

THE RANCH VOICE

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

Summer 2025



Cassandra Black, Ranch Aftercare Manager, and a former resident spend a creative afternoon at a local ceramics arts studio.



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Message from Our President/CEO



Joy Ryan, President/CEO,
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Bearing witness

I teared up when I realized it was Scott sitting in the pew in front of me.

We were celebrating the life of Larry Knutson at the first ever funeral or memorial service held in a Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Chapel. Larry is one of the people I refer to when I tell people that we are “standing on the shoulders of giants.” In his 32 years at the Ranch, Larry served as Director, formed our foundation, created Honey Sundays, grew our facilities and never, ever lost his passion for the future of the children. He would have turned 90 the day before his service. The article on the opposite page tells you more about this remarkable man.

He and Gene Kaseman, my most recent predecessor, each made their own mark on our work. They mentored me and helped me to ensure that this place, a place of so much healing, is secure for generations to come.

But, back to Scott.

Scott Booth is a former resident of the Ranch. He spoke at our Arizona Donor Appreciation Luncheon in February and was featured in a previous issue of Ranch Voice. Scott is married with two children, and he has a really big brain. As a child, he came to the Ranch two different times as he struggled to understand his family, himself, his behavior, and his gifts. When he spoke in Arizona, he talked about the people at the Ranch, his healing, and the support and outreach that helped him, blessedly, to successfully transition back to his home community. Scott was here during Larry’s tenure at the Ranch, and as he spoke, I was truly dazzled by his memory, sense of humor, humility, and intelligence.

Several years ago, after working in the technology world without a degree, Scott decided he wanted the educational credentials to move his career forward. He contacted the Ranch to inquire about possible scholarship opportunities for past residents.

Fortunately, Larry and his son, Dr. Jim Knutson, had established the Knutson Family Scholarship Fund at the Ranch to support the higher education needs of past residents and key staff of the Ranch. Scott applied and received help. With great enthusiasm, Scott will complete his bachelor’s degree in the fall and begin working on his master’s degree in the spring. I think it is quite likely that he is one of those tech people who is already making the world a better place.

And, on a Saturday morning in June, Scott Booth sat in front of me at Larry Knutson’s memorial service. He drove many miles and quietly showed his respect.

Scott epitomizes all that Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch’s mission encompasses, “to help at risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.”

Larry would have been so proud. Gene should be so proud.

I bear witness through my tears.

Please keep the children and families of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in your prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy".

Celebrating the life of Larry Dean Knutson



Larry Dean Knutson, 90, passed away on May 11, 2025, in his apartment in Maple Grove, MN, from complications related to dementia. Larry was an extraordinary man who did great good in the world.

Born in Park River, ND, as the 5th of 6 children, Larry was raised by Clinton and Minnie Knutson. He served in the Navy as a radio man on a supply ship stationed in the Philippines and Hong Kong. He married Mickey Walstad on August 24, 1958. After the Navy and college, Larry worked for Catholic Family Services in East Grand Forks, MN. In 1966, he and Mickey adopted a son, Jim. Larry got a job as a social worker at Dakota Boys Ranch in Minot, ND. Soon after, the Director left, and he took over the position. The Ranch was failing financially so Larry turned from Social Worker to

fundraiser. He built connections in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), networking with pastors, congregations, and leaders. He spoke at churches and visited people interested in supporting the Ranch. Through his efforts, the Ranch became financially sound.

Larry led many construction projects to expand the Ranch including a chapel, gymnasium, greenhouses, dining center, school, resident cottages, and apartments for off-duty house parents. Every building was built without borrowing a dollar. Homes in Fargo and Bismarck followed. He established the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation, and in 1985 moved from Director of the Ranch to Director of the Foundation. Larry established Honey Sunday, involving churches across the United States. He also opened thrift stores across the state to provide a steady income stream. One of Larry's favorite pastimes was keeping the book section of the Minot Thrift store in top shape and well stocked.

Education was important to Larry. At the Ranch, he created the Knutson Family Scholarship Fund for residents and staff to attend vocational schools or schools of higher education. He and Mickey loved traveling. As a family, they traveled yearly to far-off places and in retirement, they traveled even more. Larry loved fishing, whether he caught anything or not, and later in life went on annual fishing trips to Minnesota with his son, Jim, and grandson, Cole.

Larry and Mickey retired to Florida in the early 1990's where they had a house they loved, held extravagant parties, and thrived. Larry was the President of the country club and an officer at their church. Mickey passed away in 2007 from lung cancer, and Larry mourned her until he took his last breath.

Larry loved people. He would say, "I try to give 5 compliments a day, just to make people feel good." Much to Jim's embarrassment, he would rarely pass by a small child without commenting, "What a lovely child... and his mother isn't too bad either." He was revered, honored, and loved. Up until the end, he continually asked strangers for hugs and flirted with staff at Arbor Lakes Senior Living.

A few years after Mickey's passing, Larry moved to Sioux City, IA, where he could be nearer to his son and enjoy grandson, Cole's, high school years. About 9 years ago, he and Jim moved to Minneapolis where they got to know each other far beyond the usual father-son relationship. Larry is now in a better, more peaceful place, without suffering.

He is survived by his younger brother (Don Knutson), his son and partner (Jim Knutson and Reena Madhok), his ex-daughter-in-law, (Theresa Knutson), and his grandson and wife (Cole Knutson & Zoe Bardin-Knutson).

Cassie's journey of trust, forgiveness, and faith

Dalinda called Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch when she didn't know what else to do.

"A lot of things have happened to our granddaughter, Cassie," Dalinda said. "She never told me about some of them, like being molested when she was in junior high. Then in 2023, her mother died of a massive heart attack at age 42."

Cassie and her four siblings had lived on and off with their grandparents all their lives. When their mom died, Dalinda and her husband's home became their fulltime home. It was a difficult time.

After her mom died, Cassie went into a spiral of depression, drug and alcohol use, running away, and getting in fights. She was angry about everything and took it out on herself and everyone around her.

"I felt guilty and blamed myself for a long time," Cassie said. "The day before my mom passed, I didn't want to go to school so I was arguing with her. When she dropped me off, she told me she loved me, and I never got to tell her it back because I was mad. I thought I would have many more chances. I blamed the world. I distanced myself from everyone and went down a not good path."

After Cassie's hospitalization for a drug overdose, where doctors gave her only a 50/50 chance of surviving, Dalinda called the Ranch for help.

"Cassie was in the hospital on a vent, and it was scary," Dalinda said. "We wanted her to get better before she got to the point where we couldn't help her. It was getting too dangerous. We

were scared for her life and didn't want to lose another person."

Cassie was not at all happy about being at the Ranch.

"I told my grandparents I would never forgive them. I thought everything was unfair and like I didn't deserve to be at the Ranch," she said. "I've rethought about that now because they have really helped me a lot, but at the time I was really mad."

She brought that attitude with her and said she didn't make it easy for Ranch staff.

"I gave like the bare minimum, but they were still there," Cassie said. "I argued with them, but I eventually realized and appreciated that it was because they cared. They helped me through so much," Cassie said.

When she started focusing on herself and her treatment, Cassie said it felt good.

"I felt like I was improving, and I didn't know how I did it," Cassie said. "You know when you're going up stairs and there are so many. When you get to the top you don't know exactly how you made it, but you feel the fresh air and it makes you feel warm and cozy and proud."

Cassie built a special connection with one of her Ranch teachers, Suzanne Erz, who prayed with her and inspired her to do her best.

"Mrs. Erz was like a mother figure to me," Cassie said. "She would calm me down and talk through things with me. She taught me a lot of life lessons too, like how to understand other people's point of view and how to be

myself. She helped me love myself more than I ever thought I could."

At the Ranch, Cassie also learned to love God. After her mom died, Cassie was angry at Him.

"I found more of God at the Ranch, if that makes sense," Cassie said. "At first, I wouldn't pray. I wouldn't talk about God or have anything to do with Him. I told everyone I didn't believe in Him, which wasn't true. I just didn't really care for Him because I was mad at the world, but now I love Him so much."

As Cassie worked through her pain and gained more confidence in herself, she started trying new things, like singing in the choir during chapel. She even performed a solo at a Ranch talent show, and made people cry.

"I was so scared, but I just looked at Mrs. Erz. She made me feel like she was the only person there, and I felt comfortable," Cassie said. "I didn't think my voice would make people cry or that I'd make such a big impact on people. But obviously I did."

Now home with her grandparents, brothers, and sisters, Cassie attends school, hangs out with friends, and goes to work. She is also learning to forgive.

"Forgiveness is another thing I've been getting pretty good at," Cassie said. "I used to hold grudges. Now I'm a more forgiving person and have a lot of compassion for people. Even if they did me dirty, I consider that they have their own story. Not a lot of 16-year-olds think about that, so that's a pretty big deal!"

Frequently Asked Questions

Despite a difficult beginning, Cassie is a very different person than when she got to the Ranch.

“If you saw me before and after, there is a big difference,” she said. “I have a confidence that no one can take away from me.”

Dalinda agrees, and said, “Cassie’s face even looks different since she’s come home. She has a glow again. She seems like she has hope. Cassie wants to be a nurse, and she has the grades for it. She is very smart. She is beautiful. She’s got the biggest heart, and she has so much to offer.”

Dalinda contacted the Ranch in June to tell us Cassie ended the school year with a 3.8 GPA! She is very proud of the wonderful young woman Cassie is becoming.

As for Cassie, she is glad to be home, and grateful for her time at the Ranch.

“Oh my gosh. You know what I haven’t done? I haven’t thanked my grandparents, like to their faces! I am thankful they brought me to the Ranch, even though I couldn’t accept it for a long time,” Cassie said. “When I got there, I hated everything—myself and everyone around me. By the time I left, I loved the Ranch. I loved the smiles around me. I loved myself. I loved God.”



Moving on after treatment

By Cassandra Black

Where do kids go when they are done with treatment?

Ideally, every child who comes into care at the Ranch will have a discharge plan the day they arrive. While it’s not always possible, Ranch Aftercare Coordinators (see sidebar), highlight it as a key priority. They work with a child’s treatment team, family, guardian, custodian, and/or county social worker, to get a plan in place as soon as possible. Knowing where they’ll go next is important for fostering the hope and positive outlook children need to engage in treatment.

If a child has been in the safe and healthy home of a parent, foster family, or family member, they will usually return to that home. If their previous living situation is not in their best interest, they may join a new foster family or go live with a caring relative. The Ranch team works tirelessly to find a safe, caring, and hopefully permanent, place for each child to continue to heal and thrive. In the six months following care, Aftercare Coordinators journey with the children and families, ensuring that every possible resource is used to help children succeed.

As Aftercare Coordinators, we are not here to shoulder their burdens, but rather to guide them in mastering the art of packing and carrying their own metaphorical backpacks, filled with precious experiences and feelings that arm them with confidence for the road ahead.

In their backpacks, children carry:

Something heavy—past traumas they aim to alleviate.

Something light—positive experiences and relationships to hold onto.

Something removable—the burdens to be discarded.

Something new—the valuable tools and relationships they gained during treatment and the community connections they are building.

We go through that backpack with each child, remove the things that no longer serve them, and add the things that will help them on their journey.

We do not carry the backpack for the child, but rather, make sure they are well equipped to carry it themselves.

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Aftercare Program

The Ranch’s Aftercare Program is a six-month, individualized program that helps eligible youth reintegrate into the community after treatment at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Our Aftercare Coordinators connect kids and families to local resources with a three-fold goal: to keep children in the home, reduce re-entry into treatment, and to help them build strong community connections.

Building Bridges



The Essential Work of Education Support Specialists

Walking down the school hallway, you see a child sitting on the floor, head on knees, shoulders shaking with quiet sobs. Next to them on the floor is an adult, sitting quietly, who gives you a thumbs-up as you pass.

In many ways, Dakota Memorial School, the on-campus school of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, looks like any other school with hallways, classrooms, lockers, textbooks, whiteboards, and a library. What sets it apart is the high adult-to-student ratio; the seamless integration of teachers, paraprofessionals, and residential treatment staff; the special training that teaches staff to recognize and respond to behaviors and learning challenges stemming from trauma; and a newer category of employees we call Education Support Specialists.

Education Support Specialists bridge the gap between the school and residential settings. While paraprofessionals play a critical role in specific classrooms or with individual students, these specialists interact with children across residential and educational lines, ensuring each student receives the support and guidance they need to meet their treatment and academic goals.

The people in these positions come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, but have common goals—to connect with the kids and meet their emotional and educational needs. They also serve as a liaison between the school and

residential staff, and in the case of day program students, between the school and the children's parents. Tina DeGree, Superintendent/VP Education, at the Ranch, said the Education Support Specialists see the big picture. They know what is going on with each child at home, in treatment, in school, and with their peers, so they can identify when a child needs additional assistance and find a way to provide it.

"They are in the hallways and are often the first people kids see when they arrive at school," Tina said. "They know everything in more depth—each child's safety plan, if two kids are having an argument, if one of the kids struggles after therapy. So when a student starts to struggle, they know the appropriate intervention for that child at that time."

As you read the unique stories of Education Support Specialists at the Ranch, you will witness the unwavering commitment they bring to work each day and see the vital role they play in making Dakota Memorial School a unique learning environment for children with psychiatric and behavioral needs.



Jessi Degler, Education Support Specialist

"We don't let the hard days win." —Jessi

Jessi Degler came to the Ranch after graduating from Minot State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. She started as a Residential Treatment Specialist and became a supervisor before her husband's military career moved them away from Minot. Four years later, Jessi was happy to return.

"I felt like I was coming home," she said. "There is no place like Minot and nowhere else like the Ranch."

Jessi grew up in California and was like many of the kids at the Ranch.

"I had my problems but didn't realize they were problems," she said. "I thought everyone's life was hard and that you had to deal with it. After working here, I wish I had people like this helping me out when I was failing classes or having trouble at home."

While Jessi is an Education Support Specialist specifically for day program students (who attend school at the Ranch and go home at night), she also supports residential students, paraprofessionals, teachers, and parents.

"I relay what happens during the day to our day program parents," Jessi

"My faith has been like a rock."

—Jessie

said. “When they are having problems at home, they tell me so I can support their child the way they need to be supported in the classroom.”

In addition to just being with the kids, one of Jessi’s favorite things to do is to put music on their mp3 players.

“Asking kids about their favorite music styles and songs is a great way to connect with them. Music can be healing. It can make life make sense,” Jessi said. “Sometimes you have big feelings you can’t explain. And then you hear a song that explains it perfectly, and you’re like, ‘Wow! I’m not alone with these feelings or hardships.’”

Jessi has also become a role model to students in managing their emotions.

“Throughout the day, there can be a lot of negative emotions. You want to make everyone happy, but it’s hard to do that while upholding expectations,” Jessi said. “When those emotions get to me, I can respond, ‘Whoa, hold on. I’m not in a good headspace. I’ll come back in five minutes.’ I think modeling that in real time and showing the kids how I deal with my own emotions is good for them.”

Jessi spoke about one student we’ll call Teddy, who came to the Ranch as a fifth-grade day student.

“He couldn’t be in the classroom for more than a minute. His emotions and thoughts were everywhere,” Jessi said. “We got him into Dakota Family Services [the outpatient mental health

clinic affiliated with the Ranch] for medication management, therapy, and occupational therapy. This year has been a lot different. He still has his struggles, but he has gone from every day being a hard day to more like one hard day a week. Even though he still gets mad, you can tell he feels like he belongs here. I love being around him. It’s so awesome to know he is making strides in the right direction and that things are getting easier for him. We don’t let the hard days win!”

Jessi’s family and faith keep her grounded. She and her husband love sports—they attend their children’s games, coach their children’s soccer and football teams, watch football and baseball, and talk about sports. Jessie also enjoys going to the gym and playing with their dog.

“My faith has been like a rock these last couple of years. I grew up Christian, but when you go out into the world, you kind of leave that on the back burner and do life the way you think is right,” Jessi said. “Being at the Ranch has helped me realize you can’t do much without God. When you put Him at the forefront, everything else starts to fall in place. God brought me here for a reason. I have these talents, and I want to use them with kids who might not have much of a chance without our help.”



**Aurie Coffey,
Education Support
Specialist**

“I want to help people see that where they come from doesn’t have to define where they are going.”

—Aurie

Aurie Coffey’s childhood was anything but easy. By the time he was ten, he had already attended 10-12 different schools throughout Minnesota, Texas, and North Dakota. In many ways he found himself stepping into the role of caretaker—looking after his younger siblings, and sometimes his parents. Those early challenges shaped not only Aurie’s resilience but also his deep desire to guide others toward a brighter future.

“In many ways, I think I’m at the Ranch and doing what I do today because of my own experiences,” Aurie said. “I had to survive. I had to find ways to get to the next day, and to get my younger siblings to the next day. I love my parents with every part of my being, but because of the choices they made, I had to grow up fast. I wasn’t just stepping into the role of parent. I was making sure my siblings were cared for and had what they needed.”

At the age of 12, Aurie’s younger brother and sister moved to a small town southwest of Minot, ND, to live with their grandparents. A short while later, Aurie moved to the same town to live just down the road with his

great grandmother.

“She gave me a home and took care of me. She never gave up on me. She was my everything, my rock, my person,” Aurie said. “Everyone was welcome. No matter what they’d done, Grandma welcomed them with open arms, loved them, cooked for them, and made sure they were good before they left. I am the person I am today because of her.”

Aurie graduated from Parshall High School, and then attended Newtown Community College where he started pursuing a computer science degree. When his son was born, Aurie stepped away from school and took a job working the overnight shift at an inpatient drug and alcohol rehab facility for adults. At the time, he planned to finish his degree, but seeing first-hand how deeply people needed help led him to choose a different path.

“One night this big fella walked up to me,” Aurie recalled. “He was having chills and sweating all over. I was 19 and had not seen anything like this in a while. We sat together and talked. That is when a part of me realized I wanted to help people see that where they come from doesn’t have to define where they are going.”

After spending a year in Wisconsin, Aurie and his son moved to Whiteshield, ND, where they spent time living with his grandparents.

“My grandpa inspires me to be a better person. He helped me get over my hills of depression

and all the trauma I was going through at the time,” Aurie said. “He helped me see who I wanted to be in this world and that I had a chance to make a difference in other people’s lives.”

Aurie’s grandfather, Pete Coffey, Jr., a voracious reader, tribal historic preservation officer, and cultural liaison, often reminded him that knowledge is power.

“He said, ‘Knowledge will give you wings and take you somewhere,’ Aurie recalled. “That’s when I went back to school and changed my degree. I started to pursue a degree in addiction counseling.”

Aurie attended community college while raising his son on his own, before the pandemic interrupted his plans. After the pandemic, Aurie moved to Minot to live with his brother and began his career at the Ranch. He started as a Residential Treatment Specialist, then worked as a paraprofessional in the school, and now is an education support specialist, primarily with day program students.

“Creating the environment we have at the Ranch starts in the morning with setting the tone for the day,” Aurie said. “I start the day greeting the kids, making sure they get breakfast, and passing out morning meds.”

From there, every day looks different, depending on how the kids are feeling.

“My whole day is about being

there and building relationships with the kids, from the beginning of the day to seeing them off after school,” Aurie said.

He spends much of his time supporting kids who are struggling with emotions and behaviors, and showing early signs of distress—something all Ranch staff are trained to recognize.

“I give kids time to process what is going through their mind. Sometimes they need to exert energy, so we go outside and they sprint down the sidewalk and back,” Aurie said. “It’s very rewarding to go with them through their struggles and see how much they appreciate you being there.”

Aurie talks about a boy, now a 16-year-old day student, who came into residential treatment about the same time he started working at the Ranch.

“It’s very rewarding to go with [the kids] through their struggles and see how much they appreciate you being there.”

—Aurie

“He has come such a long way, from causing all kinds of chaos in the cottages

to showing up for school and doing well academically,” Aurie said. “He sits down with me, and we talk about music and video games. He is very polite and can have civil conversations now. I’ve been on the journey with him since I started here and he is a completely different kid.”

In addition to Aurie’s love for the kids, he appreciates his co-workers.

“I work with people who have

had their own struggles in life and understand these kids' points of view. We make a difference together. We get it done," Aurie said. "What I love about this place and my coworkers is that we are used to the obstacles coming our way and we are ready to take them on for these kids."

When he isn't working, Aurie enjoys golf, spending time with his two kids, and playing Smite, a role-based video game he once played professionally.

As for what he wants Ranch donors to know, "You're donating to someone's life," Aurie said. "For the rest of their life, you could be the difference in their world. I wish I knew about a place like this when I was a kid."

William Gilpin, III Education Support Specialist

"I think it's a stigma that the bad kids go to the Ranch. No, these are not bad kids." —William

When William Gilpin, III was 13, his family moved from a hobby farm near Prescott, AZ, to North Dakota.

"I was one of the oil boom kids that came to North Dakota. I met my wife in high school and also fell in love with the state and the people, so I ended up staying," William said.

Working at the Ranch, first as a Residential Treatment Specialist and now at the school, is the culmination of William's lifelong dream to work with kids. As an

Education Support Specialist, William serves as a bridge between residential services and the school.

He keeps residential and school staff informed so they know what is going on with the kids. For instance, if a child had a difficult therapy session or phone call with their parents, it's William's job to let everyone in the cottage and the school know so they can better understand the child's behaviors and provide the extra support the child needs.

"I direct the flow and am here to support the kids and the staff," William said. "During the day, I answer questions for the kids and help them on their journey through treatment. I support

them in the environment and make sure they have the things they need throughout their day."

William's number one goal is to help residents be successful in school—which

primarily entails helping them self-regulate their emotions and behaviors and providing them with coping skills. To meet these goals, he brings his own school experiences and his strengths.

"I was academically inclined and enjoyed school a lot as a kid. I was involved in a lot of extracurricular activities both in and out of school. I like to be on the move, and this is such an active position," William said.

His critical thinking skills also serve him well in a job where you never know what the day will bring or what will happen next.

"You have to think on your feet," William said.

William talked about the importance of working as a team, and how much he has learned about collaboration and communication during his time at the Ranch. When he was interviewed for this article, the kids and school staff had just come back from Easter break, which provided a great example of teamwork.

"We all understand that the kids struggle to transition back to school after long breaks," he said. "As soon as they walked in the door yesterday, it was a struggle. We all worked together so we could be present and support these kids as they needed it. Harris and I were outside most of the morning with kids who were dysregulated."

Spring is also a difficult season for Ranch residents.

"Based on what I've witnessed during my time at the Ranch," William said, "spring is over-stimulating. The kids have been inside all winter. They've gotten used to the winter routine. With the warmer weather they gravitate toward being outside, but they don't know what to do with themselves."

William said the kids thrive off structure, so while they are getting antsy for summer and want to be outside, they're also nervous because of the break in structure and routine. William



and his colleagues provide as much structure as possible while helping the kids

learn how to manage transitions. For residents this might mean discharging from treatment, which is often scheduled for the end of the school year. For day students, it's not being in school during the summer.

"They know something is coming. They'll be home full-time, and they don't know what that looks like," William said. "For residents and day program students alike, it's unpredictable and that can create a lot of anxiety."

William knows providing structure, stability, and support is important work.

"We are that line of defense against everything on the outside these kids have experienced—the situations and people that seek to harm them," he said. "They come from many different backgrounds, and most haven't had the stability and support we provide them here. We provide a place where they can feel safe to explore their own interests. They are so bright and smart. I think it's a stigma that the bad kids go to the Ranch. No, these are not bad kids."

During the summer months, William helps with Empower Ed and SPARK. Empower Ed is a summer school program designed to assist residents in catching

"We can't change what happened to us, but we can change what is happening in our environment and have a direct effect on kids' lives."

—William

more activity-based and gives the kids a chance to try new things, foster their creativity, learn new skills, and be physically active.

William and his wife have two boys, with another one on the way.

"My wife and I have similar backgrounds, where we had some rough goings," William said. "We can't change what happened to us, but we can change what is happening in our environment and have a direct effect on kids' lives."

William is grateful for the Ranch donors who make it possible for him to do this work.

"We talk about our donors and make sure they are always on our mind. We want them to understand that they are directly contributing to the success of these kids," he said.

Harris Hanson Education Support Specialist

"I love being that healthy role model some of these kids never had."

—Harris

Harris Hanson came to the Ranch after working for several years for local construction companies.

"I began looking around,

up on their learning and earning credits toward graduation. SPARK,

held each afternoon, is

trying to find something that would help people out and be rewarding," Harris said. "The Ranch was always in the back of my mind because I grew up across the street [from the Minot campus]."

He started at the Ranch as a Residential Treatment Specialist. When he later moved into the position of Wellness Coordinator, which focuses on planning and participating in group activities, it took Harris just a few months to realize he preferred the one-on-one connections he made with the kids in his previous position.

"I missed the rewarding feeling that comes with working closely with each child," Harris said. "I ran into a former resident, and when he saw me, his eyes lit up and he came running over. He gave me the biggest hug and told me how much he missed me. That was it for me. I knew I needed to move back to the cottage."

In October 2024, Harris moved to his current role as an Education Support Specialist at Dakota Memorial School.

In his new position, he continues to work closely with the kids, while having a schedule that allows him to spend more time with his wife and kids.

"We support residential and the school," Harris said. "We help out on the floor, make sure everything is running



smoothly, update the master treatment plans, and keep the

cottage and school informed. It's important that everyone knows what is going on with each child."

Harris also attends trauma-informed care meetings once a week with teachers, paraprofessionals, and staff from the residential side.

"We do a rundown on each of the kids and talk about any questions and concerns," he said. "We ask questions like, 'Is there anything differently we can do to help?' 'Does anyone have concerns?' 'What is working for a kid that we can try in other situations?' If anyone has questions, we find the answers and get back to the team."

Harris' favorite part of the job is building rapport with the kids.

"I love being that healthy role model some of these kids never had. Just being there for them, listening, and taking them on mindful breaks," Harris said. "The kids are great. They have their strengths and weaknesses, just like everyone else. I love working with them and helping wherever I can."

Harris said staying true to what you tell the kids is important to building rapport.

"Their trust has been broken so many times, so it takes a while for them to feel safe talking to you," Harris said. "If you tell them you are going to do something, you

"We offer opportunities to these kids...things they might never get the chance to do."

—Harris

just do it because you don't want to break that trust. If they ask for something and you don't know the answer, you find out and get back to them. If you tell them you'll reach out to their staff or nursing, whatever it may be, you do it."

Harris said the kids are often surprised when he shows interest in them.

"One kid was telling me about a YouTube video he watched. I watched it that night and brought it up with him the next day when he was having a moment," he said. "It stopped him in his tracks. We were able to talk about the video, and he completely forgot about whatever it was that was making him angry."

When Harris has a challenging day, he tries to step back to remember the difference in a child from when they first came in to now.

"Seeing those changes is what recharges the batteries," he said. "We had one kid who, when he got here, was hardly ever in class. He'd run around campus and was physically aggressive. Over time, he started building relationships with his teachers, support staff, and others. He went from being in class maybe 10% of the time to close to 100%. It was incredible seeing

him walk away from situations that he wouldn't have been able to handle when he arrived."

One of Harris' roles is to work in the afterschool program. He and Aurie lead the Pokémon Club for students interested in playing the Pokémon Trading Card game, a collectible card game where players use character and energy cards to battle one another.

"Pokémon works your mind," Harris said. "The kids work on their reading skills because they have to read about the characters and what each move does. They have to keep track of the damage the attacks do, which brings in math. And there is a lot of creativity and strategy behind it."

In addition to the kids, Harris enjoys his coworkers and is proud of the work they do.

"I really enjoy it here. We offer opportunities to these kids... things they might never get the chance to do. And we see so much success," Harris said. "There's a lot of really great people here, and we try to do great things day in and day out for the kids."

When he's not working, Harris claims to be a homebody. He enjoys spending time with his wife and kids.

Heidi Allen Education Support Specialist

"[These kids] want somebody to care. They want to do better in life." —Heidi



Heidi Allen knew she wanted to work with kids from the time she was a little girl playing school with her siblings.

“I was always the teacher and made them do their work,” she said. “My grandma, a big support in my life, was a schoolteacher and I wanted to be like her.”

Heidi learned about the Ranch from a coworker at another job and was drawn to the opportunity to make an impact on kids. She started as a Residential Treatment Specialist at the Ranch’s Bismarck campus in 2014. While she worked elsewhere for a while, she came back to help with summer programming a couple of years before returning full-time in 2020 to work in the school. She recently accepted an Education Support Specialist position.

“The direct care schedule didn’t work for my family, but I missed the kids. My heart has always been in this place,” Heidi said.

Heidi can relate to the kids at the Ranch as her two younger brothers both started struggling with addiction when they were in their teens.

“They were in and out of the Youth Correctional Center and I visited them there while I was in college. My one brother, now in his 30s, has been sober for three years,” Heidi said. “My other brother also had a lot of mental health issues and isn’t doing so well. It’s a heartache, so when kids come to the Ranch with those same problems, it really hits home.”

Heidi, who grew up with an alcoholic father and became a

mother at age 16, is proud of her accomplishments.

“When I found out I was pregnant, I dropped out of high school and got my GED. One of my biggest accomplishments has been getting my two older daughters through high school,” she said. “Now my oldest daughter also works at the Ranch. I think I’ve done a pretty stellar job, despite my challenges.”

In her new position, Heidi assists students in and out of the classroom, coordinates the Empower Ed summer school program, and helps kids get excited about learning.

“Many of our kids struggle with academics,” Heidi said. “I’ve had a couple of kids tell me they can’t do the

work. I sit down with them,

tell them they can do it, and help them out. It just makes my heart happy when they look at me, surprised, and say, ‘I get it!’ I love to see kids really wanting this and wanting to get that education.”

One of Heidi’s students excelled academically but struggled with her behavior in the classroom and towards other students.

“If a peer got upset or said the wrong thing, she would start yelling,” Heidi said. “About a week ago, she came to me and asked if she could work with staff one-on-one outside of the classroom. She said, ‘I have a meeting coming up and I don’t feel okay to be in the classroom.’ She knew if someone got on

her nerves, she might have an explosion. Recognizing her limits and advocating for herself was a big step.”

Heidi said the kids at the Ranch have been through a lot of trauma and have experienced so many things, yet they are wonderful.

“They have great personalities and good hearts. They are the sweetest things,” Heidi said. “A lot of them haven’t had people there to help them and guide them. They want somebody to care. They want to do better in life. We can impact them in a positive way and encourage them to make positive changes.”

Outside of work, Heidi enjoys baking, cooking, and spending time with her children.

The power of connection

The work of Education Support Specialists at the

Ranch illustrates the power of connecting with and supporting children, especially children who have been impacted by trauma and mental illness, in both their academic and personal journeys.

Through their diverse backgrounds, unwavering commitment, and keen understanding of the intricate needs of each student, Jessi, Aurie, William, Harris, and Heidi serve as essential bridges between the school and residential environments. Their stories are a testament to their dedication, compassion, and tireless efforts to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the children at the Ranch.

“I love to see kids really wanting to get that education.”

—Heidi

“A different kid: Brylan’s journey of healing”

Marion and her husband never imagined being the primary guardians of their great-grandchildren.

“I really didn’t want to take them, but now I know that it was one of the most wonderful gifts I’ve ever been given,” Marion said.

Brylan is an energetic little boy with unruly brown hair and a glowing smile that makes it impossible to resist smiling back. Though he is small in stature, his personality fills the room.

Life has not always been easy for Brylan. At just nine years old, he was often left in charge at home, taking care of himself and his younger siblings.

“When Brylan was with his mom, he was the man of the house,” Marion said. “He basically took care of his little brother and sister. He had to grow up too fast, and I think that became an issue for him.”

When their mother’s home was no longer a safe place, Brylan and his younger brother moved in permanently with their great-grandparents.

Brylan’s journey to the Ranch was marked by difficulties at home and in school. Marion described how her grandson’s frustration often spiraled into anger and aggression and said she was concerned about his well-being.

“He would get mad. He would throw things around,” Marion said.

Marion worked closely with Brylan’s teachers to manage his emotional

outbursts in the classroom, but nothing was working, and they were quickly running out of options.

“It got to the point where he was starting to destroy himself,” Marion said.

Everything changed when Brylan, at age 13, made a pivotal decision for his future.

“He decided that he really wanted to go [to the Ranch] because it’s a place where you [get] help whenever you need it for your emotions,” Marion said.

Like for many kids, transitioning to the Ranch was tough, both for Brylan and his family.

“I cried all the way home, but I knew it was best for him,” Marion said.

When Brylan arrived at the Ranch, he struggled with aggression and impulse control. He became easily dysregulated and simply didn’t have the tools to manage his emotions.

Gerriana, Brylan’s case manager at the Ranch, said, “In the beginning, Brylan struggled with using slurs with staff and doing whatever he could to get under their skin and then look for those reactions.”

But, Brylan worked hard in treatment and engaged in therapy, and by the end of his stay, he had learned new skills and strategies to identify and manage his emotions in a positive, healthy way. He even built relationships with staff members he

had struggled to get along with.

“When he left,” Gerriana said, “Brylan told me he was really going to miss one staff member he wasn’t kind to at first, and he shared about the relationship they’d built.”

The changes Marion saw in Brylan throughout his stay were truly transformative. His aggressive outbursts diminished and were replaced by the coping mechanisms he learned in therapy and through interactions with Ranch staff.

“Brylan liked being at the Ranch because there was always someone who would listen,” Marion said. “I think that helped him the most.”

Now back home, Brylan is thriving, and life has improved for his family. He continues to see a therapist

to process his emotions. He has occasional setbacks but is using the coping skills he learned at the Ranch, and even teaching those skills to his brother and teachers.

“He came home, and he told the teachers how to handle him,” Marion said. “They would practically have to go in a closet to laugh. He was just a different kid.”

Before the Ranch, Marion struggled taking Brylan and his brother out because of his impulsive behavior and aggressive outbursts, but after being at the Ranch, the story changed. This past Easter, they took a family trip to Omaha, Nebraska, to visit extended family.

*“He had to grow up too fast, and that was an issue for him.”
—Marion*

Hospitalized?

“Taking them places and seeing them have fun excites me,” Marion said.

A grandmother’s reflection

Marion cannot say enough about the good the Ranch has done for her great-grandson and her entire family. She believes that coming to the Ranch was the best thing that ever happened to Brylan.

“Brylan has been through so much and he’s accomplished so much,” Marion said, “and it’s all due to the wonderful people at the Ranch.”

At the Ranch, Marion found the support she needed to ensure Brylan got the help he needed. She felt listened to and supported throughout his stay and appreciated that she was able to visit him at the Ranch and that Ranch staff would bring him home for weekend passes. More than anything, the team never seemed to give up on Brylan.

“I was asking questions, and they seemed to have the answers,” Marion said. “And if they didn’t have the answers, they would surely dig and find them. They were all just so good to my little guy.”

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



By Ashlee Hazen, RN,
Director of
Nursing,
Dakota Boys
and Girls
Ranch

People sometimes ask, “Why would a child be hospitalized when they are already at the Ranch?”

First and foremost, the kids at the Ranch are kids... with all the bumps and bruises and illnesses that encompasses. They fall off bikes, fall down while playing basketball, and get the flu. ER visits are normal for parents of active children, and here, that is multiplied by the large number of kids!

In addition to that, these kids have many challenges to work through. They may be on multiple, strong medications when they come to us...or none at all. They may have attempted suicide or used self-harm, like cutting themselves, as a coping tool. They may have seen horrors no one should. We work with them to heal, but they experience setbacks.

While our kids’ medications and symptoms are monitored closely, their psychiatric conditions are very complex. If we can’t de-escalate (calm) a child during an incident of extreme agitation, aggression, self-harm, and/or suicidal behaviors, hospitalization may be necessary to stabilize them and keep them safe. Sometimes this is because they decline to take their medications. Other times, ups and downs are the nature of their disease

or diagnosis.

When a child arrives at the Ranch for residential treatment, we start by meeting with them and their family to review their history and understand their needs. Within the first 24 hours, they also meet with our psychiatrist for an assessment. These initial steps are crucial in developing a safety plan and setting treatment goals.

Once these steps are completed, our clinical and direct care teams focus on building relationships with the child at their own pace. We are dedicated to getting to know each child on a personal level so they feel comfortable and supported during their time at the Ranch. Staff members also undergo specialized training to effectively de-escalate situations, enabling the children to work through their emotions and remain in our care.

Our clinical team consistently evaluates the effectiveness of the safety plans to address the residents’ needs. Additionally, we have Designated Mental Health Professionals available around the clock to support our direct care team in their daily interactions with the children. Despite these measures, sometimes it’s not enough and they require a higher level of care available through hospitalization.

If a child requires hospitalization, we maintain close communication with the hospital and the child. We visit them in the hospital to provide support and reassurance. When the child is deemed stable and ready to return, the Ranch warmly welcomes them back into our care.

Celebrations

Showcasing their artistic talents

Dakota Memorial School held an end-of-year Art Showcase, featuring pieces created by our amazing kids. The art museum-type display featured student artwork from multiple classes, including social studies, life skills, shop, elementary, and art.



Above: Children in all grades collaborated to re-create Van Gogh's "Starry Night."

Upper middle: Middle school students made and painted boomerangs in shop class.



Throughout the last week of school, students and teachers visited the art showcase to see their work on display.

Learning about cybersecurity

Dakota Memorial School hosted a guest speaker from Bismarck State College (BSC) who educated students about BSC's cybersecurity program and the courses and degrees they offer.



Learning about career and college paths helps Ranch kids visualize the future and what it can hold for them.

Lutheran Women in Mission for the Ranch

Linda Medhus, Senior Engagement Officer, represented the Ranch at the LWML Worthington Zone (Minnesota South District) Spring Rally. The group, comprised of 189 members across 17 churches, held a Gifts from the Heart ingathering, collecting a monetary gift as well as a vanload of items for Linda to take back to the Ranch.



From left: Martha Ulbricht, Amanda Hock, Sheri Glaser, and Vicki Place

Chalk artists

All summer long, the sidewalks at the Ranch are decorated with inspiring messages and beautiful artwork created by our kids.



Careers Day at Dakota Memorial School

At Dakota Memorial School's Career Day, students learned from professionals working in Construction, Coding and Billing, Automobile Service and Repair, Fire Safety, Education, and Medical Careers, including current Ranch employees!

Todd Fjeldahl, a teacher at Dakota Memorial School who helped organize the event, said, "Students were highly engaged throughout the event. Many of the presenters commented on how impressed they were with the questions and comments from students."



Ranch Maintenance Technicians, Doug and Steve, shared tips and tricks for patching a hole in the wall.



Employees from Trinity Health talked about their careers in the medical field.

A life worth living

In therapy group, kids learned how to identify their values and positive emotions to create a life worth living. Therapist Crystal Askvig had the kids write their core values on a raindrop. Following the activity, Crystal said, "The kids had a great time with this and made the hallway outside the therapy offices more colorful!"



Our kids value love, kindness, empathy, faith, success, and relationships as essential characteristics of a fulfilling life.



Pizzas, galore!

Students at Dakota Memorial School, Minot, earned a whopping 82 pizzas through the Pizza Hut Book-It Program last school year!

With the assistance of their teachers, students set individual reading goals, and those who met or exceeded their goal received a free pizza.

Well done, students!

Students enjoyed a pizza party to celebrate their hard work.



Three-dimensional art

One of our students created these incredible crosses by designing a digital model and then printing them using a 3D printer.



At their last meeting, every board member received a cross.

Celebrations

Representing the Ranch at the Capitol

Friday, March 7, 2025, was Nonprofit Day at the Capitol. Representatives from the Ranch talked about the work we do, answered questions, and invited others to get involved.



From left, Dennis Aune, Senior Development Officer; Karen Engelter, Executive Assistant; Tim Gienger, Senior Director of Residential Partnerships; Lindsay Haugen, Executive Assistant, Residential Leadership Team.

May Day fun

Janie and Jen, Development Officers on our Mission Advancement Team, joined the Kiwanis Club of Minot to pack May Day baskets for kids at the Ranch. Janie said, "It's a beautiful thing being part of a community that thinks of our kids on such occasions."



Members of the Kiwanis Club of Minot keep a May Day tradition alive for kids at the Ranch.

Celebrating our nurses

We're so grateful for our incredible Ranch nurses! Four of our Minot nurses celebrated National Nurses Day (Tuesday, May 6, 2025) with some delicious treats and fun goodie bags.



A mini Mardi Gras parade

Connect Classes at Dakota Memorial School made mini-Mardi Gras floats. The floats were displayed during parent-teacher conferences, adding a festive flair to the school hallways.



Decorating for spring

Members of the Student Council rang in the spring season at our Minot thrift store by painting the store windows with beautiful and bright flowers, suns, raindrops, and more!

Colorful window drawings create a fun and inviting atmosphere for thrift store shoppers.

Students use their creativity and imagination to create beautiful works of art.



Showcasing their talents

Students and staff gathered for an end-of-year talent show, with singing and dancing, and so much more. We're proud of everyone who got up on stage to share their talents!

Teachers at Dakota Memorial School took part in the talent show fun!



Celebrating our educators

Teacher Appreciation Week was a BLAST on our Minot campus!

Teachers and staff enjoyed delicious treats and special surprises each day. Sherry Wagner, DMS Principal, said, "We are so grateful for the incredible group of individuals at DMS. Their teaching abilities, talents, and support make our school a wonderful place."

Each person at Dakota Memorial School is dedicated to helping students achieve success!



Creating for Ranch kids

The Trinity Lutheran Church Quilters in Algona, IA, made some incredible gifts for our kids, including pillowcases, pencil pouches, quilts, marble mazes, sensory rugs, and more.

Making special items for Ranch kids is a labor of love for the TLC Quilters.



Members and Pastors of Trinity Lutheran Church gathered to pray over the items before they donated them to the Ranch.



Job shadow success

Jillian*, a student at Dakota Memorial School, has a goal to become a Veterinary Technician after high school. To give her an idea of what that career path would look like, Sequoia Magrum, Special Education Teacher, set up a job shadow opportunity at a local animal clinic.

Sequoia shared this encouraging snippet about her experience.

"Jillian had a blast! She got hands-on experience working alongside the vet techs and veterinarians, diving into the world of animal care and seeing what her future could look like. The experience ignited Jillian's passion even more, and she came back buzzing with fun stories to share."

Celebrations

Learning and growing all summer long

Kids at the Ranch are staying engaged all summer long through EmPower Education and SPARK Summer Programming. EmPower is a unique summer learning experience for students who need credit recovery, education intervention, and personalized skill development. SPARK offers fun enrichment activities including gardening, daily living skills, field trips, learning about Pop Culture, and more.



Kids learned to bake from scratch—practicing independent living and math skills. Some kids didn't know that cake or cookies could be made from scratch; they thought they only came from a box or bag!



The learning and fun continued this summer in EmPower Education! Kids engaged in STEM projects, math and English lessons, credit recovery, GED prep, and more!



Students made a custom pasta dish, collaborating with their classmates to determine which ingredients to include.



Students studied the lifecycle of butterflies as they observed the transformation of caterpillars. When they were ready, they released the butterflies.



Students at the Ranch learned how to sew this summer. Roanna, the Daily Living Skills teacher, said, "At first, Chris* was not very excited about sewing. Now he wants to make a wallet!"





Students in STEM Class learned basic automobile maintenance, including checking the oil and transmission fluid levels, coolant and windshield washer reservoirs, the engine's air filters, and the tire air pressure.



Students in the Daily Living Skills class took a field trip to Bremer Bank, where they learned about the services offered by the bank, rights and responsibilities of account holders, and other financial tips and tricks. They also toured the vault—something not many people get to do!



In STEM class, students talked about minerals and grew their own crystals.

Spring cleaning for the birds

Every year, members of the Wildlife Club maintain the wood duck nesting boxes they built and hung in Oak Park. Maintenance includes removing the old nesting material, adding fresh wood shavings, and addressing any damage to the boxes.



Caring for living creatures helps Ranch kids develop empathy and responsibility.

Ready for fishing

In preparation for their summer fishing excursions, kids in the Wildlife Club painted some new fishing lures. They followed up this fun activity with fishing on the river.



Wildlife Club Coordinator, Andrew Meier, created the ready-to-paint fishing lures by lead-casting, using molds they created a few years ago.

Hats off to our Mission Advancement Team!

At a recent Mission Advancement Team meeting, members were presented with custom Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch hats donated by Ranch friends, Mark and Cindy Trivilino (Gardner, KS).



Celebrations

Poetry for all!

Dakota Memorial School held a “Poem in Your Pocket” Day. Everyone either composed a poem or selected one of their favorites to keep in their pocket. Throughout the day, staff asked students if they had a poem in their pocket, prompting them to share their poem.



“Poem in Your Pocket Day” concluded with students and staff presenting their poems to the entire school.



Mrs. Keeney (far left) and Mrs. Beach (far right), Student Council Advisors, worked with members of the Student Council to create a “Poet-Tree Place” to display poems that were written and shared for “Poem in Your Pocket Day.”

Strengthening Spiritual Life

The Spiritual Life Team gathered for its annual Spiritual Life Summit, where they reflected on wins from the last year and planned for the future of the Spiritual Life Program. The Spiritual Life team is dedicated to the spiritual well-being of our kids, staff, and all those who support the Ranch!



From left: Kristen Nistler, Rev. Vince Otto, Deaconess Kelly Bristow, Deaconess Stephanie Wilde, Rev. Rick Jones, Rev. Tom Marcis

Demolition Day fun

Students at Dakota Memorial School attended the NDCLC Demo Day at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds.

They learned about construction equipment and got to test-drive some of the machinery! One student shared that he’s been interested in construction since he was little and loved having the opportunity to use the different equipment.



Students practiced using excavators, skid steers, loaders, and rollers in the dig area.



Students and staff had a thrilling adventure as they flew above the crowds in a cage lifted by a crane.

A big win for ND kids and families at the Legislature

Tim Gienger worked with local legislators to pass Senate Bill 2399, which directs the Medical Services Department to amend the administrative rules related to rate setting and reimbursement for PRTF services. Tim will now work with the Medical Services Department to write a new version of the rules, improving care and outcomes for kids at the Ranch and their families.



Back row from left to right: Representative Brandy Pyle; Senator Diane Larson; Joy Ryan, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch; Senator Kristin Roers; Senator Kathy Hogan; Representative Alisa Mitskog; Olivia Martin, Manchester House
Front row from left to right: Senator Judy Lee; Governor Kelly Armstrong; Tim Gienger, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

Pass the pasta!

Dakota Memorial School's Independent Living class welcomed Grady Ryan, a local chef, to their classroom. Grady taught them to make pasta from scratch and answered their many questions about being a chef and working in a kitchen. One student expressed interest in getting a job in a kitchen one day!



Grady has worked in many restaurants and is currently Sous Chef at a Moorhead, MN, eatery and tavern.



Students learned to cut and roll their own pasta.

Gratitude for our partners

We're celebrating three great years of working with the Great Plains Food Bank. Donations such as canned goods, cereal, pasta, soups, paper products, and beauty items are used in the Caring Closet at Dakota Memorial School.

The Caring Closet provides Day Students with necessary toiletries, clothing, food, and home items they may not otherwise have access to. Providing students with basic needs items found in the Caring Closet means they can worry about one less thing and focus on finding success in school and just being kids.



Celebrations

Quilted with love

Quilts are a big part of the traditions and culture of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. For decades, quilters around the country have shared their talents with Ranch children. Quilts are used at the Ranch in many ways—each child chooses a quilt when they get to the Ranch; our Dakota Memorial School graduates receive a quilt to mark that special occasion. Additional quilts are given to families who don't have the funds to meet their basic needs at home and quilts don the beds in the Family Living Unit where families can stay while visiting their child in treatment.



These beautiful, handmade quilts were sent by Ranch friends from the Leisure World Quilting Club in Mesa, AZ.



Quilters from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Marion, IA, brought quilts for Ranch kids to a LWML/Joint Circle event where they learned about Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.



This quilt, made by St. Paul LWML's president, Julia Bickel, hangs in the administrative office on our Fargo campus as a hopeful reminder to all who walk by.



Marilyn Freie and Janna Floerke dropped off many beautiful quilts made by the Trinity Quilters in Long Prairie, MN.

Community support for Zurcher Cottage

The Ranch was awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Verendrye Electric Operation Round Up Program for the Zurcher Cottage Campaign. So far, 305 donors have donated to the campaign to build a new Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility on the Minot campus.



Sheila Miller, VP Finance, stands in front of Zurcher Cottage to accept a grant check from Verendrye Electric.

ReadBowl Champs!

Elementary students at Dakota Memorial School, Minot, won the ReadBowl elementary division in North Dakota for reading the most minutes during the competition. The prize included new books donated by Scholastic and Malcom Mitchell, Super Bowl winner, for each elementary student.

Elementary students were excited to choose a book to call their own.



Exploring baptism

Many Ranch residents have been asking questions about baptism—this year more than ever. Some were baptized as babies, others haven't been baptized, and others don't know if they have been baptized. Regardless of their spiritual past, we encourage kids to ask questions, teach them about the rite of baptism, and when they are ready, baptize them. (See page 4 for a story about one young resident who was baptized while at the Ranch.)



Chaplain Rick Jones teaches Ranch residents about baptism and, when they are ready to be baptized, finds a time that works for any family members or friends the child wants to attend.

Art journaling

Occasionally, Karen Engelter, Executive Assistant, comes to the Ranch on evenings or weekends to art journal with the kids. An art journal is a visual diary combining elements of writing, drawing, painting, collage, and printmaking to express oneself. These journals can serve as inspiration for the future for our kids, and a reminder of all the great things they can do.



Art journaling gives kids at the Ranch space to express themselves in an unconventional and creative way.

Truth through music



During his visits to all three Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch campuses, Patrick Mahoney (singer, songwriter, and musician) conducted group music therapy sessions and provided one-on-one guidance, inspiring the children to channel their emotions and creativity into songwriting.

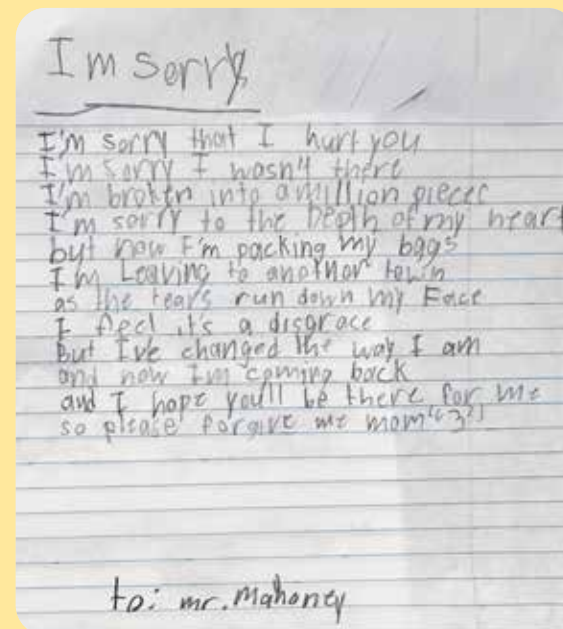
As the children showcased their talent and resilience through poignant lyrics and heartfelt melodies, it was clear that Mahoney, originally from Dublin, Ireland, and now living in Henderson, AZ, made a profound impact. One 13-year-old boy arrived at the first session in Minot with his lyrics already written, ultimately creating a moving song titled, “I’m Sorry.” The song, written for his mother, beautifully expressed his remorse for the mistakes he had made and his wish to go back and undo the pain he had caused her. Mahoney has discovered that music touches something deep inside kids, especially those struggling with mental health and trauma.

“When we performed his song at the music showcase on my last day there,” Mahoney said, “everyone in the room was in tears, including me. “Creating music allows kids to release their feelings and emotions, and maybe even more importantly, it validates how they feel and what they’ve been through,” Mahoney said.

By asking them about their preferred music styles and the emotions or topics they wanted to explore, Mahoney guided the children through the songwriting process, emphasizing the importance of infusing every song with genuine emotion and storytelling. While not every child was willing to participate, many of those who did discovered a hidden talent. One young

With Patrick’s guidance, some of the kids not only wrote their own songs but honed their guitar skills.

Songwriting can be a powerful tool for expressing and releasing emotion.



girl was having a difficult week, so she didn’t come in until the afternoon of Mahoney’s last day in Fargo.

“If Megan had been in the classes from the start, she wouldn’t have wanted to leave. She gives her heart and soul, which is everything,” Mahoney said. “People try to make it complicated and make all sorts of rules about what you need to write a song. It’s really simple—finding a topic that will bring out your emotions, good or bad, is the answer.”

Mahoney’s visit showcased the potent healing power of music by giving children at the Ranch—children who are navigating complex life experiences—a place to express their emotions, to heal, and to build resilience.

Patrick’s time at the Ranch was possible thanks to grant funding and a gift from a remarkable donor who wishes to remain anonymous. Learn more about Patrick and his work at PatrickMahoneyMusic.com and MusicTherapyWorkshop.com.



Finishing Well

DO YOU HAVE A WILL?

If you were to die today, would your property go to the people and charities you care about? Are you comfortable that your plans are in order?

A Will and a well-thought-out Estate Plan will...

- Allow you to create a final legacy for your family and friends.
- Ensure the transfer of your estate with the fewest delays.
- Avoid unnecessary costs, estate taxes, taxes on retirement plans, and other expenses.
- Minimize interpersonal conflicts between family members.
- Allow you to select a guardian for your minor children.
- Give you peace of mind.

To learn more about creating a will that works for you, contact Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

701-839-7888 | DakotaRanch.org





DAKOTA
BOYS AND GIRLS
RANCH

FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT

1,612
PEOPLE
SERVED

101,770
MEALS
SERVED

CURRENTLY SERVING KIDS FROM
NORTH DAKOTA, COLORADO, ARKANSAS, SOUTH DAKOTA,
NEVADA, WASHINGTON, MINNESOTA, IDAHO, FLORIDA,
MONTANA, TEXAS, ARIZONA, OKLAHOMA, AND MISSOURI.

*BIRTHPLACE OF KIDS CURRENTLY IN CARE

15

BAPTISMS
AND
AFFIRMATIONS

278

SPIRITUAL
LIFE
GROUPS

153 CHAPEL
SERVICES

163,698
CLASSROOM HOURS

848
IN-PERSON
VISITS
WITH
RANCH
DONORS

2.78
MILLION POUNDS
OF CLOTHING AND
SHOES RECYCLED
AT RANCH
THRIFT STORES

141,766
DONATION DROP-OFFS

TOP DIAGNOSES
MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDER,
POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER,
ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER,
AUTISM

From catfishing to community service: A grandfather's influence

Jeff Givens remembers his grandfather, Robert Bauer, as a hardworking and modest man. When he learned that Robert had donated regularly to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, he knew it was a ministry worthy of his support.

Jeff grew up in Nashville, hundreds of miles from his grandparents, but spent a week or more each summer on their farm near Holton, KS.

"Even though I only saw them once or twice a year, I treasure the memories. I took a lot of walks through the timber with my grandfather. He gave me a 410 shotgun when I was a kid so we'd go squirrel hunting, and my grandmother would make squirrel soup."

Jeff fondly remembers catching his first catfish alongside his grandfather in the farm pond, a memory that has inspired him to continue the tradition by reeling in 40-50 pound catfish on the Mississippi and Red Wing rivers.

"I had a picture of the two of us when I was probably 13 or 14. I was standing next to him, both of us in bib overalls, holding the biggest fish I'd ever caught. He always wore overalls, so when I insisted on wearing them too, he lent me an old pair of his that were much too large. I wish I could find the picture. It cracks me up just remembering it."

Robert likely learned about the Ranch through his lifelong membership of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, of which

the Ranch was one of the initial Recognized Service Organizations.

"He really loved what the Ranch was doing," Jeff said. "If the Ranch was important enough for my grandfather to give regularly, I knew it was where I wanted to give. It took me awhile to start donating after he died, but I've been giving for about ten years now."

In addition to a monthly donation, for the last two years Jeff has created a Facebook birthday fundraiser for the Ranch. His aunts, mother, and sisters also give to the Ranch in memory of his grandfather, honoring and continuing his legacy.

"I'm sure he would be proud if he knew we support the ministry he loved," Jeff said.

In addition to passing on his love for catfishing and the Ranch, Robert role-modeled the value of hard work. He worked at an implement shop in town repairing tractors and other farm equipment during the day and spent nights and weekends farming.

"I've been a hard worker all my life, not in farming, but running retail stores. I think spending time with my grandfather instilled that work ethic in me."

Jeff started working for Walmart



Jeff, shown here with his grandparents, is carrying on the Bauer family tradition of giving to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

when he was 16. When he graduated from college he moved into management, managing his first store when he was just 24 years old.

"One of my claims to fame is that I got to know Johnny Cash," Jeff said. "He would come into my store, and we'd sit at the snack bar. Looking back, I wish I'd got him to talk more about himself, but I guess the reason he came in was because he loved hearing about Walmart. It was the early to mid-90s, and Walmart was just coming up."

Jeff recalls Johnny asking if they could open the store early for him one day.

"We opened from 7-9 for Johnny and his folks. In those days, we weren't open 24/7," Jeff said. "Johnny had orphanages in Jamaica that he kind of oversaw. He bought \$25,000 (in 1995 dollars) worth of items. Then on Christmas Day, he went down there and handed it out to all

the kids at the orphanages.”

Jeff transferred to Minnesota to manage Walmart’s Hastings store, and while he no longer works for Walmart, he and his family have remained in Minnesota. After 15 years at Walmart and 16 years at Best Buy, Jeff is now in his sixth year as senior manager of operations at Northern Tool and Equipment.

Jeff is married with three boys, a stepson, three grandsons, and one granddaughter. In addition to hanging out with his family, golfing, and working in the yard, Jeff still loves catfishing, a hobby carried down from his grandfather.



While Jeff started supporting the Ranch because his grandfather thought it was important, he continues his support because the Ranch ministry is now in his own heart.

“I love that you’re helping kids who need a shot,” Jeff said. “I was fortunate enough to have great parents and a great upbringing, but not everybody does. I want to make sure they get a fighting chance.”

Jeff remembers his grandfather, Robert, every time he catches a catfish on the Mississippi River.

HONEY SUNDAY

Bring God’s love to a child by organizing a Honey Sunday fundraiser this fall.

Honey Sundays, hosted by congregations all across the United States, support the residential treatment and educational programs for the troubled, complicated, and amazing children at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

Learn more about holding a Honey Sunday for your congregation at DakotaRanch.org/honey-sunday, or scan the QR code to the right.



Called to a life of love, faith, service, and adventure



Robert and Marji Gentet

Visiting the Ranch campuses solidified Robert and Marji Gentet's passion for the Ranch ministry of helping at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.

"When I visited Pastor Robert and Marji Gentet in their Windcrest, Texas home, I didn't even have time to say, 'Would you like me to take my shoes off?' before Marji basically dragged me to the dining room table to see photos of their summer 2022 trip across the U.S. Their 7,444-mile trip included visits to all three locations of their favorite organization,

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. She was so excited to show me her Shutterfly book. She went through each page of photos taken at the Ranch and talked about it.

Okay, I may have exaggerated the part about her dragging me to the table, but you get the point. They are amazing people and love the work the Ranch does."

—Janie Wunderlich, Development Officer, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

"The Ranch helps children who have difficulties learning in one way or another," Marji said. "That and the Dakota connection is what really attracted me."

Robert said their campus visits made a huge impact on him. And these folks have seen much in their lifetimes.

Robert and Marji Gentet both grew up in the Midwest. Marji's parents lived on and farmed the 200 acres in Iowa that her grandmother owned. When she was 12, they bought a farm

in South Dakota where they raised crops and animals.

"I experienced several South Dakota winters during my teenage years," Marji said, "which is why we now live in Texas!"

Robert was born in a little Kansas town across the Missouri River from St. Joseph, MO.

"My father was a mechanic in a garage there. It was during the Great Depression, so times were very difficult financially. They began to hire people in the aircraft factories in Wichita, KS, so when I was three years old, my family moved there. My father worked for Beechcraft and Boeing, and when he had some health problems and had to get out of the factory, he became a traveling salesman."

Marji and Robert met at Ambassador College in southern California, the first stop for both of them in their lifetimes of exploring new places.

"I went out there in '57," Robert said. "By the time she got there in '62, I had graduated and was working full time. We met in Marji's freshman year and married in the spring of that same school year. We'll have been married 62 years this September."

Robert and Marji had two daughters, both born in California, before they decided to move back to the Midwest. In St. Joseph, Marji completed a degree in construction engineering. From there, they went to Wichita, where Robert earned a master's degree in geology and Marji began her career as an architect. Marji's career, the majority of which was creating

military family housing, took her all over the world.

“Most of the military housing had been built shortly after WWII, so the housing had been there for 50 or more years. It was time for it to be upgraded or replaced,” Marji said. “We established what needed to be done—on military bases in Germany, England, Japan, Korea, Hawaii, and Alaska—and how much it would cost. All that information went to Congress so they could approve the funding.”

At 50 years old, Robert started seminary, so they moved to St. Louis, MO, where he attended Concordia Seminary. He completed his year as a vicar in a congregation near St. Louis, took his first call in Indiana, and from there pastored a church near San Antonio, TX, where they remain today.

Robert and Marji both grew up regularly attending church, Robert in Wichita, where his family belonged to an LCMS congregation, and Marji in South Dakota and Iowa where her family attended Methodist churches.

In retirement, Robert and Marji spend time with their grandchildren and serving others. In addition to flower gardening and regular walks with Robert, Marji volunteers two days a week at “The Pantry,” a food pantry operated by their church, King of Kings Lutheran, San Antonio, that provides huge shopping baskets of food to more than 130 families a week.

Robert served 11 years on the board of directors at Creation Research Society, and in 2007 created a website,

creationhistory.com, that brings together his passion for geology and theology. He has studied everything “from heaven to earth,” and shares his knowledge through articles and essays that interpret the earth’s history from both scientific and biblical perspectives.

The Gentets are great friends of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, having contributed to the ministry for more than 20 years.

“Giving was something that developed in our marriage,” Marji said. “We looked for organizations that we felt were in some way contributing to the betterment of society. We started out with barely enough to survive, and now God has given us resources so we can live comfortably. He has blessed us so why not share those blessings with others. It seems like that is why God

put us on this Earth—to find ways to improve and help others.”

Robert said they started out giving a little to many organizations. When they decided to pare it back so they could make a bigger impact, they were drawn to the Ranch’s work with children.

“The tremendous, unbelievable opportunities these kids are offered in different activities and schooling and the whole atmosphere, really brought it home for me,” he said. “These kids grew up in situations where their parents may have had trouble just taking the trash out, so the Ranch is exactly what they need.”

Marji agreed. “It was great to see that these children have a home there. They feel comfortable and productive and are in a place where they are learning and contributing.”



The Gentet's captured the highlights of their visits to each of the three Ranch campuses in the photo book of their 7,444-mile trip across the U.S.

A ministry of connection—my path to the Ranch



**By Jennifer Rockwell,
Development
Officer, Dakota
Boys and Girls
Ranch**

It's all been leading up to this. My experiences, my schooling, and my family history. It's all been leading me to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

I grew up in the church, and by age 9, I had decided I wanted to preach the word of God. I wanted to lead people and tell them how all of God's Word is linked together and alive for us to better understand the world we live in today. While that wasn't to be, I did get a Religious Studies degree, even though by that time I was more interested in world religions and bioethics than the Word of God. I continued to serve as church organist and helped with COR (Christ in Other Retreat) twice a year, but I had lost my vision.

In time, my husband's military assignment led us to settle in England. While there, we grew our family, and I volunteered wherever needed. One of my volunteer opportunities was to assist in coordinating a group for military families. Military life can be isolating with family members often living in another state or country, friends always moving, and spouses being deployed. This group, with the slogan, "No Mom Left Behind," provided the ideal opportunity for me to channel my desire to help people feel connected and cared for, despite where they came from.

When I was called to homeschool my children, I helped start a group where

likeminded homeschooling parents could come together. Again, I was helping people feel connected and cared for. God works in mysterious ways.

Along the way, I picked up many small jobs, which mostly included teaching children. Then my youngest son, who had always been a little different than his brother and sister, needed some extra help. After trying many other avenues, we decided that a residential treatment facility would be the next best step.

Searching for places was exhausting. The option we found that seemed to align best with his diagnosis was in Indiana. Unfortunately, his time there was cut short by an accident that required more extensive medical care than was available away from home. He is a senior this year, but with his many setbacks, he is still working to catch up.

Then comes the opportunity for me to work a full-time permanent job. Where would my past lead me? To Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Does it align with my calling to do ministry work? Yes! Does it help connect people? Yes! Does it let the children and families served by the Ranch, the people who work here, and the donors know they are cared for? Yes!

My new job as Development Officer at the Ranch brings all the pieces together—my heart for ministry, my personal experiences, and my love for bringing people together.

The Ranch is a unique place. The love they (or should I now say "we?") feel for the people. The hope we seek for the future. The plans we have for the willing. My new workplace is filled with so much love, hope, and plans—not just for the children and their families, which is our

first mission, but for the entire Ranch family.

And, that family includes you.

It doesn't matter that we live all over the country. The Ranch is the common thread that makes us a family. These children are God's children. They are our children. The connections we have with each other make us stronger and able to stand against the forces of darkness.

I feel very blessed to be able to share this connection with you. And I look forward to hearing your stories and learning why you partner with the Ranch, "to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ."



Your prayers for our kids are a source of healing and hope. If you have any questions about the Ranch, contact Jennifer Rockwell, or any Mission Advancement team member, at 1-800-344-0957 or info@dakotaranch.org. We would love to visit with you about how you can support our mission of helping at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.



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Ways to Give

Thanks to gifts from our generous donors, the Ranch helps the most troubled, complicated, and amazing kids by providing best-in-class psychiatric therapy and trauma-informed care. If you would like to provide hope and healing for a child at the Ranch, you can give several different ways.

Give Now

You can give now to meet the needs of our precious children in one of two ways. Give online at DakotaRanch.org/donate, or mail a check to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, PO Box 5007, Minot, ND 58702

Prayers

So many of our children come to us exhausted from just fighting to survive. Often, they've lost all hope. Please pray for strength—strength for our children to face and overcome the circumstances that led them to us. Pray for them to find rest, safety, and the promise of God's abiding love. And pray for our staff. Working with our children is difficult, and Ranch staff also need your prayers for them to be accepting, respectful, kind, and strong as they work with these precious children who sometimes lash out because they are in so much pain.

Memorials and Honorariums

When you make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one, they will live on through programs that provide much-needed care for the hurting children who come to the Ranch. You can make your donation online at DakotaRanch.org or by calling 1-800-344-0957.

Planned and Estate Gifts

Naming Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch as a beneficiary in your will is one way to leave a legacy that serves God's Kingdom. But, it's not the only way. Other legacy giving options include Charitable Gift Annuities, naming the Ranch as a beneficiary of your retirement plan assets or a life insurance policy, leaving real estate to the Ranch, and more. To learn more, contact one of our Development Officers at 1-800-344-0957. Or, visit our legacy giving website at DakotaRanch.org/legacy for tools and information you can use to maximize your philanthropic goals.

Tree of Life

Honor or remember a loved one by purchasing a leaf, acorn, or rock on one of our Trees of Life. For a Tree of Life order form, scan the QR code on the right, or call 1-800-344-0957—we can send you an order form or take your information over the phone.



Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

If you are a Thrivent® member, you may have Thrivent Choice Dollars® available to direct to your favorite enrolled charity. Directing Choice Dollars® to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch helps us teach Christian values to the amazing children of the Ranch—values that aid in their healing, provide a foundation of hope, and help them be successful in their treatment.

Zurcher Cottage Update

Zurcher Cottage: Opening Fall 2025

Construction of the new Zurcher Cottage, a state-of-the-art Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for children ages 10-17, on the Ranch's Minot campus is progressing well. The cottage will feature four separate living areas (wings) for children, each named in honor of a generous donor:

- The Moulsoff Wing
- The Stewart Wing
- The Julia Burke Wing
- The Eagle Wing

When complete, Zurcher Cottage will include 20 bedrooms for children, four common areas, medication rooms, group rooms, meeting rooms, a staff break room, a meditation room, two fenced playgrounds, and more.



An aerial view of Zurcher Cottage in early August 2025.

Photo credit—Dakota Memorial School administrator, Dano Fagerlund.

Every gift matters

As construction of the cottage reaches completion, we are excited to announce we are close to reaching our Zurcher Cottage campaign goal. Donate now to help us raise the final \$360,000.

Ways to Give

- Call 800-344-0957.
- Mail check to:
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch,
P.O. Box 5007, Minot, ND 58702.
- Give online at:
[DakotaRanch.org/Zurcher Cottage](https://DakotaRanch.org/ZurcherCottage)
or scan the QR code.



Foundation and Corporate Gifts

The Chatlos Foundation;

\$5,000; Zurcher Cottage
(Minot)

West Fargo Community High School PaY;

\$500; DMS Library Books
(Fargo)

South Fargo High School PaY;

\$500; DMS Library Books
(Fargo)

Verendrye Electric Cooperative;

\$2,500; Zurcher Cottage
(Minot)

Otter Tail Corporation Foundation;

\$4,000; Washers/Dryers
(Fargo)

Cass County Electric;

\$3,950; Wireless Access Points
(Fargo)

Midco Foundation;

\$1,000; Televisions (Bismarck)

Lutheran Women's Missionary League;

\$60,000; Reflection Room —
Zurcher Cottage (Minot)

Cornelsen Charitable Foundation;

\$28,000; DBT Programming

Memorials/Honorariums

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

Memorials

March 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025

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Clayton & Zona Pearson

APLAN, DI ANN

Marlene McGaughey

BABCOCK, ROBERT L.

Becky Bailey

Pat & Jill Burger

Jerry & Deb Herrmann

Burnette Kunz

Penny Kunz

Jim & Kay Miller

William & Marilyn Wilson

BANDY, CATHY

Matthew Watson

BAUER, ROBERT

Jeff Givens

BAUKOL, WENDY

Scott & Kathy Howe

BEISWENGER, RONALD

Clayton & Zona Pearson

BELLIN, MERCEDES

Marilyn Frank

BENSON, MARY

Shelia Gerry

BERGEMANN, GERALD "JERRY"

Curtis & Elaine Bening

BLOCK, MARVIN

Mary Meyer

BOECKEL, GARY & CLEO

Sarah Richau

BOETTNER, RUSSELL

Marlys Boettner

BOOTH, KIM

Al & Johnne Bierdeman

BORNER, LAVONNE

Irene Heid

BRANDT, AL

Marilyn Frank Family

BRAUER, DARWIN & BETTY

Betty Jean Carow

BREWARD, JOHN C.

Gloria Breward

BREY, JOYCE

Ron & Duska LaCount

BROKAW, E. JOANNE

Darlene Hauck

BRUECKNER, ERVIN T.

Irma Brueckner

BRYN, OLE

Mary Meyer

BUCKMAN, FRANKLIN & ELEANOR

Allan & Carol Buckman

BUCKMAN, LESTER & CAROLINE

Austin & Sarah Buckman

CALLIOTT, EDWARD

Linda J. Calliott

CHORBA, ANDREW

Dick & Sandy Atkinson

CHRISTENSON, MARVEL

Curtis Wittmayer

CHUROVICH, RUTH E.

Barbara Pingel

CLAIRMONT, DONNA

Kerry Horton & Arnie Donat

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Bill & Joan Ferguson

CONFER, GAIL

Lisa Cole

Karen Engelter

Kregg & Patty Foltz

Robert & Cherie Harms

Tammy Noteboom

David Walsvik

CORNELSEN, DAVID

Eileen Cornelsen

COURNOYER, DIANNA

Clayton & Zona Pearson

COVAULT, JANICE "JAN"

Nolan & Eileen Bode

CROFUTT, JUNE

Gertrude Knight

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Gloria Thorson

EASTMAN, PATRICK

Evette Eastman

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Arlys Torgerson

ERICKSON, KENNY

RoxAnn Dick

Bruce & Pam Smith

ERICKSON, ROBERTA "BOBBIE"

Joel Erickson

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FEIRING, BERNICE

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FITZGERALD, JUDITH

Donald & Kathleen Raap

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." —William Arthur Ward

FLESNER, J.B.

Sherwood Snyder, III

FRANKLUND, EMILY

Curtis Wittmayer

FRIESE, LARRY

Carleen Christian

FROSETH, DARLYNE

Sharon Heil

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RHEN

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GREEK, HAROLD

Sharlene Greek

GREEN, GLORIA

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HAGENESS, HARTLEY

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Tom & Marjorie Hartman

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Jeff & Caryn Fischman

Bill & Rita Yingling

HARMS, RAYMOND

Lyle & Becky Gahler

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HARRELL, SADIE & LORETTA

David Packett

HAUFF, JOLEEN

Curtis Wittmayer

HAYER, HARRY

June Hayer

HEID, WERNER

Barbara Pingel

HEINTZ, ROBERTA

Marilyn Heintz

HEINZ, WILLIAM

Milton & Sandra Loyer

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JONES, DIANE

Bart & Yvonne Anderson

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**Change a child's life through
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Marilyn Claassen
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Kim Martin
Jonathan & Kristin McCollum
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Betty Oothoudt
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Cheryl Paullin
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Rick Rodriguez
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Sandy Schmidt
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Thomas Family Funeral Home
(Bradley Thomas & Mark Roth)
Dale & Martha Turner
Steve Weir
Paulette Vetter
Terry Voeller
Jane Welstad
Uncle Jim & Aunt Susan Wierschem

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Mavis Zahursky
KINSELLA, DANIEL
Joy Ryan
KITZMANN, BRADLEY
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Joyce & Sharon Knudsvig
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 Wayne Bowron
 FAIRWINDS
 Mark & Gail (Lennon) Fink
 Lynn Helland
 Gregg & Deb Holloway
 Patrick Leupold
 Margaret Lukas & Family
 MAC DONALD, ARDITH "ARDY"
 Curtis Wittmayer
 MAGWIRE, DONNA
 Howard Magwire
 MC LEAN, JOHN "PAT"
 Jerry & Marge Helander
 Janice McLean
 MC MILLAN, JEANNEN
 Mark & Jane Solseng
 MEDALEN, CURTIS "CURT"
 Marlys Orluck

*"Love and kindness are never
 wasted. They always make a
 difference. They bless the one
 who receives them, and they
 bless you, the giver."*
 —Barbara De Angelis

MEYER, MARGENE
 Nolan & Eileen Bode
 MICALE, WENDY ANN
 Linda Kemp
 MILLER, THERESA ANN
 Clayton & Zona Pearson
 MILLER, WILLIAM & ADELINE
 Donald & Eleanor Miller
 MOERKE, NORMA
 Patsy Moerke
 MURPHY, LYNN
 Bob & Grace Swanson
 MY DEAR COUSIN
 Les & Correne Henke
 NATZKE, FLORENCE
 Theodore & Helen Krenzke
 Brian & Joan Meyer

Robert Natzke
 Reinhold & Karen Ohlmann
 Jenny L. Wasmuth
 NORDEEN, DENNIS
 Robert & Lisa Lehnhardt
 OLIVER, BOB
 Carole Williams
 ONSTOTT, EDD
 Sue Hylland
 OTY, DAVID
 Carole Williams
 PAGE, MARIAN SUTHERLAND
 ARMSTRONG
 Sherwood Snyder, III
 PAUL, JOHN
 Nolan & Eileen Bode
 PHELPS, JACK
 Larry & Sue Bartelheimer
 PIERCE, ELYZABETH
 Marisa Knutson
 PLATH, BONNIE
 Barbara Rude
 PLETAN, SHARON
 Jim & Judy Mittelstadt
 POCH, RUTH
 Martin Poch
 ROHDE, TED
 Lynda Neuman
 RUDIE, ORLEAN
 Al & Johnne Bierdeman
 SCHAEFER, JOHN
 Ethel Beuch
 SCHATKIN, SIDNEY B.
 Margaret Schatkin
 SCHEURER, JOYCE
 Mrs. Hanna Link
 SCHULZ, MARVIN
 Millie Bueligen
 Irene Heid
 Helen Kruger
 Pat & Gail Lengenfelder
 Gloria Maier
 SCHUTT, MARK
 Keith & Roberta Hoesel
 SELL, DARLEEN
 Melanie Petsch
 Mike & Glennys Sell
 Norman Sell

Memorials/Honorariums

SHERECK, DARREL
Cynthia Shereck
SIIRTOLA, HENRY
Doris Saeman
SITZER, BRENT
Lou & Myrna Mitchell
SKOOG, JAMES & ARIANN
Beverly Zorn
SMITH, MARY ANN
Sharon Grondahl
SPEER, MAGGIE
Barbara Rude
SPRAGUE, THELMA
Rosella Debele
Connie Sayers
STUCK, DONNA JEAN
Ardis Afseth
Don & Jean Burke
James & Sheryl Cameron
Lloyd & Jacqueline Freeman
Miriam Kuhlmann
Jeffrey & Diane Nord
Richard Pederson
SUNDVOR, HAROLD
Bruce & Esther Dalager
SUTTON, AMY
Pam Popp
SWIFT, JOYCE
Al & Johnne Bierdeman
SZEWSZAK, CASEY T.
Patricia Szevszak
TACK, LOUELLA
Steve Hamre
TRAXEL, NORMA
Doris Saeman
TUCKER, JEANETTE "JAN"
Rev. Sam & Judy Christensen
TURTLE, ERMA
William & Wendy Lehnertz
The Turtle Family
UTECH, SALLY
Phyllis Harste
VANDERHOEF, AIDAN
Dennis & Mitzie Nay
Shane & Anna Oas
VENHUIZEN, CORNELIUS "NEIL"
Melva Smith

VETTER, JIM
Diane Vetter
VIGELAND, CAROL
Barbara Pingel
VOORHEES, WEBB & JOYCE
Rev. Jack L. & Joneen Richards
WAGNER, JANICE
Rodger & Marilyn Fischer
WALSH, FREDERICK
Sherwood Snyder, III
WALTERS, ARNIE
Delores Soiseth
WEBB, ROLLIN
Linda Ehlert
George & Eleanor Krueger
Joyce Schultz
WEBSTER, IRENE
Lynne Webster
WEIGAND, DANNY
Derek & Holly Weigand

"Love wholeheartedly, be surprised, give thanks and praise—then you will discover the fullness of your life."

—David Steindl-Rast

WEISS, JIMMY
Norma Von Osterheldt
WENZEL, DAN
Susan Bethke
Gaylord & Marilyn Schilling
WILDE, BETH
Joy Ryan
WILKE, MARIAN R.
Barbara Pingel
WORDEN, RON
Donald & Carolyn Feldman
WORREL, SHIRLEY
Rodger & Marilyn Fischer
WOYTASSEK, WAREN
Al & Johnne Bierdeman
ZAHN, JOANNE
Eugene Heckendorf
ZHRBOCK, PETER
Gary & Lois Brehmer

Honorariums

March 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025

BEAU ORSON
Beau Orson
CARLA WEILAND'S BIRTHDAY
Dave & Jean Erwin
CASIMER "CASEY" T. SZEWCZAK, III
Patricia Szevczak
CECILIA PODCZERWINSKI
Janet Podczerwinski
DOROTHY ROMEO
Bob James
GAVIN & DANYEL MOE
Thomas & Donna Schneider
HOLLY GIERTZ
Dan Kammrath
JAMES GRIFFIN
Steven Griffin
JEAN TYKESON'S 90TH BIRTHDAY
Connie Rosencrans
JESUS CHRIST
David Padilla
JOY RYAN
Kole & Quin Seiler
LOGAN CAMANN
Christina Marean
REV. DR. PAUL A. KRUEGER
Paul League
RUSSELL SCHUMACHER
Doug & Kathlyn Rath
SAMUEL MURDY'S BIRTHDAY
David & Karen Sue Murdy
SUE KITTEL
Dan Kammrath
TRISH WALLS
Shannon Dye



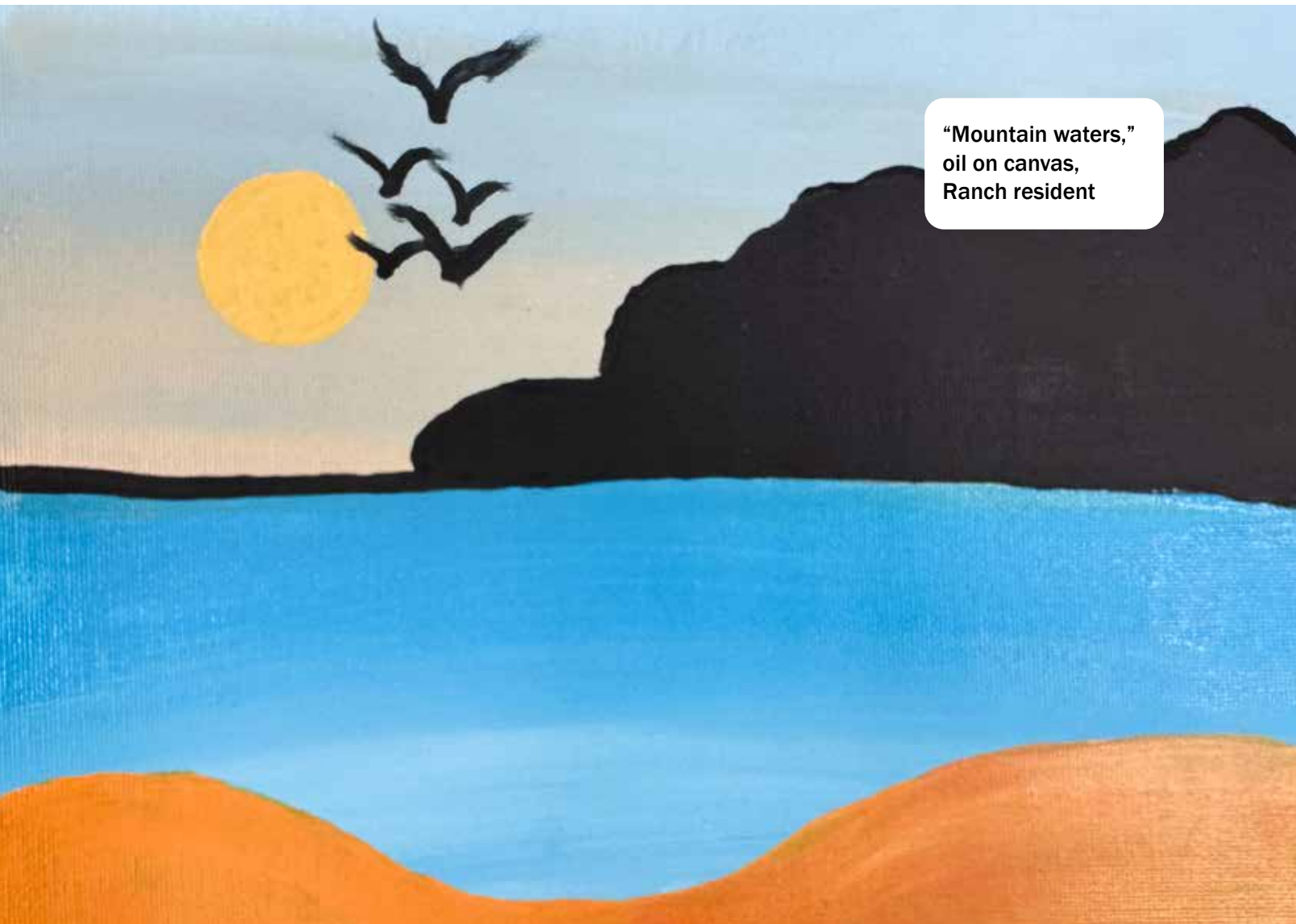
A Prayer for Healing

Lord Jesus, heal me.
Heal in me, whatever
You see needs healing.
Heal me in whatever might
Separate me from You.
Heal my memory, heal my
Heart, heal my emotions,
Heal my spirit, heal my
Body, heal my soul.
Lay Your hands gently
Upon me and heal me
Through your love for me.
Amen.

We keep all donors, kids, and Ranch staff in our prayers. If you have a special intention or prayer request, please contact us at 1-800-344-0957 or info@DakotaRanch.org.



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



"Mountain waters,"
oil on canvas,
Ranch resident

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

