Inez Larson

BAUMANN, WALTER E.
Marilyn D. Baumann

BERGSETH, KENNETH
Lee Bergseth

BRUNDIN, BECKY & LEE
Helen Juntunen

CLAYPOOLE, CHRISTOPHER
Thomas Claypoole

CLAYPOOLE, JASON & FAMILY
Thomas Claypoole

CLAYPOOLE, MICHAEL
Thomas Claypoole

CLAYPOOLE, ROSE & PETER
Thomas Claypoole

COTA, JAMIE, WADE & FAMILY
John & Inez Larson

FIECHTNER, GERRY & JOAN
Don & Helen Gunderson

FRIED, WARREN & SONYA
Tom & Donna Linnertz

GORES, PATRICK & VERONICA
Linda Wade

GOODNIGHT, HANNAH, CALEB
& JACK
John & Inez Larson

HEFTER, JOHN & JOAN
Jeff & Debra Engley

HESTERMANN, BUD & BETTY
Tom, Rick & Dino

HODENFIELD, JACOB
Carla Kay Hodenfield

JAKE & BROCK
Carol Anderson

JENSEN, VI
David & Lonetta Wahlgren

JUNTUNEN, HENRY & LINDA
Helen Juntunen

JUNTUNEN, JOHN & FELICIA
Helen Juntunen

JUNTUNEN, MICHAEL & KAREN
Helen Juntunen

JUNTUNEN, RICHARD & JUDY
Helen Juntunen

JUNTUNEN, ROB & PATTI
Helen Juntunen

KAUTZ, REY & DELLA
Lynette Kautz

KELLER, KATY & DAN
Thomas Claypoole

LANQEMOE, SADIE
John & Inez Larson

“My time at the Fargo Youth Home was really good. They care for you a lot and treat you with respect—like you should be treated. The staff are always nice no matter who comes through the front doors. They keep you safe and well-protected. No matter what happens, this will never be just a house. It’s always a home because we love each other way too much.”

—15-year-old Ranch resident

LARSON, ALAN & GIL
John & Inez Larson

LARSON, HALEY
John & Inez Larson

LARSON, JEFF & KRISTI
John & Inez Larson

LARSON, JOHN D.
John & Inez Larson

LARSON, JOHN & INEZ
William & Colleen Larson

LARSON, MATTHEW, KRISTA & FAMILY
John & Inez Larson

LARSON, PAUL, BECKY, QUIN & IZZY
John & Inez Larson

LARSON, TODD, JUDY, & FAMILY
John & Inez Larson

LINNERTZ, DONNA & TOM
Sonya Fried

LIVEDALEN, RHONDA
Sue Miller

MAKI, ELAINE
Beverly Sweeney

MANESIS, JOHN & BESS
Mary Manesis

MUSCHINSKE, NATHALIE & WALTER
Gerald & Doris Schield

RONEY, CARSON
Nancy Hagen

RYAN, JOY
Quin Seiler

STEVE SEXTONSON’S 70TH BIRTHDAY
Sandra Brockmann

STEFFEN, MARGARET
Cal & Jane Steffen

STENSGARD, BARBARA, RONALD & LUKE
John & Inez Larson

STORM, GLADYS & WES
JoAnn Grilley

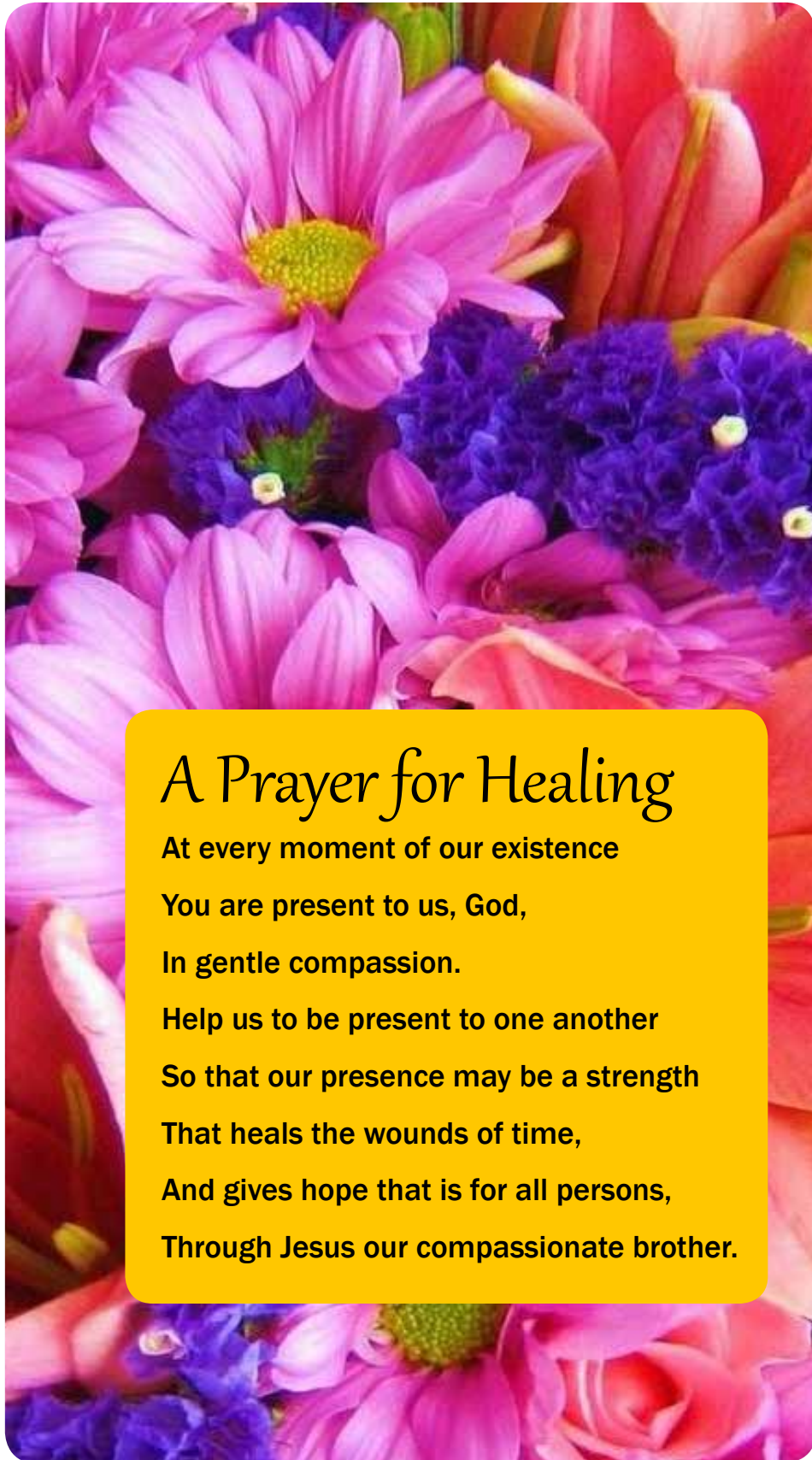
TYSON, MR. & MRS. TYE
Harlan Broekemeier

VASEK, MR. & MRS. GREG & FAMILY
Gary & Nancy Vasek

WEINAND, BETHANY & SCOTT
John & Tena Weinand

YOUNG, IRENE
Kurt Petik

ZABEL, MARCELLA
Mark & Connie Zabel



A Prayer for Healing
At every moment of our existence
You are present to us, God,
In gentle compassion.
Help us to be present to one another
So that our presence may be a strength
That heals the wounds of time,
And gives hope that is for all persons,
Through Jesus our compassionate brother.

We keep all donors, kids, and staff in our prayers. If you have a special intention or prayer request, please complete this form and return to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, P.O. Box 5007, Minot, ND 58702-5007. Or contact us at 1-800-344-0957 or info@DakotaRanch.org.

Your Name _____
Your Address _____

City _____
State _____
Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Please pray for



Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch
P.O. Box 5007
Minot, ND 58702-5007

Change Service Requested



“God’s Prayer” styrofoam print by Dakota Memorial School Student. The student wrote, “I want people to know that God is always with you no matter what, even if you cannot see him.”

The mission of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.

www.DakotaRanch.org

Main Switchboard: 1-800-593-3098

Foundation: 1-800-344-0957

