

THE RANCH VOICE

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

Winter 2022



Carla Luehe, our district librarian, and resident Shaya, share their love of reading.



DAKOTA
BOYS AND GIRLS
RANCH

www.DakotaRanch.org
1.800.344.0957

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- An Unlikely Meeting, p. 3
- Insights and Implications of ADHD, p. 5
- The Science of Reading, p. 8
- Healing Spaces, p. 28
- One of Twelve, p. 39
- Brotherly Love, p. 42

Message from Our President/CEO

Christ is Guiding Our Journey



Joy Ryan, President/CEO
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Locations

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

Fargo
7151 15th St. S.
Fargo, ND 58104

Bismarck
1227 N. 35th St.
Bismarck, ND 58501

Main Switchboard:
1-800-593-3098

Foundation:
1-800-344-0957

DakotaRanch.org

Hello Friends,

In late September I was invited to join a group of the most faith-filled leaders I have ever had the honor to share time with. The meeting was designed to be a discussion and visioning about the future of congregational and mercy ministries. I was humbled to be in the company of University Presidents, Theologians, Christian business leaders, etc. It was a small group of only 50 and the work was challenging on every level. I left inspired and with renewed gratitude for the good Christ seeds in all of us.

The discussion was far-ranging. The world's population is forecast to grow by 1 billion people in the next 20 years. Two-thirds of that growth will be in Africa. The fastest-growing base of Christianity is Africa. Independent Christian churches are springing up in inner cities where traditional religions have lost congregations. Young people are interested in opportunities to see the impact of their faith. Elders worry about losing focus on His Word. I have so much to learn.

One important takeaway has given me new language to answer two questions I am frequently asked regarding the Ranch. "Are all the kids at the Ranch Christian?" and "Are all the staff at the Ranch Christian?"

I tell the truth and do my best to give context. The answer to both questions is "No." Many of our children have been abused, tortured, and neglected by people who claimed to be speaking God's truths. "You are a devil child. I am doing this to save you." "God doesn't care about kids like you."

In other cases, God was simply not a topic in the child's home. His presence was never discussed, and certainly many of our kids, in their chaotic lives, were never "churched."

Our staff, like our kids, come from a variety of backgrounds. When they are hired, we tell them the Ranch is a faith-based Christian facility where we pray at meetings, attend chapel, and thank God. We ask them if they can be supportive of that environment and look to Christian principles for the values and culture in which we care for the children. Those who can, work here under those parameters, regardless of their personal belief system.

But, when I explain these things, I feel like I'm missing something. There is another component of how Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch approaches others that has a deeper underpinning in faith. I didn't have the words to express that truth until this meeting.

As we discussed providing mercy care, one of the wonderful Christian leaders shared his thinking.

He said, "I consider everyone I meet who isn't Christian to be 'Pre-Christian.' It is my role to show them what Christianity looks like. I try to lead my life so that anyone watching me would want what I have, a deep faith in Him. I don't always get it right, but I try."

That is a beautiful way to approach the world, and it explains what I've been missing. Yes, at the Ranch we have Chapel services and prayer and Bible studies. But, by also seeing everyone as on their journey to Him, whatever the path, we hold ourselves accountable to always representing Christ in the most Christian way we can.

He also pointed out that every person Christ met was "Pre-Christian," and He loved them all. Please keep our kids and staff in your prayers.

In His love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joy".

An Unlikely Meeting

Katie Berg presented to the North Dakota legislative session about Teen Challenge's substance abuse prevention program a couple of years ago. She followed Joy Ryan, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch President and CEO, who had been invited to discuss ongoing access to services for children.

The two had never met, but a connection was soon evident. As she stepped to the podium, Katie said, "It is ironic and such a blessing to hear Mrs. Ryan talk about the Ranch because twenty years ago I was a resident in the Ranch's Fargo facility."

While her life has taken lots of difficult twists and turns since then, Katie thinks of the Ranch as the place where healing began.

"Anger was the only emotion I really expressed," Katie said. "I was physically abusive to my older sister and my mom. I refused to go to school, snuck out in the night, and tried to run away. People kept telling me I could control my anger, but I really felt like I couldn't. I wanted to be able to control it, but I just didn't know how."

When Katie came to the Ranch at age 15, she worked with her therapist to address the trauma from her childhood.

"I grew up in a family of alcoholics and started drinking at age 12. My dad was a really angry man. He was

always working, or at the bar, or in the den watching TV," Katie said. "I guess I just thought it was OK to be angry. My mom, on the other hand, was a sweet, loving enabler. She pretty much raised us on her own."

At the Ranch, Katie learned how to identify and express her emotions.

"I learned that my emotions really were in my control and that I could control my anger. The Ranch taught me to talk about and express my emotions. One of the things that helped me change the way I expressed my anger was the structure and actual consequences. I was being held accountable. I really



Katie and her mom are rebuilding their relationship piece by piece.

appreciated that, and it changed my life."

Katie's counselor and other Ranch staff made a big impression on her. She recalls one of the staff saying he had been a resident at the Ranch and now he worked there.

"That gave me a lot of hope that it's possible for people to change," Katie said. "The whole time I was at the Ranch, I felt like I was in this bubble of love. I hadn't ever experienced that before from people I didn't know."

In addition to individual therapy, group therapy, and other treatment activities, Katie had fun at the Ranch.

"We always did fun things like making Christmas cookies. We rehearsed and performed 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,' and had so much fun. I was Veruka Salt. I made lifelong friends at the Ranch, and when I look back, I realize I made some of my best memories there."

When Katie moved back home, she said she was able to use her new skills for a while. "But then I got back into my old environment, with no structure or boundaries, and the old me started to slowly come back. It was hard to keep putting those things into practice when I didn't have the same kind of environment.

But I know now that all the things I learned, I still retained within me."

As a young adult, Katie started drinking heavily. She worked in a bar with a restaurant and spent a lot of time there after work. "I didn't know that wasn't normal because I was raised around that kind of

behavior,” she said.

Then she got into bad relationship with a man who told her he was a recovered addict. She soon found out he was still using, and she got pulled into the drug scene.

“It got to a point where I lost who I was. When he left me, I was a broken person and I couldn’t even get up to take care of my kids.”

Katie asked her sister to take care of her two children and checked herself into Teen Challenge. After six months, she left.

“I knew that’s where God wanted



Katie’s life with her children is full of joy.

homeless for about a year. I kept trying to quit and was trying to do all of these things to pull me out. I would get a job, but then lose it because I was still homeless and had nowhere to shower or sleep or take

me to be,” Katie said. “But I wasn’t ready to give up all of the things I was still holding onto. I was white-knuckling it. I got back into addiction and it got really bad. I was

care of myself. It was a vicious cycle I couldn’t get out of.”

Katie went back to Teen Challenge determined to not leave without a certificate of completion. “I pushed through it and did a lot of work. It was the hardest thing I’ve ever done,” she said. “I was there for 16 months, then did 8 months in the re-entry program, and then worked there about a year and a half.”

Now, four years sober, Katie said, “My life is filled with joy, even in my trials. I’ve got my kids back. I can keep a job. There is just so much freedom. My time at the Ranch transformed me a lot for the better. Even when I slid back into my old habits, I remembered the lessons I learned there and applied them to my life the best I could.”

“Being at the Ranch changed my life,” Katie said.

DAKOTA RANCH ONLINE

More than a gift.

By shopping online, you're providing hope and healing for troubled, complicated, and amazing kids.



Scan to start shopping now!



Insights and Implications of ADHD



By Dr. Hannah Baczinski,
Psychologist
Dakota Boys and
Girls Ranch

Our understanding of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) has grown significantly in the last decade or so. But, because the knowledge of the public has not caught up to the research, myths about ADHD reach far and wide. Clearing up some of those myths will help you understand what it's like for Ranch kids, and the people in your life, who live with ADHD. Sixty to 70% of the assessments I do with children in my outpatient practice involve ADHD in some way. If you take just children in treatment at the Ranch, that number is nearly 100%. ADHD is rarely the only diagnosis, but it's very often a part of the picture of the child's psychological profile. So, what do we know about ADHD?

Debunking the Myths

Myth #1: Kids with ADHD are lazy. If they tried harder or were more disciplined, they could control their symptoms. If you don't suffer from ADHD yourself, it's impossible to understand what it's like. ADHD brains are wired differently and those differences in the brain change how they react to things. I was reviewing a Reddit feed on ADHD and hundreds of people posted variations of the same message. "I have good intentions and so many things I

want to do, but I just can't do them. My thoughts just bounce around and instead of doing the things that are important to me, I do the most random, difficult, and unnecessary tasks. ADHD is ruining my life."

People with ADHD often can't predict what they are going to say or do. They don't know where their sentences are going to end when they start them. Ranch psychiatrist, Dr. Wayne Martinsen, describes this perfectly as a "rambling tangent."

ADHD is a series of structural and chemical differences in the brain that generally exist at birth. It's not a problem of attention, but of executive brain function. The frontal lobe of the brain controls executive functioning—planning, organizing, controlling impulses, and being flexible in your thoughts and actions. It is much more difficult for people with ADHD to access the frontal lobe than it is for people without ADHD. These differences lead to inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity, social difficulties, dysregulation, time blindness, and difficulty with motivation.

ADHD brains are not very good at controlling their reactions to things—reactions tend to be too big or too small. They also have trouble guiding their attention. Most of the kids at the Ranch have trauma on top of ADHD. When you put trauma on top of a brain that already can't decide what it's doing, you get bigger trauma reactions that last longer and create more emotional dysregulation.

Myth #2: People grow out of ADHD. Your brain does not reform into a neurotypical brain when you become an adult. People do not grow out of ADHD, but we are learning that the symptoms are different in adults than they are in children. Early intervention and treatment help children learn to adapt and compensate for their ADHD symptoms, which makes life much less complicated when they become adults.

Myth #3: The only symptoms of ADHD are inattention and hyperactivity. While the diagnostic criteria focus on those, we are learning that the symptoms are much more widespread. In some people, ADHD shows up as complete inertia, the exact opposite of what we typically think of as an ADHD symptom. Patients will describe sitting on the couch thinking to themselves, "Get up. Go pick up that laundry. What are you doing? Get up!" The thoughts go on and on and they berate themselves for their inability to do such a simple thing, but their body doesn't move.

Time blindness is another common symptom of ADHD that we don't often hear about. In the ADHD mind, there are two times: now and not now. If you say to a child with ADHD, "I need you to clean your room later," what they hear is, "You don't have to do this right now." And then it's gone from their mind forever. This is why adults with ADHD are often late. They think, "I'm not meant to be there right now, so I don't have to worry about

Understanding Our Kids

it.” Then all of a sudden it is right now, and they are thinking, “Oh no. I’m supposed to be there right now, and I haven’t even put on my shoes.”

Myth #4: My child can’t have ADHD because he can be hyper-focused on certain things. If a child or adult with ADHD is really interested in something, they can hyper-focus for hours. The downside is that they can’t unfocus if they need to move on to something else. Their brain is constantly pulling them back, saying, “Hey! You need to go back and do that thing. What are you doing? Go back to that thing. We need to be doing that.” That’s why they get irritable and angry when they are interrupted.

The Ramifications of Untreated ADHD

Untreated ADHD has been shown to reduce the average life expectancy by 12-20 years due to the impulsivity and choices people with ADHD make. About 1/3 of children with ADHD will drop out of high school, compared to 10% of non-ADHD children. About 50% are held back in at least one grade, about 50% are suspended from school at least once, and around 15% are expelled at some point. Adults with untreated ADHD are more likely to lose or quit their jobs, more likely to be unemployed or underemployed, and highly susceptible to addiction and other compulsive behaviors.

People with ADHD have been told over and over again if they just try harder, they could do great things. “If you just put in a little more effort, you could be great.”

And they try as hard as they can. They try to focus more. They try to stop talking. They try to stop daydreaming. But they can’t, because we are very limited in how much we can control our brains without help.

What is the Good News?

The good news is that while ADHD isn’t something you can cure, with the appropriate treatment and skill-building, it can be managed. The first line of treatment for ADHD is medication, and it’s effective in 70-80% of cases. Parents are often afraid of medication, so our prescribers focus on finding the right medication and dosage that will reduce the child’s difficulties without creating unmanageable side effects or hindering their creativity.

Cognitive behavioral therapy is another treatment that helps children with ADHD strengthen their attention muscles, accommodate and compensate for the symptoms, and focus on their processing and emotional regulation. ADHD is not curable in that it’s going to go away with therapy, but sufferers can learn ways to manage it and make accommodations so they can function in the world.

Another very important treatment for ADHD is to change the environment to support them. Our society is not set up for people with ADHD. We want people to sit in chairs, listen, and take in information passively. Kids with ADHD are often described as having Ferrari brains, and they are trying to stop that big, powerful engine with a bicycle brake. Changing the environment can “give them a better

brake” and significantly reduce ADHD symptoms. At the Ranch, we do this in many ways:

1. Helping our kids discover their sensory sensitivities and then creating living and classroom environments that help them manage those sensitivities.
2. Building structure and routine into everything we do—something that most of our kids have not experienced in their home environment. Even though they usually hate the routines and schedules, they do better.
3. Incorporating exercise into their routine. Consistent aerobic exercise regulates levels of dopamine which can improve symptoms, while activities that improve balance strengthen the cerebellum and increase executive functioning.
4. Helping them build good sleep hygiene and healthy eating habits to optimize brain function.
5. Allowing them to fidget and/or stimulate their minds to maintain focus. Children with ADHD often need an extra bit of stimulation to help focus their minds. Every child is different so we work with them to find ways to stimulate or calm their brains and emotions, which can include listening to music, pacing or moving around during class, and using non-disruptive fidget objects.
6. Finding alternatives to time-outs. Behavior management using

time-outs is typically ineffective for children with ADHD, and in fact is likely to escalate their anger, anxiety, and negative behaviors. Instead of sending a child to their room or putting them in a timeout, we redirect them to other activities—helping us get some papers to another teacher or building, inviting them on a walk, taking them to gym, etc.

7. Building and nurturing strong relationships. Warm, caring relationships have a more positive impact on the longevity and happiness of children and adults with ADHD than genes, physical health, or any other contributing factor. People learn to regulate their emotions and behaviors through relationships, so we are gentle, we provide praise and encouragement, and we create human connections.

ADHD is not all negative. Children with ADHD typically have a high degree of creativity. They have great imaginations and love things like drawing, painting, story making, and making music. They are kind. They are helpers. They want to fit in and do the right thing.

At the Ranch, we help children learn to channel their energy and creativity into activities and practices that build their self-esteem and confidence so they can succeed at school, at home, and in their communities.

Bringing Music to Therapy

Music has long been embraced as a coping skill at the Ranch, as a way for the children to calm themselves and manage their emotions when they feel heightened. Whether they're simply listening to music or playing an instrument, music can help our residents focus on something else, rather than what is causing them to feel stressed or alarmed. When Amber Nelson, therapist at the Ranch, mentioned wanting some hand drums to use during therapy sessions, the Ranch team went to work. Through a series of connections, we were introduced to Tim Cross.

Tim Cross, a percussionist in the Bismarck Mandan Symphony Orchestra, is a retired music teacher. He practices every day and has played with several groups over the years including the Missouri River Community Band, West River Winds, the Bismarck Mandan Wind Ensemble, and Big Al's Big Band. To say music is a large part of Tim's life is an understatement.

Tim recently shared his love of music with kids at the Ranch by donating a set of six frame drums in different sizes. His history in education has shown him first-hand the positive impact music can have on children. "Music is a universal language. Being in education, I saw what music can do," he said. "In my master's thesis, I looked at test scores of elementary

students who played an instrument and those who didn't. There is a difference in test scores."

Tim loves all types of music but is particularly drawn to drums.

"Drums are an instrument you can get very technical with," he said, "but you can learn basic things very quickly just by copying someone who is playing a rhythm. Drums allow you to be successful without a lot of practice. You can play drums just by playing simple rhythms. You can tap on counters, hands, or anything."

And helping kids be successful is what the Ranch is all about.



Paul Cordova, Residential Treatment Specialist, and Amber Nelson, therapist, show off the drums donated by Tim Cross.

The Science

Anne Holm I Am David

GIVER LOIS LOWRY knopf

THE UNTEACHABLES B+B

KORMAN RESTART S | S

KORMAN slacker

LUCADO : On the Anvil

A PRAYER FOR MY SON

LIFE APPLICATION BIBLE
NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION
NRSV
WORLD TYNDALE

HOW TO SURVIVE ANYTHING NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Barnhill The Girl Who Drank the Moon

THE GIVER GRAPHIC NOVEL CLARION BOOKS
LOIS LOWRY P. CRAIG RUSSELL
Tikki Tikki Tembo Mosel/Lent

of Reading

Turning lines and squiggles into words and stories

Many of the children who come to the Ranch struggle to read, which gets in the way of learning on every level. To learn more about the complicated barriers to reading, the most recent scientific findings, and to discover new strategies and tools they can use to help children read, Dakota Memorial School teachers and staff participated in a "Science of Reading" class in August 2022. One of the resources recommended in the training was a "Reading and the Brain" video series, funded by the United State Department of Education. The brain scientists quoted in the following pages are highlighted in the video series.

As you read this page, your eyes allow you to see the marks on the page and your brain recognizes them as words. Another part of your brain attaches meaning to the words so you can make sense of what you are reading.

But Lexi, a Ranch resident, looks at the lines dancing in front of her eyes and feels like crying.

Henry Winkler understands her pain. Winkler, an accomplished actor most remembered for his role as "The Fonz," of Happy Days fame, lives with dyslexia. As host of the "Reading and the Brain video series," Winkler defines reading as "turning lines and squiggles on a page into stories." It sounds easy and for those of us who have mastered it, reading seems quite uncomplicated.

However, reading is a complex skill that requires the involvement and coordination of many different parts of the brain.

Dr. George Hynd, a clinical child neuropsychologist who has studied the impact of brain development on learning, says, "Reading is an extremely dynamic, complicated process that involves the whole brain. What that means is that anywhere along that complicated trajectory or process, something can go wrong."

What can go wrong?

Bethany Brown, Special Education Teacher at Dakota Memorial School (DMS), Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch's on-campus school, said children struggle to read for a variety of reasons. "With some of our kids, it's gaps in education. They've been missing school or opportunities to learn because of medical needs or whatever is going on at home. Other kids have reading-based learning disabilities

(like dyslexia) that interrupt their ability to comprehend.”

Tina DeGree, Minot Principal and Director of Education at the Ranch, has more than 30 years of experience in education and is a member of the North Dakota State IDEA Advisory Council. She said many Ranch children have been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), which can also get in the way of learning to read.

“Students with ADHD have difficulty managing their impulses,” DeGree said. “You have to slow down to really be able to read. We’re all looking for ways to reroute those impulses so they don’t affect their reading—and by ‘we,’ I mean teachers, therapists, psychologists, occupational therapists, our psychiatrist, and everyone at the Ranch who works with our kids.”

Another thing that can get in the way of reading for Ranch children is the trauma they’ve experienced. Trauma can impact self-esteem, decision-making skills, memory formation and retention, visual perception (including processing speed), attention span, motor function, and many other areas of the brain.

“When kids are in the thick of trauma and they don’t feel safe, they aren’t in a place to learn anything,” Brown said. “The trauma affects their mood and thinking so they are unable to process what they are seeing or hearing in the classroom.”

In addition to the cognitive effects of trauma, emotional effects like anxiety or low self-esteem make it harder for children to learn to read.

“They say, ‘I’m an idiot. I’m stupid.’ If they have just the itsy bitsy

amount of confidence in themselves, they’ll give it a try,” said Heather Nelson, an elementary teacher at DMS. “But if they have been bullied or are scarred from previous schools,

for another failure, and the circle continues.

“If you are a sixth grader reading at a first-grade level, you are never going to select books that are going to help you become a better reader. The social pressures of wanting your peers to see you reading what they are reading are just too great. So then, you’re reading books you don’t understand,” DeGree said.

“It’s kind of like sitting down to learn how to play the piano and putting Beethoven’s Fifth in front of you. You’re never going to learn how to play piano that way. You’re going to pick out a couple of notes you know, but it’s not going to sound anything like it’s supposed to,” DeGree

said. “It’s the same way with reading books above your grade level. You’re going to read the words you know but it’s not going to be the story that’s on the page.”

The trauma, abuse, and neglect experienced by many Ranch children impact reading in other ways too. Dr. Stanley Greenspan, a renowned child psychiatrist who conducts research at George Washington University, says emotional interactions with other people are the foundation of understanding what you read.

“The richer your emotional interactions early in life, the more understanding you have of the



Elementary teachers, Jennifer Beach and Heather Nelson, are passionate about helping struggling readers.

it’s a struggle to build up that confidence.”

“We have one student who came to us in 2nd grade. He is super smart, but reading has always been a struggle for him,” said Jennifer Beach, an elementary teacher at the Ranch. “One day we were trying to get him to try and read two and three-letter words and he was terrified to even try. That fear of failing, especially in front of your peers, is so powerful.”

This fear leads to students wanting to choose books they can’t comprehend because they don’t want to be seen reading books well below their grade level. That sets them up

world, the easier it is then to have the words that you're learning have meaning," Dr. Greenspan said. "For a nine-year-old to comprehend an abstract concept like justice that they may be reading about, they have to have lots of emotional experiences with being treated fairly and unfairly."

It's also important to note that reading and comprehending the words are two different processes. Some children can sound out the words but can't make sense of the story. Others have a limited vocabulary which also gets in the way of comprehension. And in other instances, like children with dyslexia, the ability to process sounds gets in the way of learning how to read.

Dr. Nina Kraus from Evanston, IL, is researching how our brains process sound and exploring ways to work with children to improve their ability

to differentiate between sounds.

"The 26 letters of our alphabet are code for the sounds we make when we speak," she said. "If we can't understand the sounds, the letters don't mean much. We are discovering that you can train children's brains to hear more accurately, just like you train yourself to play a musical instrument."

Why is reading so important?

"Reading is the foundation of every single subject in school. Even subjects like Math and Phy-ed have some reading involved," said Carla Luehe, librarian for the Dakota Memorial School district. "When a student is successful in reading, it carries over to all the other content areas."

DeGree, who taught first grade for more than ten years early on in her career, knows that a solid base in language, phonics, phonemic awareness (see sidebar), and vocabulary, are critical for success in later grades.

"There is so much research showing that kids who don't have a firm grasp on reading by the third grade are much more likely to have negative outcomes in their future," DeGree said. "First we teach children how to read and then they spend the rest of their lives reading to learn."

Dan Kelly, language arts teacher, said life is hard without reading. "Reading is the foundational skill. Every subject, your whole life really, is based on the ability to

read," Kelly said. "Reading gives you the lifelong skill of being able to advocate for yourself and to do critical thinking. The relatability of the characters in books and stories is important too. I know from my own experiences that it's just like maybe somebody understands how you feel."

For her older students, Brown stresses these practical aspects of reading by talking about all the things they'll need to read to function in the world.

"Our kids want to live independently and have jobs, and reading seeps into all of those things," Brown said. "You might have to read a contract for something, like a rental agreement, or read information for your job. If you don't quite understand what you're reading, you might get yourself into a tough situation."

Ranch children read

While many Ranch children don't like to read, others are avid readers. And some learn to enjoy reading while they are with us.

"I see a high interest in reading here at the Ranch because the kids don't spend a lot of time plugged into devices," said Luehe. "And even as a public school teacher, I noticed that



Dan Kelly said reading opens children's minds to many different perspectives and allows them to travel the world.

Phonemic Awareness vs. Phonics:

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and manipulate the sounds in spoken words. **Phonics** is understanding that the sounds are connected to letters and using letter and letter combinations to read and spell unfamiliar words.

students who were residents of the Ranch, but students of the public school, were often avid readers. They always wanted to take books home so they could read them in the evenings.”

Nelson said one situation at Parent-Teacher conferences this fall really stood out. “We had one student whose mom was a librarian and he didn’t like to read at all. He came here and lived in the cottage and now he loves reading.”

DeGree believes some Ranch children are avid readers because of their trauma. “It becomes a way for them to escape their reality and explore a world different than what they’ve known. I think it turns it into a movie in their mind so that they can jump out of where they’re at and put themselves in another character’s shoes. When you watch Mrs. Luehe read to our elementary kids, you can see they have just been whisked away to a whole different place.”

Building reading skills

When children come to the Ranch and start working through past trauma, we first start building a relationship with them and helping them feel safe.

“When our kids start feeling comfortable in the environment and with the people, they can start taking in new information and learning new skills,” Brown said.

Then we can begin identifying each child’s challenges and finding ways to incorporate what we’ve learned about reading science to explore strategies that work for each child.

Having a variety of great books available is a good place to start, Beach said. “You need to find that

hook, something that interests them. One of my students hated reading and refused to do it most of the time. Until we started reading “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” when he was in fifth grade.

I always project the text onto the

libraries are stocked with a variety of graphic novels.

“Graphic novels make reading more accessible to kids who might not read otherwise,” Brown said. “Not only is less text good, but the visuals really support some children’s ability



After taking an intensive summer Science of Reading course, teachers Cher Baggett, Tina DeGree, Michelle Racine, Heather Racnerud, Bethany Brown, and Roanna Parker, gathered in the library to talk about their favorite books.

whiteboard and move the cursor so the kids can follow along to the audiobook. At first, he would just listen and color. About halfway into the book, he started to follow along with the text on the board and by the end of the book, he was reading ahead and wanted me to click to the next page before the audiobook was ready. Soon, his mom called to tell me he was reading books at home, and when he transitioned back to his home school, he was on the 7th Harry Potter book. All it took was for us to find something that interested him.”

In addition to traditional books and novels, DMS

to follow the story. I do think they’re worthwhile, partly because they’re just reading something, but also you know, they still have the structure



Dalton Cooper, Phy. Ed. teacher, incorporates vocabulary and comprehension into his lessons.

of literature and they're working on fluency and comprehension, all those different skills."

DeGree agrees that graphic novels play an important role. "If you're a struggling reader and you pick up a book with a lot of print and not a lot of white space, you might not even try to read it," she said. "We are just trying to get kids to pick up and read anything. You have to pick what the child will read and sometimes that's a graphic novel. Do I want kids to read only comic books and graphic novels their entire lives? No, I want them to expand. But you can't work on comprehension and decoding and all of those things with a refusal."

Another tool DMS elementary teachers use for reading instruction is the Edmentum online learning platform. Edmentum helps teachers assess students' instructional needs and develop personalized instruction for each student. In addition, Edmentum provides an Exact Path online learning path for each student. DMS elementary students spend 20-30 minutes each week on the platform going through independent learning activities appropriate for their specific needs.

"Our students take diagnostic tests on Edmentum three or four times a year, and then work on things they are struggling with. The learning activities are so individually based and give them opportunities to hit targets and be successful," Nelson said.

Playing with language, playing with words, making up silly words, and singing songs, are additional learning strategies that play a huge part in building a strong base of reading. These are important activities in all elementary schools but even more

so at DMS because of the children's backgrounds.

"Play is sometimes very difficult for our kids that have been through such a trauma background because that feeling of being happy or that feeling of being silly sometimes triggers very uncomfortable memories and emotions," DeGree said. "Maybe they always needed to be on high alert to be safe. Once they feel safe with us, they can let down their guard and participate in silly word games and songs."

Victoria Molfese, a researcher at the University of Louisville, said, "For generations, people have done nursery rhymes with children and played word games. We have found out that wordplay is important for developing speech discrimination.



In her role as District Librarian/Media Specialist, Carla Luehe is committed to finding the right book for every Ranch resident—always striving to spark their love for reading.

Children who may be at risk for learning disabilities, who are not as good at hearing contrast between different speech sounds, need extra experience with those kinds of games."

With her role as a librarian at DMS

moving to full-time this school year, Luehe has lots of plans for increasing those experiences. "Reading has always been my passion, so learning about the science of reading and then finding a way to inspire a young person to read, is a welcome challenge. I always tell students and teachers, 'If someone doesn't like to read, we just haven't found the right book'."

Luehe's first goal is to get the books from all three schools (Fargo, Bismarck, and Minot) cataloged online. So far, she has cataloged all 6,169 of the books, magazines, and technology in the Minot campus library and is starting to work on the books in Fargo. Fargo's newly remodeled Library/Media Center has about 1,200 books with shelf space for over 5,000 books. You can help fill this space, and add books requested by the other campus libraries and classroom teachers through the Amazon store link on page 14.

Luehe is planning book clubs, book fairs, and reading challenges, as well as implementing the Accelerated Reading program, to add some fun and competitiveness around reading. She is also encouraging the teachers to read aloud and to model their own reading behavior with their students.

Incorporating reading into every subject

The summer class attended by several DMS teachers stressed the importance of incorporating reading into every subject. Dalton Cooper, Physical Education teacher, said he introduces new words to identify common topics.

"It's not like we are reading a book during PE. It's more about

using different words when I give instructions. For instance, instead of saying, 'orange line,' I might say, 'boundary or perimeter line.' Instead of referring to the center 'circle,' I use the word 'sphere.' And it's not just reading," Cooper said.

"I think it's important for kids to learn that everything is connected. We are playing basketball right now, so we're talking a lot about angles when we're shooting and trying to get a high arc on the ball. The weight room is a good place to

incorporate science, like the anatomy and physiology of the body, how the body moves, and what muscle groups are working. Each of those topics involves new words to increase vocabulary."

DeGree said DMS teachers incorporate reading and vocabulary into classes other than language arts in many ways. "When they are teaching ancient Egypt, they not only write and define the word

'pyramid,' but draw a pyramid, and maybe find words that rhyme with 'pyramid.' You're building some great connections.



Bethany Brown, Special Education teacher, helps children understand how reading will help them become independent.

Winkler said, "Today the best hope for a struggling reader is that brain surgeon in the classroom – a talented teacher. Researchers are working to give teachers even better tools so kids can avoid years of frustration and jump

into a good book."

Through collaboration between teachers and specialized training, Dakota Memorial School is taking advantage of these tools so our students can build the reading skills they need.

"These are awesome kids who just need a little bit of guidance, a little push in the right direction," Cooper said. "They are all capable of great things."

Book recommendations from our students

"Beautiful Creatures," by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl. "I just love it and think it would be a good one for the library." —M.J.

"Tokyo Ghoul" series by Sui Ishida. "This was the first anime that got me into anime. It'd be a good idea to have more manga in the library." —A.S.

"A Boy Called It," by Dave Pelzer. "It was interesting." —C.E.

"Where's Waldo" by Martin Handford. "It's so fun. I'd also like to see more mystery novels in the library." —M.M.

"A Beautiful Composition of Broken" by R.H. Sin. "I like Sin's books of poetry." —G.B.

"The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak. —R.D.

Fill our shelves with books

To provide books for our campus and classroom libraries that will teach and inspire our Ranch children to become lifelong readers, check out our Amazon Wish List at DakotaRanch.org/Books (or scan the QR code to the right.)



Writing can be a wonderful way for teens to express their emotions and work through the impact of trauma. It helps them process the trauma, find their voice, work through memories and emotions, and release stress. At the Ranch, we encourage children for whom writing is a healing practice to write both in therapy (journaling) and in class (poetry, essays, stories, etc.) And in some cases, they ask us to share their words with you.

To the People I've Lost

By Lin, a former Ranch resident

To everyone I've lost
I'm staying strong
'Cause I know you're not gone for good
And you're happy just like you should be.

I know you flew away
To a better place.
I'm not afraid cause
Where you're soaring is safe.

I'm sure you're smiling and laughing
At the dumb things I do.
Wouldn't put it too far past you
To be singing with me
The songs that I'd scream
Racing away from the places we hate.

My loves don't worry, it won't be too long
But until then, I'll keep singing this song.

I still feel every one of you by my side.
On my lonely nights I cry myself to sleep
'Cause it feels like everything
Came down crashin' to my feet.

But I'll pick up every piece
Because you taught me
Pain goes away.
I'll be okay.

You brought the color back into my eyes
When I was only seeing black and white.

To everyone I've lost
I'm staying strong.
'Cause I know you're not gone for good
And you're happy just like you should be.
You showed me love is a real thing.
Hurting isn't the only feeling.
That I'm deserving
Of great things.

My loves don't worry
It won't be too long.
Until then I'll keep singing this song.

And these past few days
I've been struggling
But I'll always have the colors
You brought into my life, so I'll be fine.

To everyone I've lost
You'll never be something I just forgot.

Celebrations

Christmas at the Ranch

A look back at Christmas 2021



Messiah Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND donated their “Noisy Change Offering” to the children at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, who used the funds to purchase presents for their loved ones. The check was presented to Joy Ryan, President/CEO by Kirk Hawley, West Fargo Thrift Store Manager, and his wife, Julie.



Bismarck campus residents took part in the annual Santa Run, where they were surrounded by a sea of Santas!



Cornerstone Presbyterian Church and Vincent United Methodist Church hosted Angel Trees for Ranch residents.



In Fargo, the special Christmas Chapel service featured a live nativity performed by Ranch staff.



A group of children worked with staff members Brooke and Sam to form a Christmas Choir. They practiced hard and performed at the Bismarck Christmas Chapel in their awesome matching sweaters!



Alyssa Edwards, Nursing Assistant, took home first prize (the golden oven mitt) in Minot's Holiday Goodie Bakeoff.



Ranch staff across all three campuses gathered in their Christmas best to celebrate the Season, each other, and our amazing children!



Minot residents got into the holiday spirit by decorating cards and cookies to spread some Christmas cheer with a local nursing home.



Most Artistic



Most Unique



Most Traditional

Students in the Life Skills class practiced important skills like flexibility, perseverance, time management, budgeting, and planning to complete their houses for the Gingerbread House Competition.

Celebrations

Learning skills for life

Students at Dakota Memorial School, Bismarck, practiced their camping skills. Before setting up their tent, they observed the various ecosystems in the environment around them to understand the obstacles they may encounter in a wilderness area.



Going for gold!

The Minot campus held its annual Summer Cottage Olympics. The events this year included a basketball tournament, sand volleyball tournament, kickball, relay races, a homerun derby, and so much more.



Residents in each cottage designed a special t-shirt to represent their team.



Everyone enjoyed the friendly competition and a chance to win special medals and trophies for their hard work.



The closing ceremony included a delicious campus-wide picnic, served by some of our amazing staff.

Looking to the future

Students at Dakota Memorial School, Minot, visited Butler Machinery to learn about the company and what they do. A few students thought Butler would be a great place to work and showed interest in working there someday.



Students enjoyed a look at all the potential career opportunities at Butler Machinery, and they were even treated to lunch by the company.

Sharing their servant hearts

A confirmation class from Messiah Lutheran Church in Lakeville, MN served on our Fargo campus this summer. Servant Teams, a program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, give high school students the opportunity to serve the Church and the world.



Pictured from left: DCE Madi Patrow, Emma, DCE Andy Frerich, Ashtyn, Hayley, Elyse, Bre, Caleb, Julianna, Jenny, and Deaconess Stephanie Wilde.

The group assisted our Facilities Team with landscaping projects, helping to beautify the grounds.

Members of the servant team joined our kids and staff for an exciting game of kickball!

Connecting together

One of our CONNECT classes created “Connect Containers,” to hold memorabilia of their time together, as well as serve as a reminder to mindfully focus on the here and now. CONNECT classes at Dakota Memorial School focus on three pillars—social emotional learning, executive functioning, and transitions.



The girls in Dr. Pokrzywinski’s CONNECT class added name cards and words that signify what they will contribute to the group, including “learning,” “humor,” and “presence.”

Celebrations

Safety first!

The Safetember celebration, hosted by the North Dakota Safety Council, was a great way for Ranch children to learn how first responders, private companies, and education providers work together to make our communities safe.



The event featured demonstrations like drone rescues and putting out fires.

Getting out into nature

The Wildlife Club in Minot introduces Ranch residents to the positive impact nature can have on their lives. It also gives them the opportunity to go fishing! The warm weather doesn't always last in North Dakota, so they get out on the water as often as they can.



The Club's first outing was at Rice Lake, where they had a great night of fishing and smores by the campfire.



The Wildlife Club went fishing at Grano Bridge. Many of the participants had fishing knowledge to share and encouraged the first-time fishermen!



On their latest fishing adventure, the Wildlife Club enjoyed a beautiful sunset, caught a couple fish, and learned from Mr. Meier, Wildlife Club Coordinator, how to clean a fish.



Bringing culture to the classroom

During Summer Programming, students studied different countries including Germany, Taiwan, England, Puerto Rico, and Kenya. While studying England, they sipped on tea and enjoyed some delicious homemade finger sandwiches with Karen Engelter, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO, whose grandmother is from Bury St. Edmunds in the UK. Karen grew up with many English traditions, including a weekly Sunday pot roast with Yorkshire pudding, lots of tea, and fancy tea parties, so she loved being able to share it with the kids.



The girls were especially excited to try on a replica of Princess Diana's engagement ring.



The class prepared finger sandwiches with some of their favorite toppings—cucumber and cream cheese, meat and cheese, and peanut butter and Nutella.



Making a splash

Wake the World invited our residents to spend a day with Wake the World, a nonprofit that gives kids the opportunity to participate in watersports activities.



We spent a day on the lake tubing, wakeboarding, and swimming!

Together in hope

Deaconesses Kelly Bristow and Stephanie Wilde hosted a retreat for deaconesses across North Dakota at our Minot campus. It was a time of fellowship and encouragement. The weekend included a tour of the Minot campus (including some time with the horses!), fun activities with the kids, a book study, and a sending service led by Rev. Rick Jones, Chaplain at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.



From left: Deaconess Kelly Bristow, Deaconess Nicole Beyersdorf, Deaconess Nayva Mulder, Deaconess Michele Doel, and Deaconess Stephanie Wilde.

Celebrations

An unfor-goat-able evening

With a special invitation from That's the Dream Farm, Nikki and Lindsey, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants, took residents to the farm for their Open House, which included goat yoga, archery, and more. That's the Dream Farm is a local nonprofit that aims to provide a serene setting for people to learn, grow, and heal.



Yoga is a great coping skill for children at the Ranch—it helps them calm their minds and bodies and learn to manage their emotions.



Some of our residents enjoyed the opportunity to practice their archery skills.



Welcome back to school!

Teachers and staff welcomed Residential and Day Program students back to Dakota Memorial School, the on-campus school of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, with smiling faces, festive decorations, and motivational posters made by different departments across the Ranch.



Shayla Leinen, Principal, and John Campbell, Coordinator of Student Services, both in Fargo, were thrilled to have students back in the building and excited for another great school year at DMS.



Sydney the therapy dog was excited to welcome the kids back to school and wanted to share some doggone encouraging advice!

The staff at Dakota Family Services, our outpatient clinic, shared some great reminders to set our students up for success this school year!



The Ranch celebrates 4th annual Bee Kind day!

Bullying prevention is a big deal at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. We believe it is so important to create an environment of kindness and encouragement to create a better world. Each year, we spend the month of October talking about how we can prevent bullying, what bullying looks like, how it affects the people involved, and how we can be kind to others.

One Ranch resident said it best, "Bullying is not okay and is very hurtful. If we don't stand up, who will?"



Staff and students across the three campuses looked extra festive in their Bee Kind shirts as we celebrated National Stop Bullying Day on October 12th.



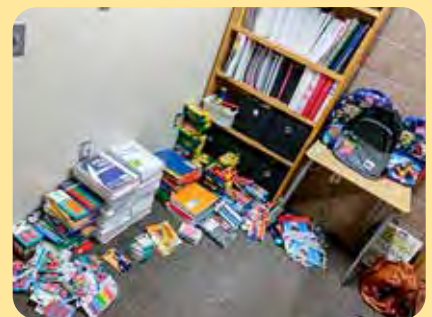
Signing the "Bee Kind Contract" symbolized everyone's commitment to be kind to themselves and others.



Thankful for our community



Dollar Tree in Bismarck made sure our students were well-prepared for the school year with this great donation of school supplies!



The Mercy Box, a local nonprofit, collected school supplies for the Ranch throughout the month of August. Thank you to everyone in the Bismarck-Mandan community who donated!

Science is fun!

Students at Dakota Memorial School, Minot, are learning about the scientific method. After constructing their pillars, forming a hypothesis, and making a prediction, students conducted experiments to see how many books their pillars could hold.



The class also held a friendly competition to see whose pillars could hold the most. The record...TWENTY-SIX BOOKS!

Celebrations

Celebrating 70 years of excellence

Ranch staff and Board Members celebrated 70 years of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in August. The Ranch was founded in 1952 and has dedicated the last 70 years to helping at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.

We're grateful for each person that works hard each day to make the Ranch a place of healing and hope for the most amazing kids.



Our Minot campus celebrated the Ranch's 70th Anniversary with a 50s-themed soda pop shoppe!



Staff in Bismarck gathered to celebrate 70 years of serving children and families, with a look back at where we started and some fun 1952 trivia!



Summer memories at Medora

The boys and girls in Bismarck enjoyed their annual trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park, complete with hiking, beautiful scenery, and some wildlife! Wellness Coordinator, Tal, said, “We had a blast, and it was certainly a day to remember.”



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year



By Rev,
Rick Jones,
Chaplain, VP
Spiritual Life
Dakota Boys
and Girls
Ranch

Christmas is my favorite time of year. I look back on my childhood holidays with joy and warmth, but that is not always the case for our Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch residents. For those whose homes were a source of pain, neglect, or instability, the holiday season can bring past traumatic experiences back to the surface. For some, early trauma has stunted their ability to feel warm, positive emotions altogether. They have been deprived of the deep emotional and empathetic relationships so many of us cherish.

Many of our traditions at the Ranch seek to provide and reinforce positive relationships and to develop empathy skills. Of course, we make sure our residents receive gifts and special holiday treats, but we also give them opportunities to get into the Holiday Spirit of compassion.

Reaching out with compassion

Many of the children in our care have been the recipients of gifts from people who chose their name from an Angel or Giving Tree. Last year, some of our Fargo residents decided they wanted to be the

givers, so we arranged for them to choose names from an Angel Tree in the community. It was powerful to see their faces light up with joy and pride as they took pains to pick out just the right gift for other children in need. They had been blessed by others and now wanted to be the blessing. The experience was humbling and inspiring. Our residents, who have been denied so much in life, reached out with real compassion to show grace to others.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

—**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

Sharing their gifts

In “The Little Drummer Boy,” a little boy whose only possession in the world is a drum, finds himself in the presence of the infant Jesus. The boy senses the importance of this moment and knows the child is worthy of praise and honor, but he has nothing to offer. So, he does the only thing he can, he plays a song on his drum for the Messiah. We don’t all have riches, wealth, or even great talents, but all of us have something to offer.

Some years, our children in Bismarck discover the reassurance and enjoyment that comes from

sharing their most modest gifts with others by participating in the Living Nativity at Zion Lutheran Church. It is a very simple thing to do, but the responsibility and determination they put into their parts are unparalleled. They take sharing the Christmas story very seriously and find great reward in bringing joy and entertainment to others.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

—**1 Peter 4:10**

Making Christmas special

A final Christmas tradition I’d like to share comes from our Minot campus. On each of our campuses, residents occasionally visit people in nursing homes, but it’s become a regular activity in Minot. Several years ago, we started baking cookies and making Christmas cards for the residents of a Minot nursing home and distributed the cookies and cards during one of our regular visits.

One year, however, a resident felt moved to do much more. She noticed that some of the residents didn’t get many family visits at Christmas and didn’t have meaningful Holiday celebrations. With her enthusiasm leading the way, we arranged for a special Christmas visit to the facility. The kids decorated the cookies and cards with their favorite Christmas themes, personalizing them so each

nursing home resident received a cookie and a card with their name on it. The kids dressed up in their nicest holiday attire to deliver the holiday treats. The visit concluded with everyone gathering for cider and hot chocolate while our kids sang Christmas Carols.

There were tears in the eyes of every adult and smiles on the face of every child. It was powerful. It was beautiful. It was wonderful. When I asked the young girl why she wanted to do so much extra for this visit, she said, "Christmas is supposed to be special, so I just wanted them to have a really special and happy Christmas-time."

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

—Philippians 2:3-4

The Christmas season is a time of hope, a time of peace, a time of joy, and a time of love. But hope, peace, joy, and love are often missing from the lives of the children we serve at the Ranch. When we introduce them to those blessings, their lives are often transformed. When they experience God's compassion and love, they want to provide those same blessings for others. Christmas truly is the most wonderful time of the year.



Merry
Christmas,
one and all!

From Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

Healing Spaces: Building Places of Care and Hope

Chapel on the Western Plains Bismarck Campus of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

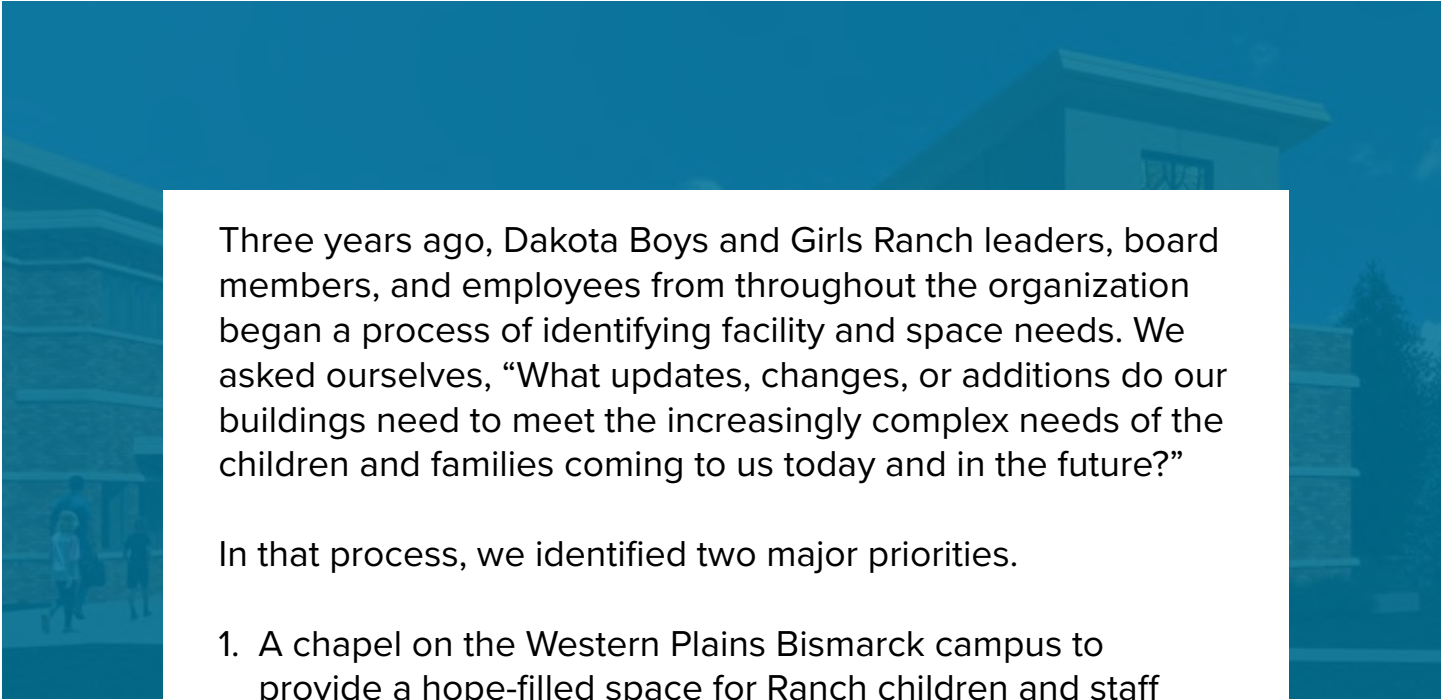
Purpose: To provide a hope-filled space for Ranch children and staff to hear the Gospel, pray, find peace, and learn of God's unconditional love.



Zurcher Cottage: A New Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility on the Minot Campus of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

Purpose: To build a space designed to provide best-in-class care and treatment for the youngest and highest needs boys and girls served at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.





Three years ago, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch leaders, board members, and employees from throughout the organization began a process of identifying facility and space needs. We asked ourselves, “What updates, changes, or additions do our buildings need to meet the increasingly complex needs of the children and families coming to us today and in the future?”

In that process, we identified two major priorities.

1. A chapel on the Western Plains Bismarck campus to provide a hope-filled space for Ranch children and staff to hear the Gospel, pray, find peace, and learn of God’s unconditional love.
2. A new Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility on the Minot campus to provide best-in-class care and treatment for the youngest and highest-needs boys and girls served at the Ranch.

The “quiet” fundraising campaigns for each of these projects began in January 2022, and thanks to some remarkable people who blessed us with their support, we have reached over 70% of our fundraising goal for both campaigns.

We know we have more Ranch donors who might be interested in supporting one or both of the campaigns to better serve the needs of the troubled, complicated, and amazing children who come through our doors.

You may be one of those people. If you feel called to join an incredible group of people who care about children and want to provide healing spaces for children now and into the future, read through the information in the following pages.

Building a Place of Hope

A chapel on the Western Plains campus of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch to provide a hope-filled space for Ranch children and staff to hear the Gospel, pray, find peace, and learn of God's unconditional love.



Rev. Rick Jones

“Before I came here, [to the Ranch], I really didn’t have faith. I didn’t grow up going to church. But it’s been a big thing for me and I feel like every single day I gain more and more faith.”

—Lynn



To our partners in mission and ministry,

Since 1952, worship and spiritual life have been the foundation of the services Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch provides for at-risk children and their families. We have learned that having access to devotional resources and settings can have a profound impact on the healing of our precious children—who are all working through difficult circumstances.

Jesus says, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

The chapels on our Minot and Fargo campuses have been a blessing to our children as they provide dedicated spaces for emotional and spiritual care. Besides weekly chapel services, the chapels are used daily by children and staff for prayerful contemplation and reflection when they need a moment of calm or peace in their day.

Dedicated chapel space provides positive opportunities for staff and clients. Please help us in extending the opportunities, quality, consistency, and permanency of our services as we undertake the construction of a dedicated chapel and spiritual life space on our Bismarck campus.

Your support of this important project will give our children a place to find rest for their souls.

With sincere gratitude,

Rev. Rick Jones
Chaplain, VP Spiritual Life
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

Ranch children need a place of hope

Most children come to the Ranch with little background of faith. The Ranch is often the first place they learn about Jesus.

We are called to give each child the chance to meet Him and discover how His love, grace, and peace can help them find and become their best selves. It is only through Christ that the healing work of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is successful.

When the Western Plains campus was built in 2003, it was not designed for the children we currently serve. The children were likely to participate in faith communities outside of our campus. On-campus spiritual life programming was held in a multi-purpose conference room or an available classroom.

Changing needs

Since the building of the Bismarck campus, the programming has evolved to its current iteration as a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility. The children who now come into our care are survivors of significant trauma. They have psychiatric and behavioral issues that make safety, predictability, and consistency critical to their healing.

Of course, we work from the moment we meet them to help them gain the strength to leave us. But, they come to us needing resources that are accessible and healing.

At our Bismarck location, we have a gym to provide for our children's physical needs, a school to provide for their educational needs, and

sensory and therapy rooms to provide for their psychiatric and sensory needs.

Now is the time to create a healing space where we can minister to our precious children's spiritual needs—a place where they can find hope in Christ.

Our kids

Each year, children come to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch having experienced severe psychiatric, emotional, behavioral, and/or developmental challenges due to abuse, neglect, violence, and more. Unparalleled hope and healing await them as they experience the Ranch's best-in-class psychiatric care, seamlessly combined with best-in-class Christ-centered spiritual care,

to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.

The trauma our precious children have each endured is often impossible for us to understand. But at the Ranch, we believe faith opens the door to hope. And, without hope, there is no healing.

We provide specialized spiritual life programs on all of our campuses to help our kids realize that Christ is with them to help them carry their burdens when they are in pain.

A chapel will give our kids a dedicated space where they can meet God and invite Him into their lives, enabling them to love and be loved, accept and be accepted, give and receive respect, and thrive and help others thrive.

Sierra's Journey of Hope

Sierra and her brother were removed from their mother's care when she was 5 ½ because of "severe abuse and torture." By the age of 12, Sierra lived in 15 different foster homes.

At age 12, she was adopted by a North Dakota family who loved her unconditionally, but Sierra only knew a life of chaos, so she re-created what was familiar. Sierra didn't believe she was worthy of her parent's love, so she did everything she could to push them away.

At age 14, Sierra was placed at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. She said it was at the Ranch that she had a huge breakthrough in her faith.

"I can do anything with God [by my side]," Sierra said. "I like being at the Ranch. God is here."

What?

In 2020, the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation board of directors approved the hiring of an architectural firm to create plans and estimate costs for a chapel on the Bismarck campus.

The plans are to build a 3,175-square-foot chapel addition that will provide a dedicated space for meeting the spiritual needs of Ranch children and staff in Bismarck.

A sled roof coming off the building is an innovative way to create a building that is recognizable as a chapel yet doesn't block the windows of the children's living space on the main floor.

In addition to storage and mechanical rooms, the addition will house a Spiritual Life Office, a music room, and a group room for holding Spiritual Life groups. A vestibule will provide a place to enter the space from outside and the hallway will connect directly to the hallway in the existing school.

In addition to providing a space for hope and healing, the chapel will be an iconic representation to the Bismarck community that Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is a Christ-centered facility.

Once the campaign is complete, the architects will work with a liturgical consultant to design a space that honors our Christian traditions and meets the practical needs of our children and staff.

Next steps

Our goal is to raise \$2.4 million to build the proposed chapel and create a maintenance fund.

Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, raised a seed gift of \$70,000 for the building of a holy place for our kids and staff.

Since January 2022, several donors have come forward with significant gifts to bring us to 71% of our campaign goal. The

Rupert Dunklau Foundation has also committed \$250,000 to the project if we can raise an additional \$750,000 from individual donors like you.

Please prayerfully consider joining them to create a healing space where we can minister to our precious children's spiritual needs.



Above: The architects will work with a liturgical consultant to create the final floor plan and design a space that honors our Christian traditions and meets the practical needs of the staff.

Left: Stacy Askvig, stained glass artist and friend of the Ranch, is donating her time and talents to create the stained glass window for the new chapel.

Building a Place of Care

A new psychiatric residential treatment facility on the Minot campus to provide best-in-class care and treatment for the youngest and highest needs boys and girls served at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.



Dear Friends,

The precious children who come to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch have endured so much. Sometimes they come into my office and tell me their stories—the things they have been through in their short lives.

A 15-year-old boy told me about his first suicide attempt at age 9. He thought if he died, his younger siblings would be taken away from their abusive parents. He wanted to rescue the brothers and sisters he loved. Instead, that desperation took hold of him and his behavior.

For some of our kids, this is the first time they have slept in a bed, not gone to bed hungry, or had anyone listen to their deepest pains and fears. For many, it is the first time they have been told of Christ's love for them. The children come here with psychiatric and behavioral challenges of the highest degree, but if we look at where they have come from, we can understand them and help them heal.

That healing starts when they walk into their cottage at the Ranch. They, as all children do, need to feel safe... but for these kids, the standards are high because they have so often felt unsafe.

It is time to replace the nearly 50-year-old cottages that provide shelter for the children with the highest needs on our Minot Campus. The buildings have served us well and have been retrofitted and maintained—but they were never designed to provide the care our children now require.

Please prayerfully consider a gift to support this important project. Join us in “helping at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.”

In His Love,

Joy K. Ryan, President/CEO
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch



Joy Ryan, President/CEO
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

“I was destroying myself. The Ranch can really change people. It doesn't matter how bad it is or what you've been through—if you are willing to do the work, the Ranch can help.”

—Katie

Ranch children need a place of care

Children come to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch with psychiatric and behavioral challenges of the highest degree. For some of our kids, this is first time they have slept in a bed, not gone to bed hungry, or had anyone listen to their deepest pains and fears. We are called to give them a safe place to live, learn, and heal so they can see the world differently, feel the love of God through those who care for them,

and look to the future with hope.

A new Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) on our Minot campus will help us provide for the unique needs of our youngest boys and girls, most between the ages of 10 and 14. Historically, kids who came to the Ranch needed food, a bed, structure, and help managing their behaviors. The buildings were built to be homey, economical, and functional. They

are four-level splits with stairs and fireplaces, and bedroom windows that open because there are no sprinkler systems. There are lots of nooks and crannies and hard-to-use areas. We have retrofitted the buildings to adapt them to our current population of children, but they continue to present challenges.

They were never designed for children who need the PRTF level of care. Today's residents have psychiatric needs of the highest degree. A place that encompasses hominess and comfort, along with safety, predictability, and consistency is critical to their healing.

As we design a new facility to house our PRTF programs, we are accounting for the needs of our kids today and in the future. Using the most current knowledge of trauma-informed care, emerging brain research, and our own experiences, we are designing spaces that will not only keep our children safe and help them heal but provide them with a comfortable home-like environment.

Now is the time to create a healing space where we can wrap our precious children in the love and care they need to become their best selves.

Our Kids

Each year, children come to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch having experienced severe psychiatric, emotional, behavioral, and/or developmental challenges due to abuse, neglect, violence, and more. At the Ranch, we believe that with the right care, love, individualized

Shanaye's Story

When 16-year-old Shanaye came to the Ranch she was barely talking to her family. She was depressed, suicidal, and had quit doing the activities she previously enjoyed.

Shanaye's childhood has been difficult. Her dad abused her until he moved out when Shanaye was 13.

"At home it was really hard. I was abused for a good portion of my life, and it was just horrible," she said.

Shanaye was not happy about coming to the Ranch. She didn't think she needed to be here, and in her own words, "was very defiant."

But, with a place to feel safe and secure, family therapy, "trauma therapy that changed everything," and a lot of people who cared, Shanaye learned to love herself, built strong relationships with her brother and mother, and found a reason to live.

"To be honest, if it weren't for the Ranch, I'd probably be dead by now," Shanaye said. "I saw myself as having no future. Now I see myself graduating from high school and continuing my education to become a clinical psychologist or psychiatrist."

educational approaches, and therapy, all children can have a better future.

We provide specialized psychiatric and educational services to the most troubled, complicated, and amazing children. A new facility will give us space specifically designed to keep our kids safe and comfortable, while allowing us to provide best-in-class psychiatric care, nursing services, occupational therapy, wellness activities, and more.

What?

In 2017, a group of Ranch staff and board members came together to form the Minot Work Group. Their task was two-fold. First, they were to oversee a campus assessment and prioritize any necessary repairs and upgrades. The initial priorities have

been addressed, thanks to friends of the Ranch who came together to support a mini campaign.

The second task of the Work Group was to determine the additional spaces needed to better serve our kids and their families well into the future.

The plans are to build a 16,100 square foot Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility. The facility design will integrate everything we have learned about brain development, treatment, and trauma-informed care.

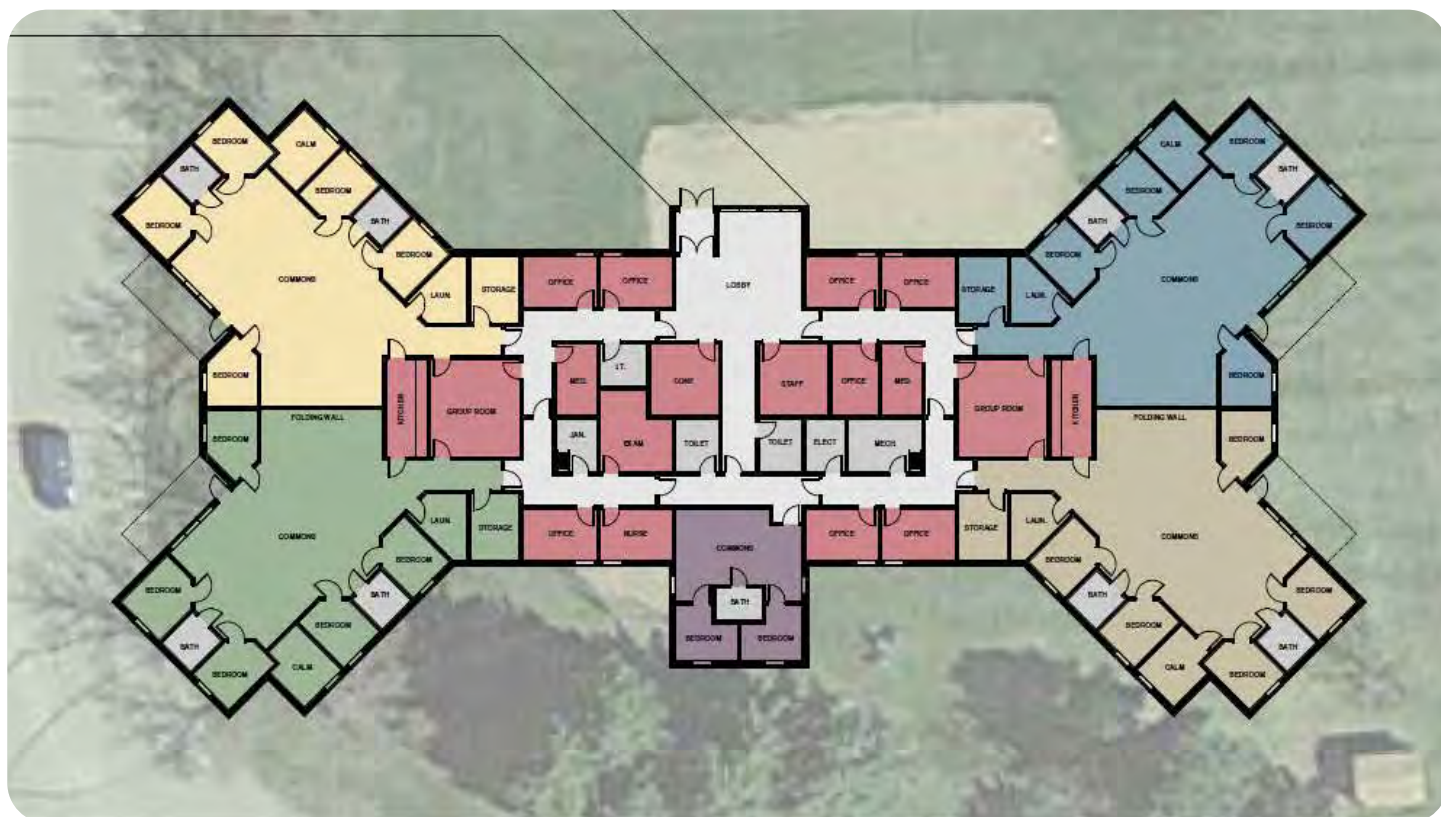
The building will provide a safe, comfortable healing and living space for up to 16 children, with twenty bedrooms giving us flexibility. The wings will not be co-ed, but with each wing able to serve either girls

or boys at any given time, we can meet the needs of the children who come to our doors. We can also more easily address a child's illness or medical issues without impacting an entire wing.

Next Steps

Our goal is to raise \$6.5 million to build the proposed building and create a maintenance fund.

Carol Townsend, Houston, TX, made a significant lead gift to the Zurcher Cottage Campaign in memory of her parents, Elmer and Connie Zurcher, and her brother Earl. Carol has a long history with the Ranch—she grew up in Minot, ND, and her father was on the Ranch's board of directors. She also recalls boys from the Ranch living



Zurcher Cottage proposed floor plan.

with them during the summer to help on the farm.

“So many of these children come in so damaged that they need pretty intensive work,” Carol said. “If I can help in some small way to give them a more hopeful, God-centered future, it would be a really wonderful thing.”

Planning for the Future

We are starting with the PRTEF, along with a new road directing traffic along alternative routes, because these are our most urgent needs. But the needs of our kids don't end there, so we are planning for the future at the same time.

In addition to Zurcher Cottage and the new road, the architectural

renderings of our Minot campus (below) show a 25-year plan that includes additions to the school to account for the increased number of Day Students and a new dining center. Also included in the long-term plan is a central outdoor prayer garden/chapel illustrating that Christ is, and always will be, at the center of our mission and our work.



Left: Minot campus architectural rendering. 25-year plan.

Bottom right: Carol Townsend, Houston, TX, made a significant lead gift in honor of her parents, Elmer and Connie Zurcher, and her brother, Earl.

Bottom left: The Zurcher family, 1970.



Help us build these healing spaces for at-risk children and their families

Please talk with a Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Development Officer to learn more or to discuss your giving options. Call 1-800-344-0957 or email info@dakotaranch.org.

Ways to give:

1. A gift of appreciated stock or securities
2. A gift of commodities
3. An outright gift

Give by phone:

Call 1-800-344-0957

Give by mail:

Mail check to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, P.O. Box 5007, Minot, ND 58702

Give online:

Go to DakotaRanch.org/HealingSpaces to donate to the Bismarck Chapel Campaign.

Go to DakotaRanch.org/ZurcherCottage to donate to Zurcher Cottage, the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility on the Minot campus.



Bismarck
Chapel



Zurcher
Cottage

Our commitment to incurring no debt

The earliest Ranch buildings were all constructed once the unfettered funds were acquired. Although in these times, borrowing is sometimes a necessity, we are committed to not encumbering the future stewards of the Ranch with these projects.

We will begin construction when the necessary funding has been received. This is consistent with the wishes of our board and our donors. Cash pledges that can be completed by the end of each campaign are certainly a wonderful way to participate in this effort.

Our commitment to no debt and a maintenance fund for anything we build ensures that ongoing support from Ranch donors can underwrite services for kids rather than pay down debt.

Continuing My Ranch Journey



By Angela Kargbo,
Development
Officer,
Dakota Boys and
Girls Ranch

When I graduated from college and became a licensed social worker, I didn't know where my future would take me. So, when I saw an ad for a job at the Ranch, "part-time helping kids," I applied. What better way to fill time and pay bills until I figured out what I truly wanted to do with my life? I started as a direct care staff and eventually moved into a full-time case manager position. Eighteen years have gone by and I'm still at the Ranch, exactly where I'm meant to be.

When my husband and I decided to relocate to St. Louis, MO, earlier this year, I wasn't ready to leave the Ranch. So, when a job ad for a Development Officer came across my desk, I applied. Now, I am continuing my journey at the Ranch—this time working remotely with a new and exciting team.

I can't wait to get out and hear your stories. But what I'm most excited about is getting the chance to share first-hand stories of Ranch children I've been honored to see heal and grow. Stories about children who have suffered unspeakable abuse but are still able to smile and enjoy simple things in life. Stories about children who are chronically depressed but develop coping skills and strategies that allow them to live one day at a time. Stories about

children who have been "labeled" with more diagnoses than you can imagine, only to learn who they truly are at the Ranch.

I am beyond excited to share these stories that are both heartbreaking and heartwarming. You can't help but see each of these children as amazing when you consider what they have gone through and the resiliency they need to keep fighting.

That's exactly what they do, they keep fighting. Often one day at a time. Thank you for partnering with us to help these precious children reach their goals, one day at a time.

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (NIV).

Your prayers for our kids are a source of healing and hope. If you have any questions about the Ranch, contact Angela Kargbo, or any member of our team, at 1-800-344-0957 or info@dakotaranch.org. We would love to visit with you about the many ways you can support the children and families served by the Ranch.



Dennis Aune
Development Officer



Lisa Cole
Mission Advancement Officer



Anne Compere
Director of Mission
Advancement



Paul Krueger
Senior Development Officer



Laurie Dannewitz
Senior Development Officer



Linda Medhus
Senior Engagement Officer



Tim Unsinn
Senior Development Officer

One of Twelve

16-year-old Avalon is a kind, gentle, and talented young woman, despite the challenges that brought her to the Ranch. She was born in Nebraska as the youngest of 12 siblings and moved to North Dakota in 2016. It was a blended family, and second marriages for both her parents, who had each had the pain of losing their first spouse to cancer.

As a child, Avalon endured multiple traumas.

“When I hit my teenage years, that’s when the depression started,” she said. “I have struggled with chronic depression; suicidal tendencies, thoughts, and actions; and self-harm. That’s pretty much what brought me to the Ranch.”

While Avalon struggles in school, saying she has a “much more creative than academic mind,” she is a very talented musician. She has been making and producing music since she was 10, and her talent quickly became apparent to Deaconess Kelly Bristow when Avalon volunteered to play piano at the Ranch’s weekly chapel services.

“When I first heard Avalon sing, I was blown away! She has a gorgeous voice and a rare knack for

harmonies. As I spent more time with her, I swiftly found out that she has a strong natural talent for all things music, as she could pick out any tune on the piano (using both hands!), guitar, and drums; and she quickly figured out the bass guitar. Avalon also had a quiet but great sense of humor and was a joy to be around. It was so neat to see her grow so much in her confidence and skill as she helped lead music for our weekly chapel services at the Ranch, and even joined my local church’s praise band a few times.”



Avalon, shown here with Deaconess Kelly Bristow, grew in confidence while at the Ranch and now feels ready to reach for her dreams.

everyone else at the Ranch, she did it! And it was beautiful. Avalon said opportunities to learn and grow with her music are one of the things about the Ranch that really made a difference for her.

“Music with Deaconess Kelly brought a bit of home to the Ranch,” Avalon said. “It was really nice to have a place to get away from the hard parts of treatment and have that creative outlet of playing the piano, playing the guitar, and

learning so much.”

Her work with Deaconess Kelly built her confidence and skills to the point where she now dreams of attending the Berkeley School of Music after high school.

Avalon is very proud of the progress she has made in getting to know herself and getting insight into her feelings.

“I have a lot more insight on how I process my feelings,” Avalon said, “just an overall better sense of who I am. I worked with my therapist on how to handle difficult feelings and emotions with more ease. I’m learning how to ground myself in the moment through DBT [Dialectical Behavioral Therapy]—basically just recognizing the feelings and being able to ground myself before they escalate. I can be prepared for those situations instead of resorting to cutting or self-harming, which I had a really big problem with.”

In addition to individual therapy, Avalon and her parents participated in family therapy at the Ranch.

“That went really well,” Avalon said. “It’s basically just focusing on how my parents help keep me safe. I would tell them I wanted to self-harm or kill myself and they had no idea what to do, which is a really bad situation for all of us. Now they are learning to recognize my triggers and working on ways they can help.”

Because of the Ranch’s well-rounded approach to treatment, Avalon also had the opportunity to work with an occupational therapist who helped her discover some

sensitivities to lighting.

“I get really uncomfortable around bright lights and it can spark headaches,” Avalon said. “I never found that out until I came here and got some LED lights in my room that really helped. I don’t have headaches anymore!”

While it was tough, Avalon was determined to make the most of her time at the Ranch—to push forward, do the work, and try her best. She knows treatment is not supposed to be fun but said she had experiences at the Ranch that she wouldn’t get anywhere else.

“The Ranch gives you a lot of outside time, a lot of exercise, a lot more opportunities. Just overall, you have a lot of people working with you. It’s like everybody here is like holding you steady or pushing you forward,” Avalon said.

She is also aware that none of those things would be possible without the thousands of Ranch donors across the country.

“I would like to meet some of the people who donate money to the Ranch,” she said. “Their money is helping. It matters a lot and they are really good people. Like to help kids and support this facility for kids and families in need, that’s incredible. I am really thankful for them.”

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

Learning, Growing, and Spreading Joy

“My introduction to the Ranch was an act of God,” said Carol Vacek.

She had never heard of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch until 2018 when she received a letter in the mail. That same year, Carol inherited some mineral rights in North Dakota with two producing oil wells. Some would say it was a coincidence, but Carol says learning about the Ranch and inheriting North Dakota mineral rights was God’s timing. She followed God’s lead and began donating a portion of the proceeds to the Ranch.

“It’s not a lot of money,” Carol said, “but it’s from God so the Ranch has to have it.”

Carol has a special place in her heart for North Dakota because it’s where she was born. She and her sister lived there with her parents until her family started to fall apart. Her father died when she was five and her mother began suffering from serious mental health issues.

“My mom was a smart person and a good person. She loved people. She loved kids. But she was paranoid schizophrenic, and my aunts and uncles were afraid she might hurt us. She lost custody of us when I was seven,” Carol said. “Nevertheless, even though I never lived with my mother again, we remained good pen pals for the rest of her life.”

Carol’s aunt and uncle who lived in



Carol, on the left, with Anne Compere, Director of Mission Advancement at the Ranch.

Spokane took her and her sister in for about a year. But, then it became too much for them to raise their own young son and the two girls, so Carol and her sister moved to Illinois to live with another aunt and uncle.

“My sister and I were essentially foster children,” Carol said. “We never called our aunts and uncles foster parents and it wasn’t official, but that’s what it was. The Ranch is so important because I know there are children there who end up as foster children because their parents were abusive or neglected them. They don’t have any way to get past that without help.”

Carol’s uncle, a chemical engineer, was transferred from Illinois to Delaware, where she finished high school and graduated before moving to Baltimore to attend radiology technology school. She finished x-ray school in 1965 and worked in a hospital in Baltimore. She enjoyed

her work and the people, but after ten years moved to New Orleans where she said, “it’s really warm, it’s cheaper, and I can see Mardi Gras!”

Not one to shy away from change or adventure, after 26 years as an X-ray technician, Carol returned to nursing school and earned her LPN degree.

“Then, one day I was at a shopping center and a recruiter was signing people up for the Navy reserves. I thought to myself, ‘I’m finished with school. That sounds fun. I think I’ll check into that.’ I told them I was almost 40, but they didn’t have to train me. I could take X-rays, I could be a nurse, I could draw blood and start IVs. So, they signed me up!”

And because that wasn’t enough excitement, Carol also started taking night classes. “I was limited as an LPN as to where I could work and what I could do,” she said. “As an LPN I couldn’t work in recovery. I couldn’t work in ICU. I couldn’t hang drugs and stuff. It took me 10 years, but I finished before my 50th birthday and worked as an RN until I retired at age 66,” Carol said.

Now retired, Carol lives in Louisiana where she spends her time gardening, making yard art, and volunteering. She brings great passion and commitment to everything she does—first in her career and now in retirement.

“I love gardening and have lots of plants and flowers that bloom in the summer. But in the winter they’re all gone. It stays green here all winter, but there’s nothing really pretty. So, I paint cement things and make them pretty. I call it my yard art and I have it all around my house and in little

spots where you wouldn’t expect to see something.”

Carol uses her gardening skills at her church, where she takes on the job of pulling weeds. She said, “I pull up all the poison ivy, sticker weeds, and the little plants that sprout out from seeds dropped from the trees. This is what God wants me to do, and I’m good at it.”

She also volunteers with a veterinarian who runs a neuter-spay clinic for cats and dogs. “I am the instrument cleaner. You do not want to get in my way when I’m cleaning instruments and you don’t want to do it wrong. Because I will tell you if you aren’t doing it right!”

Carol brings joy to the people around her, including those at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

Anne Compere, Director of Mission Advancement at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, said, “Each month when Carol sends her donation, she sends a letter detailing her adventures with gardening, projects, and most importantly her adopted pets. Her wonderful sense of humor concerning the mundane inspires me. She is more than a donor. She is a friend, and she brings me great joy.”

Carol’s passion for life shines through when she talks about the kids at the Ranch.

“I’ve just always had a heart for young people,” she said. “I don’t have any children, so I just call these my kids. No matter what they’ve been through, kids can turn out good. But they can’t do it alone. The Ranch is another family to help them along the way.”



Carol and her sister outside their Minot home in 1953.

Brotherly Love



Brothers Kenton (left) and Robert (right) with the classic car they donated to the Ranch.

Robert & Kenton Deitrich

When Robert Deitrich heard a speaker from Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch at his church in Alliance, NE, he was drawn to the Ranch's work with kids. It resonated for a couple of reasons.

First, he had a great childhood with his parents and his older brother Kenton. They grew up in a small Nebraska community, Alliance, where their father worked as a car salesman and later on the railroad. They attended Sunday School and church and were close to their grandparents who lived nearby, which created great childhood memories. Robert was grateful for his childhood. He has always wanted to help kids who didn't have the same experiences.

Second, Kenton had real struggles both at school and later at work. "I

didn't put it together until about ten years ago," Robert said. "I started hearing about Asperger's and Autism and realized my brother was autistic. He was so bullied. It was just terrible."

Through Kenton's experiences, Robert began to understand the difficulties of the children who come to the Ranch. As he learned more, Robert realized that many of the children at the Ranch were not that different from his brother. The big difference was that Ranch kids didn't have the same opportunities and support as Kenton received from his family.

"At the Ranch, these children hear the Gospel. And above all, they are shown a little love. Love can break through so many barriers. We are social creatures. We need love, and we need to give love. Kenton had that love, and he has done well in life."

After spending time in the Navy, Kenton worked for Burlington Northern for 13 ½ years. At the same time, Robert went to college and graduated with an Optometry degree from the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN. After working with his uncle, who was also an optometrist, for a few years, Robert moved back to Alliance to buy the building and practice from a retiring EENT.

Neither Robert nor Kenton married, and after a few years, they bought a house together.

"I was thinking that that's the way the Lord wanted to work it," Robert said. "Kenton knows Jesus as his savior. He reads his Bible. He is so gentle, and you can see his love for Christ even

though he still struggles, as we all do in this life. It is beautiful. God worked it out so we could grow in faith together and I could care for Kenton.”

Over the years, Robert and Kenton had owned several cars and frequented car auctions all over the country. “We liked muscle cars,” Robert said. “One time, Kenton had a 1977 limited production Pontiac Can Am. We took it to a big-time auction in Tucson, AZ, and sold it down there. From the time we were little, we had an interest in cars almost to the point that they’ve become idols. A year or so ago, we decided it was time, and while we were still able, to get rid of this last one and be ‘free.’”

When it came time to be free of their last car, a 1969 Dodge Coronado RT, Robert asked Dennis Aune, Development Officer at the Ranch, if they could donate it to the Ranch. Dennis worked with the Ranch’s business office to determine the best way to accept and sell the car so the dollars could support children at the Ranch.

Robert said, “Dennis has been awesome. I guess the donation routine is you put the car on auction on the internet. He is arranging all of that and said he will be at our house when whoever buys it comes to get the car. That relieved our anxiety because otherwise, you’re dealing with someone you don’t know, and that



Robert and Kenton’s 1969 Dodge Coronado RT, all cleaned up and ready to donate to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

scenario could put my brother in a panic situation.”

When their car sells, the dollars will go to the Bismarck Chapel campaign fund where they will be used towards a matching grant from the Rupert Dunklau Foundation. With Robert’s heart for children and his and Kenton’s passion for Christ, the chapel fund is a

perfect fit.

“If you can teach children about the Lord when they are young, they will not depart,” Robert said. “If you can get the Holy Spirit in their heart and have them experience the love of Christ, then nothing is impossible for them. The Ranch falls beautifully into God’s plan for these little children.”

Follow us on social media to stay up-to-date on Ranch happenings and stories.



dakotaranch1952



@dbgr52



@dbgr1952

What Goes Into Accomplishing Your Dream?

There is a saying that states, "All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them."

There are a lot of ways you can go about when you read that.

Despite that, I would like you to focus on my point of view for a second.

Courage.

There can be so many ways to accomplish having courage.

What this is asking is are you confident in who you are and what must be done to, let's say, build yourself up to your dream.

Being confident is a big part of courage, if you're not confident in who you are, you cannot accomplish something with as much satisfaction as when you are confident in it.

—Makayla, age 14, Ranch resident

Boards of Directors

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

Joy K. Ryan

President/CEO

Gene Kaseman

CEO Emeritus, retired

Larry D. Knutson

President Emeritus, retired

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Program Board of Directors

Dr. Brent Askvig, Chair

Minot, ND

Jennifer Quast Johnsrud,

Vice Chair, Fargo, ND

Dick Shorma, Secretary

Wahpeton, ND

Wayne Ulven, Treasurer

Walcott, ND

Michelle Anderson

Buelah, ND

Bob Drees

Grand Forks, ND

Pastor Douglas Bergelin

Watertown, WI

Dr. Chris Deeter

Seward, NE

Ron Greenmyer

Stirum, ND

Senator Diane Larson

Bismarck, ND

Brent Mattson

Minot, ND

Tamara Waters-Wheeler

Bismarck, ND

Dr. George O'Neill

Fargo, ND

Paulette Huber

Dickinson, ND

Brian Maas

Brentwood, TN

Jerry Hauff (Ex-Officio)

Bismarck, ND

Jerry Leeseberg (Honorary)

Lewisville, TX

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation Board of Directors

Jerry Hauff, Chair

Bismarck, ND

Dan Olson, Vice Chair

Fargo, ND

Cherie Harms, Secretary

Williston, ND

Harley Haug, Treasurer

Moorhead, MN

Bev Adams

West Fargo, ND

Rev. Bart Day

St. Louis, MO

Paul Huber

Dickinson, ND

Diane Lutt

Minot, ND

Mark Stinson

Oviedo, FL

Dr. George O'Neill (Ex-Officio)

Fargo, ND

Dr. Brent Askvig (Ex-Officio)

Minot, ND

Gudrun R. Marx (Honorary)

Pacific Palisades, CA

Dakota Family Services Board of Directors

Dr. George O'Neill, Chair

Fargo, ND

Tamara Waters-Wheeler, Vice Chair

Bismarck, ND

Pastor Douglas Bergelin,

Secretary/Treasurer, Watertown, WI

Dr. Brent Askvig

Minot, ND

Hilory Liccini

Minot, ND

Amanda Thomas

West Fargo, ND

Jerry Hauff (Ex-Officio)

Bismarck, ND

Ranch Voice Editor

Tammy Noteboom

Vice President, Communications

Unearth Your Giving Potential with Oil, Gas, and Mineral Rights



Do you own land or an interest in mineral rights, such as oil, gas, or other minerals? Your land or mineral rights are valuable property rights you can donate to support the mission and ministry of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

How Can a Gift of Land and Mineral Rights Benefit You?

When you make a gift of your interest in land with mineral rights, you may benefit by:

- Receiving a tax-saving charitable deduction.
- Avoiding income taxes on royalty payments.
- Receiving lifetime payments by funding a charitable remainder unitrust with your land or mineral rights.
- Supporting the charitable causes important to you.

To learn more about how you can provide hope and healing at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch by gifting oil, gas, land, or mineral rights, contact us today at **1-800-344-0957** or **info@DakotaRanch.org**.



One of the biggest challenges with owning land rich in oil, gas, or other minerals is the income taxes that arise with production. There are four basic ways you can use your land while managing your income in a favorable way:

Gift of All or a Portion of Your Land

By giving all or a percentage of your ownership to a charity like Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, you may be entitled to take an income tax deduction for the appraised value of the portion you give.

Gift of Royalties

Donating a portion of your royalties may allow you to achieve your charitable goals while lowering income and reducing your taxes.

Charitable Remainder Unitrust

By giving land and/or royalty interest to a charitable remainder unitrust, you receive a charitable income tax deduction and payments based on a percentage of the trust's value each year. After all payments have been made, the remainder will go to further impact our mission.

Charitable Life Estate

You can gift your home, farm, or ranch to charity while retaining a "life estate," which is the right for you to continue to use the land for as long as you live. You receive an immediate income tax deduction for your gift.

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

July 1, 2022 - October 31, 2022

AASE, BRENDA

Jim & Ruth Lehfeldt

ACHO, PETE

Robert & Grace Swanson

ALWIN, REX

Betsy Alwin

ASCHE, SANDY

Greg Nelson

AUNE, BEV

Dolores Simdorn

ANDERSEN, EILEEN

Barbara Rude

ARNDT, CHARLES

Jim & Ruth Lehfeldt

AVERY, AMANDA

Mark Avery

BACH, JAMES "JIM"

Barbara Pingel

BAGWELL, HUGH

Anne Compere

Dale & Laurie Dannewitz

BAKER, KATHY

William & Doris Wegner

BAKER, JR., FRED

Mrs. Kerry Horton

Coralyn Hoovestol

BAKKEN, PALMER

Ardell Oas

BATEMAN, ROBERT "BOBBY"

Irene Heid

Delores Maier

BATTERBERRY, NORMAN

Jim & Karen Bonnet

BARRICK, EMMA & VERYL

Marlys Lindgren

BARRICK, WALLACE

Marlys Lindgren

BAUER, DENNIS

Ardell Oas

Ron & Rita St. Croix

BAUER, ROBERT

Jeff Givens

BAZAL, JEAN

Rick Bazel

BECKER, ROBERT "BOB"

Lisa M. Cole

BERG, SANDRA

Sandra Brockmann

BIERMAN, ALLEN

Gladys Bierman

BIERMAN, RODGER

Betty Borchard

BITZ, MARGIE

Chris & Jean Hansen

BODE, HERB

James & Joann Reineke

BOHRER, MR. & MRS. HELMUTH

Tom Link

BONNET, GARY

Jim & Karen Bonnet

BORCHARD, DICK

Betty Borchard

BRAND, CHARLYNE

Walter Baumann

BRAYTON, JOHN

Arlys Torgerson

Raydon & Betty Workin

BRENTON, VIRGIL POOG

Judith Brenton

BREWARD, JOHN C.

Gloria Beward

BUCKMAN, LESTER & CAROLINE

Austin & Sarah Buckman

BUEIDE, AUDREY

Carol Grieger

BURTHOLD, ELLEN H.

John & Pat Sebastian

CALLIOTT, JR., EDWARD "EDDIE"

Linda Mittelstadt Calliott

CASE, DOROTHY

Melva Smith

CHAMLEY, WILLIAM WALTER

Richard & Linda Schmidt

CISINSKI, JOHN

Rodger & Marilyn Fischer

CLAUSON, KEVIN

Jim & Ruth Lehfeldt

COLOMBINO, MJ

Linda Bradley

CORNELSEN, DAVID

Eileen Cornelsen

COZZOLINO, ROXANNE "ROXIE"
(MEYER)

Rebecca Gahler

DAHNIKE, BEVA

Ronald & Yvonne Burt

FKC Financial

Thomas Knox

James & Phyllis Lofgren

Richard & Karen Moos

Jaime Renner

Clifford Schuette

DE GREE, JILL

Dale & Laurie Dannewitz

DENDINGER, RICHARD

Chuck & Deb Sanderson

DESMOND, ROBERT

Susan Mysliwicz

DEVINE, GARY

Al & Johnne Bierdeman

DIFFERDING, JEROME P.

Al & Johnne Bierdeman

EMMEL, MIKE

Ron & Rita St. Croix

FATLAND, SYLVIA & JAN

Dean Fatland

FIECHTNER, RALPH

Joan Fiechtner

Euo & Eunice Menezes

FOTH, ELAINE HOLM

James & Ruth Lehfeldt

GAMRADT, SHARON V.

Doris Scott

GANGELHOFF, HAROLD

John & Patricia Sebastian

GIGLIO, JAMES

Joseph Giglio

GOEBEL, DELORES

Don & Arlene Schumacher

William & Doris Wegner

GOERGER, PATRICIA

Arlin & Harriet Buchholz

GOODMAN, JAMES

Helen Anderson

GRIESER, NORMAN C.

Walter Baumann

GROSZ, BILL & MARY ANNE

Dr. Jeffrey Ness

GRUENEICH, GERALD

Lucy Grueneich & Family

GUST, DONALD R.

Rosella Debele

Albert & Luella Gust

Richard Gust

HAAS, ROBERT "BOB"

Marilyn J. Frank

HALLDORSON, MARY

Steve Hamre

HAMEL, PAUL G.

Tom & Debra Link

HANSON, DARLENE JACKSON

Bob & Joyous Bartle

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Carow

Violet Podenski

HAYER, HARRY

June Hayer

HEIDENREICH, DE LORIS MAE

Daniel & Karen Berdahl

Andrew Bliss

William & Donna Busch

Craig & Jennifer Crimson

Dawn Doerr

Nancy Gerwel

LeRoy & Kathryn Gunderson

Heidenreich Family

Merle Heidenreich

David & Priscilla Strom

Doris Tjernagel

HEIDT, RICK & SHERRYL

Loren & Lori Hoffman

HENKE, JACKIE

Keith & Roberta Hoesel

HESTERMANN, BUD & BETTY

Steve & Beverly Long

HLADKY, ALAN

Joseph Hladky

HOAG, DOROTHEA "DOT"

Laurel McPherson

HOFFMAN, DR. MARV D.

Doug Hoffman

HOUSH, WANETA

Kay Stoterau

HUFF, BERNICE E.

Debbie Eraas

Judy Carlson

Betty Field

Betty Gibler

Margaret Hellebust

Bonnie Huff

Diane Huff

Larry & Kathy Huff

Mark & Clarice Huff

Gail Joyce

Pat Jurusik

Barbara Lee

Cindy Merchant

Rodger & Mary Zurcher

HUSEBY, RICK

James & Ruth Lehfeldt

ISGETT, JR., CONNER A.

William & Esther Isgett

IWEN, JOANNE

Carol Grieger

JAEGER, TINA

Charles & Helen Foss-Bohm

JENSON, WESLEY

Steve & Toni Grabinger

JOHNSON, ANDREW "ANDY"

ALLEN

John & Laurie Buresh

Jim & Karen Clapper

Craig & Jennifer Dickison

Daniel & Nancy Francisco

Harlan Hall

Jennifer Hausler

Thomas & Cathy Kosobayashi

Arlan & Arlene Kay Meszaros

Thomas E. Patzer

David & Kristie Soenen

JOHNSON, LARRY

David, Sharon, Doug & Laura Miller

JOHNSON, LYLE

Barbara Rude

JOHNSON, NADINE

Gary & Maxine Beckwith

JOHNSON, ROBERT "BOB" &

ELLEN

Dale & Judy Nabben

KAMLETZ, ELDEN "RUSTY"

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Carow

KAMMRATH, JORDAN A.

Dan & Cindy Kammrath

KAUTZ, HOWARD

Melvin & Patricia Stark

KAUTZ, HOWARD & LU ELLA

Rev. Jack & Joneen Richards

KERSTEN, CLYDE

Marlys Opheim

KITTELSON, JENNIFER "JENNY" M.

June Boadwine

KLEIN, BERNIE

Kay Stoterau

KNICK, ORLIN

Ilene Bussler

KNIGHT, LLOYD

Carol Grieger

KNUDSON, GLEN

Wiley & Richie Butler

Memorials/Honorariums

KOENEN, DALE A.

Anita L. Petersen

KOIVULA, BENJAMIN "BEN"

Duane & Shirley Larson

Lyne Schumacher

Ronald & Avis Tvedt

Zion Lutheran Church Hosanna

Choir

KOLRUD, DALE

Coralyn Hoovestol

KRAUSE, ORVA E.

Marilyn J. Frank

KREINER, DOLORES L.

Nolan & Eileen Bode

KROSHUS, JIM

Arlys Torgerson

KUSLER, JAMES O.

Ms. P. Jan Smith

LARSON, KEITH

Henry & Marlys Lindgren

LAWSON, CONNIE

Anne Compere

Joy Ryan

LAWSON, MATTHEW

Joanna Jessup

LE BLEU, FRED

Dean & Mary Ter Best

LE CLERC, RON

James & Rosalie Ringstrom

LEGGIO, RYAN SPENCER

Joe Leggio

LEISINGER, TOM

Shelia Gerry

LENZ, MARY

Arlin & Harriet Buchholz

LESLIE, SHERRY

Gary Leslie

LETZRING, RICHARD

Melvin & Kay Stark

LINDGREN, HENRY

Marlys Lindgren

LINDGREN, JOHN

Henry & Marlys Lindgren

LINDGREN, MARLYS

Cheryl Beilke

Lisa M. Cole

Joan Gatzmeyer, Dave & Glennis

LINDSTROM, MARY

Helen Anderson

LUCKEY, DORIS

Sandra Brockman

MAIER, ROGER

Esther Maier

MALONEY, JAMES "JIM"

James & JoAnn Reineke

MANCUSO, THOMAS G.

"TOMMY"

Ray & Deanie Allen

MARSH, NORMA

Nolan & Eileen Bode

MARSH, PETE

Sharon Grondahl

MARSLAND, DALE

Ron & Rita St. Croix

MARVIN, BROOKE

Mark & Carol Prosser

MAYNARD, BENITA D.

Merle & Marcy Suntken

MC LARNON, HAROLD

Bill & Jean Murray

Susan Murray

MEDENWALD, MICHAEL

Walter Baumann

MEDENWALDT, LAURA

CAROLINE

Linda Hill

Gaylord & Marilyn Schilling

MEYER, DOUGLAS & ELLA

Wilhelm Meyer

MICKELSON, HUGH

Patricia Winter

MILLER, DORIS

Ilene Bussler

MILLER, TIMOTHY J.

Virginia Miller

MLCOCH, ROBERT

Steve Hamre

MONDAHL, BRUCE L.

Lloyd & Karen Koestler

MONGOVEN, PAT

Gail Hayes

MONSON, CHARLES "CHUCK"

Ron & Sheila Deserly

Annella Monson

MONTGOMERY, EVELYN

Linda Medhus

MOORE, JOEL

Diane Moore

MORAST, WALTER

Hanna Link

NASS, REV. DR. BEN

Rev. Otto & Rosalie Reinbacher

NELSON, JEAN CLAIRE

Alissa Theissen

NELSON, LOIS A.

Janet Glasoe

NELSON, ROBERT

Maynard & Ardella Krause

NITSCH, MIKE

Charles & Nancy Kramer

NGUYEN, TONY

Wyaneta Timm

OAS, GORDON

Shane & Anna Oas

OLSON, LAVOY

Ron & Janis Bakke

OLSON, SHIRLEY

Jim & Ruth Lehfeldt

ONSTOTT, EDD

Sue Hylland

ORF, DALE

Jim & Karen Bonnet

PAPINEAU, LOIS A. (BREVIK)

Shirley Flory

PAWLUK, ELEANOR

Al & Johnne Bierdeman

PETERSON, DONALD

Donovan & Laura Funke

David & Margaret Hall

PIERCE, ELYZABETH

Marisa Knudson

POCH, RUTH

Gerald Goad

Tom & Jane Neubig

Daniel & Jeanne Porter
Martin Poch
Donna Robinson
RICHTER, HENRY
Arrow Service Team
ROBINSON, TAMERA "TAMI"
Carol Urbach
RODENBERG, KELLY (FOSSO)
Anita Petersen
ROEPKE, GERALD
Karen Roepke
ROGHAIR, MARION
Caroline Letzring
ROSS, ELLIS
Gwen Roffler
RUPP, GENE
Paulette Vetter
RUPP, GENE & NELLIE
Loren & Joylea Knutson
RUTTER, REV. EDWARD &
MARIAN
Marilyn Frank
SAEWERT, DEAN
James & Ruth Lehfeldt
SAILER, DEBBIE
Rev. Thomas & Sara Marcis
SANDERSON, DEBRA "DEB"
Donovan & Marca Foughty
Scott & Kristie Gerrells
George Heller
Nancy Lundon
Wally Miller
David & Karen Olson
Chuck Sanderson
SANDROCK, DR. JAMES P.
Koch Family
SAYLER, HARLAN
Dick & Myrna Thorsell
SAYLER, LESLIE
Patrick & Jodee Davenport
Mark & Marlys Dougherty
Hal & Sue Ferris
Diane Lince
SCHARDIN, LELIA MAE

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Carow
Rodger & Marilyn Fischer
Violet Podenski
Wayne & Janet Siechtner
SCHIMMEL, PEARL
William & Doris Wegner
SCHLICHTMANN, VICTOR
HENRY
Lee & June Schlichtmann
SCHWENDERMANN, ROY
Wyaneta Timm
SETTLE, CHARLOTTE
Glenn & Jenece Mitchell
SEVIGNY, PAUL
Wilbur & Mavis Pfennig
SHERECK, DARREL
Cynthia Shereck
SHUEY, MICHAEL & JARED
Willis & Janene Shuey
SILLERUD, DON
Joanne Christensen
SITZER, BRENT
Myrna Mitchell
STEWART, RAYMOND
Doris Jensen
SWEARSON, BILL & AGNES
Brad C. Hofmann
SVEE, HARVEY
Paul & Elaine Carlson
TABOR, ARLENE "POLLY"
Jan Abbey
Tom & Twila Benz
Greg Tabor
Noel & Betty Helm
TENNEY, GRACIE M.
Beverly Mundell
TESCH, ALICE KLEMP
Darleen Klem
TESCH, SILAS
Carol Urbach
THENE, BARBARA J. FARRAR
Charles & Dorothy Erstad
Lavonne Liversage
Wanda Mau

THOMPSON, DELORES "LORI"
Lisa Olson
TOMASZKIEWICZ, JUDY
Melva Smith
TORNOW, TOM
Shelia Gerry
TURNER, HENRY
Glenn & Jenece Mitchell
VANDERHOEF, AIDAN
Dennis & Mitzie Nay
Shane & Anna Oas
VANDER MATEN, JOHN
Anthony Darakjy
VOELKER, ARNOLD
Steve Hamre
VOJNOVICH, CARESSE
Greg & Nancy Gibble
VOORHEES, WEBB & JOYCE
Rev. Jack L. & Joneen Richards
WALLACE, CHRISTINE
Lyne Schumacher
WALTH, GORDON
Chris & Jean Hansen
WARD, DONALD
Tim Ward
WEISS, JIMMY
Norma Von Osterheldt
WIEDRICH, EVELYN
Dorothy Bauer
WIEDRICH, MELVIN & EVELYN
Gary & Maxine Beckwith
WOODBURY, JOY
Arlin & Harriet Buchholz
WRIGHT, LORNA A.
John & Patricia Sebastian



Grants and Corporate Donations

Honorariums

July 1, 2022 - October 31, 2022

ALL ABUSED CHILDREN

Janet Riley-Dalton

CASEY SZEWCZAK

Patricia Szewczak

CECILIA PODCZERWINSKI

Janet Podczerwinski

DOROTHY ROMEO

Bob James

JESUS CHRIST, OUR REDEEMER,
SAVIOR AND LORD

Gloria Trim

JOAN BEASLEY MARTIN

Lesa Eckert

JOY RYAN

Kole & Quin Seiler

MARILYN SCHILLING'S
BIRTHDAY

Linda Hill

REV. DR. PAUL A. KRUEGER

Paul League

Oregon District LWML

Kruse Memorial Chapel Lighting; \$4,000 (Minot)

North Dakota District LWML

Kruse Memorial Chapel Lighting; \$500 (Minot)

Rocky Mountain District LWML

Kruse Memorial Chapel Lighting; \$4,000 (Minot)

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; Zion Lutheran Church Partnership; \$10,000 (Bismarck)

Kiwanis Club of Fargo

Balanced Learning Environment Furniture for Library/Media Room; \$2,500 (Fargo)

Kiwanis Club of Minot

Thatcher Cottage Furniture; \$744 (Minot)

Elmer & Kaya Berg Foundation

Secure Key Fob System; \$1,000 (Fargo)

Mercy Box

School Supplies for Dakota Memorial School

BCBSND Caring Foundation

Community Chats; \$20,000 (Dakota Family Services)

School Sister of Notre Dame

Girls Boots for Equine Therapy; \$1,000 (Minot)

Alex Stern Family Foundation

Recycling Automation; \$5,000 (Thrift Stores)

Northern Illinois District LWML

Kruse Memorial Chapel Lighting; \$4,000 (Minot)

The Hector Foundation

Vaccine Fridge and Books for Library; \$5,000 (Fargo)

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

—Romans 12:10-13

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.

Artwork by Ranch resident.



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

Change Service Requested



"Bookworm,"
acrylic on
canvas artwork
created by
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

