



The Ranch Review



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Hello! Hello! Is anybody there? Oh, there you are, hi. I know it's been a while since we've been in contact.... Where does time go? We look up from our daily responsibilities to see that another year has taken us by surprise. So it goes when working with a house full of children, especially when you consider: we aroused from slumber each of these six kids 365 times (or more), prepared 1,095 meals to feed them three times a day (not including snacks), conducted over 300 life skills classes (including Bible reflections), homeschooled on a year-round basis, attended more than 72 church services and spiritual activities, shuttled youth to medical, dental, and/or mental health appointments weekly, all the while endeavoring to keep them safe and engaged in life in a meaningful and productive manner while facing constant financial and time challenges. It is no wonder the year(s) go by so quickly. We find life at the Ranch very challenging, rewarding, and fun at the same time.

This year, God allowed us to be a part of the salvation of seven souls: baptizing three youth at our Easter service, and three more at our Thanksgiving service, plus one parent (see pictures). All considered, we can say we are fulfilling our calling/mission to Rescue, Redeem and Restore Young Lives.





Speaking of volunteers, we highlight one in particular -Jovel Powell. Jovie, as he is affectionately called by our youth and staff alike, is a product of our ministry, having aged out of our teen ranch program, has moved to our Transition House, and chose to volunteer at the Ranch while working toward completing his GED and acquiring a CDL license (his desire is to become a long-haul truck driver). He is proving to be a great help to Jan and I, helping with projects around the Ranch, as well as being a good role model for the other youth at the ranch



Again, speaking of volunteers, who are committed enough to these kids to making the trek to the Ranch, we would be dead in the water without the help of our educational tutors: Jetta Wacker, Cindee Miller and Lisa Stone – all retired schoolteachers. They help mentor and tutor the kids. The love and encouragement they provide, coupled with their skills and teamwork, are invaluable. Also, two new youths entered the Ranch program this year, making a total of eight residents. In order to transport us efficiently we needed to purchase a used vehicle large enough to do so. We were fortunate to have found an 8-seater, 4-wheel drive Pathfinder. We sent a special shout out Janice Neal and Trish Newman who donated over 1/3 of the cost of the car. God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

As we have grown to need a larger vehicle, so too have we grown to need more space. Our next facility project is a multipurpose building for education, indoor recreation, vocational exploration,

parental visitation, office space, and special events. If you would like to contribute to this project specifically, let us know and we'll dedicate your donations for that cause. We're estimating that this project will cost about \$500,000 to build **and** furnish. Please remember that all of us are volunteers and are receiving no financial contribution for our time, skills, and energy.

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Our finances have been low and somewhat unpredictable due to the recent unforeseen decrease in our monthly donations. God has been faithful in keeping us afloat. But if you might be able to consider a monthly donation or even a one-time donation it could really help. Additionally, we need mentors and some skilled labor: Help with newsletters, financial books (QuickBooks), fundraisers, and updates to our website. We've been so busy raising six kids, that we are struggling greatly to keep the necessary admin projects up to date. Please keep us in your prayers. Thank you, and...



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