

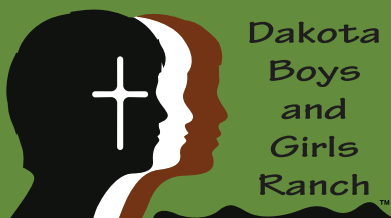
THE RANCH VOICE

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

Summer 2016



Minot resident manages the potting station at BLT Day.



www.DakotaRanch.org
1.800.344.0957

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Message from President/CEO



Joy Ryan
President

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1-800-344-0957

DakotaRanch.org

Hello Friends of the Ranch!

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is a complicated place. Our mission is easy to say, “We help children and families succeed in the name of Christ.” Explaining to friends and soon-to-be friends “how” we do that can be challenging. Psychiatric services, spiritual services, wellness services, balanced learning environments in a private school system, behavioral health therapy, occupational therapy, equine-assisted psychotherapy, food, shelter, clothing, love... it can be daunting to explain our holistic approach.

So, in an effort to get it right, sometimes we work with outside experts to take a look at ourselves. They can help us take a step back. We can see what we value, what we cherish, what we have outgrown.

In March, two wonderful gentlemen from Poulsbo, Washington met with the Ranch leadership team for two days. Our goal, and theirs, was to discern... What is at the essence of the Ranch? How do we explain that to people?

On the journey to figure that out, I knew we would have to answer many other questions. However, I was very surprised when they started with: “How committed are you to being a Christian organization?” And “How committed are you to telling everyone you are a Christian organization?” They went on to explain that in this world of hate and confusion, many Christian organizations have decided to downplay their Christianity. These organizations are concerned with the backlash of being seen as judgmental, unaccepting, or intolerant.

It was with great gratitude that I listened to our leadership team respond, each person one by one. Each spoke with conviction about their dedication to be true to our Christian roots, orientation, and future. And that we be public about it. Many talked about how important it was for them to know that the teachings and love of Christ are at the very core of all we do, all we stand for. There was NO impulse to hide it under a bushel basket.

And then we talked about what that means... Not all of our staff are Christian. Not all of our kids are Christian. Not all of our donors or friends are Christian. So, what does it mean? It means that Christianity is the foundation of our social mission. Regardless of anything else, we will operate by showing the love that Christ commanded us to show.

“But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.” 1 John 3:17-18

So, wherever the rest of this process takes us, please know that we will continue to serve God by serving others—the kids and families and supporters and detractors and each other—with a non-judgmental, accepting, tolerant, and loving approach, a Christian approach. We also assure you that we will not hide our Christianity, but will keep saying it out loud.

May you hear God through the noise and in the quiet,
Joy

Young woman writes story of healing and accomplishment

When 16-year-old Lily*, one of our Bismarck students, was asked to write a paper for English, she decided to write about her experiences at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. She says, "At first it was just an assignment, but then I made it more than just a paper. I wrote it because I feel like it can change a lot of people. I want people to know they are not alone."

Oops...

by Lily

Before I came here, I felt like a broken jack-in-the-box. Popping up in bad situations all the time. During my depression, sometimes I wouldn't even pop open. Before I came here I was emotionally unstable...I had no one.

Depression wouldn't let me move on. It was almost like an anchor. It hurt...a lot. I didn't know what to do. I was lost.

Just thinking about this place scared me. I imagined it with yellow jumpsuits. With bars and cages. Rock hard psychiatric beds. Cold and dark rooms. No shelves. No desk. No freedom. No life. Dogs, suits, badges, hard-core discipline, separation, 24-hour lockdown, slop for food.

I thought my life was over. I thought I was never gonna get out of here. I thought the kids would be aggressive. I thought I would have to fight someone because of it. I was traumatized.

All I did was work myself up. This place is a lot better than I thought it was. I feel safe and secure here. Ya, some people have their moments. But everyone is here for something right. Go right ahead, I don't judge. Only God can judge you.

Think about that for a second. Let it sink in. Now let it all out. I feel like this place is a people-changer. This place can save people's lives.

expected of us. Respect, manners, good attitudes, kindness, be a great role model, advocate for yourself, etc. What I am saying is that this place is healing and accomplishing.

The Ranch has taught me that there are a lot of people with problems just like me. That nobody's perfect. I thought I was the only one like this. I was taught to cry and show my feelings. At home I couldn't do that.



Writing can be a powerful tool to help kids heal.

Because some of the way kids act would get them hurt in the real world. I promise.

It's actually fun when it wants to be. I can make it fun if people let me. The routine sucks half the time. You do the same thing over and over again. You wake up, eat breakfast, do hygiene, go to school, do chores, do rec, then do hygiene again, and go to bed. They never let us just sit around and watch movies and eat Twinkies. Ya, I know right. It's stupid what's

I had to be strong.

I learned to be myself. Show people what I can do. Not care about criticism. I learned to make a goal and accomplish it. I learned to never give up no matter how hard it gets. How many lessons have I learned? I...Live!!!

**Name changed to protect confidentiality*

Honor and celebration for eight of our youth

This year, Dakota Memorial School held graduation ceremonies on all three campuses. They were all wonderful and inspiring celebrations of young people who worked so hard to get to this day.

All of the students had family and friends with them to celebrate their special day. In Bismarck, the grandfather of one of the students gave Joy Ryan, President/CEO of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, a bear hug and told her he is grateful every day for the Ranch and for seeing his granddaughter do so much more than they dared hope. In Minot, a

mom hugged her and thanked her, “Thank you for giving my son this day. We just love him so much.”

In her remarks at each graduation ceremony, Superintendent Marcia Bartok said, “Please take a moment to think about this moment and what it means to the graduates. There are so many people who say, ‘So, what’s the big deal about graduation? All kids graduate.’ But that is just not true. There are many in our country who do not graduate for a variety of reasons. Primarily, it’s because they don’t do the work. Carrie, Stormy, Catherine, Mitchel,

Ethan, Shelby and Nick had to work and they had to persevere, and they had to know that when times were tough, they could ask for help. When the problems seemed too big to tackle on their own, they reached out. They pushed on all the way through the finish line. ‘Graduate’ is a term of real honor and celebration.”



Graduation in Fargo was extra special because it was our first graduation on the Fargo campus.

Dr. Monte Selby, musician, songwriter, educator, and featured speaker at all three Dakota Memorial School graduations, accepted a “Platinum” award honoring him for his work writing songs with students at the Ranch.

Right: Stormy and Catherine graduated from Dakota Memorial School in Bismarck.

Below: Over 200 people attended Mitchel, Ethan, Shelby and Nick's graduation ceremony on the Minot campus.



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

11th Annual BLT Day helps children at the Ranch find and become who they truly are

May 7 was a beautiful, sunny day—perfect for our 11th Annual BLT Day. More people turned out for the event than ever before; and our amazing Ranch kids gave tours, carried plants and other purchases to people's cars, and worked at the Potting Station. Several of our kids were



Danny, one of our Horticulture students, Marcia Bartok, Superintendent, and Barb Clementich, Facilities, managed the Potting Station at the 11th Annual BLT Day at the Ranch.

Thank you so much to everyone who attended and to Verendrye Electric for their continued sponsorship of our Botany/Horticulture program and BLT Day.



very involved in planting, growing, and potting the hundreds of flowers and vegetables we had for sale.

Best of all, we brought in over \$20,000 in plant and lunch sales—dollars that will go directly to helping children at the Ranch find and become who they really are.

Dakota Memorial School receives system accreditation

The AdvancED accreditation team spent three days at Dakota Memorial School, and in early 2016 we received word that we received full accreditation as a school system. AdvancED is the largest community of education professionals in the world. The rigorous accreditation standards ensure that our students receive the highest level of education.



The AdvancED accreditation team wore bracelets made by kids at the Ranch, as a reminder to stay focused on the kids. From left: Brock Stenberg (Fargo, ND), Dr. Liselotte Thompson (Olympia, WA), Michelle Pfaff (Mandan, ND), Faye Beck (Mohall, ND), and Marshall Taylor (Chicago, IL).



Thrivent Mutual Funds donates \$300,000 to the Ranch

In March, we held a press conference to announce that Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch received a very generous donation from Thrivent Mutual Funds. The \$300,000 gift will underwrite the Nutrition Center being built on the Fargo campus.

The Thrivent Mutual Funds Nutrition Center, which will be completed in August, 2016, is dedicated to the health and healing of the children at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Thrivent, an organization committed to “connecting faith and finances for good,” has been a great Ranch partner in providing services to kids and families for years.



Thrivent Mutual Funds connects faith and finances for good through a donation to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

Giving hope in the heartland

Generous donors gave over \$167,000 to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch on Giving Hearts Day, earning the Ranch an extra \$1,000 award for winning Large Nonprofit 8th place Fundraising Award.

Giving Hearts Day is a 24-hour give-a-thon for charities. On Giving Hearts Day, gifts of \$10 or greater are matched by Dakota Medical Foundation and other generous donors. Gifts to the Ranch on Giving Hearts Day provided trauma-informed care to hurting children and their families. Projects funded by Giving Hearts Day include trauma training for educators, art supplies, balanced learning classrooms, furniture and sensory items, and bicycle racks.

At the Giving Hearts Day awards ceremony in April, the Ranch also won the Rising Star Award, Scheels All On Board Award, 100% Board Support Award, and Stretch Award.

Ranch children share messages of hope

When Fargo policeman, Jason Moszer, was killed in the line of duty in February, children at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch wanted to make a difference.

In Bismarck, the students sent cards and letters to his family. One young woman wrote, “I know it may feel hard and as if you’re not able to pick yourself up again. I’ve been there, done that. My best friend committed suicide. Don’t let depression destroy you. You have purpose. God gives his toughest battles to His strongest warriors! Remember that He is watching over you every single day! Keep your head up. Stay strong.”



Ranch children share messages of hope with family of Officer Jason Moszer by sending cards and letters to the family, and installing blue lights in his honor at the Fargo Youth Home.

Rockets for life

The boys and girls on the Fargo campus made model rockets for Spiritual Life group. As they built, painted, prepped, and flew their rockets, they talked about how “they were like a rocket.”

The rocket body is the main part of the rocket—we are the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27) and Jesus is the head.

A nose cone is the top of the rocket and points to the sky—Jesus points the way to heaven (John 14:6)

A shock cord is the rubber band that connects the rocket to the nose cone and the parachute—through faith the Holy Spirit connects us to Jesus and His salvation (Eph 1:13).

The parachute saves a rocket from crashing and being destroyed—Jesus saves us from eternal destruction (John 3:16).

A motor makes the rocket fly, without it a rocket can't do anything—apart from Jesus we can do nothing, He is the “fuel” for spiritual action (John 15:5).



Jay Schaefer, Spiritual Life Specialist in Fargo, says, “It was really fun to experience how something as simple as a paper rocket could help unpack God’s continued action in their lives. I pray this experience helps residents understand, and keep with them, these basic spiritual truths from God’s Word.”

Wildlife Club’s annual trip to the hills

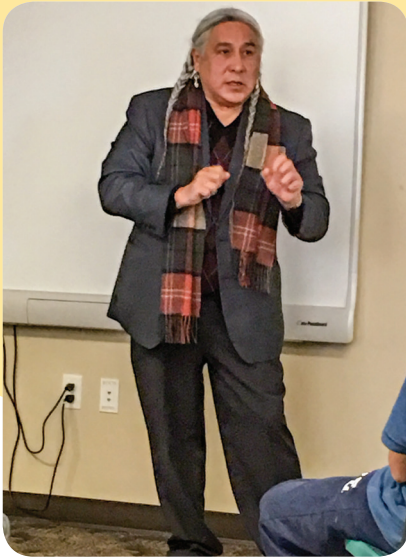
Wildlife Club members and staff spent a couple days in the Turtle Mountains—fishing, sledding, eating, and socializing in a beautiful log cabin setting. This trip was the second one sponsored by Pheasants for the Future, a Minnot conservation club. In return, Wildlife Club members constructed rifle racks, pistol racks, and pegboard display racks for the club to auction off at their banquet.



Kids at the Ranch learn valuable social and life skills during their annual Wildlife Club outing.



Hatching chicks in an incubator demonstrates to the 4-8 graders the miracle of life.



Art and healing

Monte Yellow Bird, Sr., Airkara/Hidasta mixed media/ledger artist, storyteller and educational consultant, visited with the students on the Fargo campus. They had lots of great questions for him, “What inspired you as an artist?” “What motivates you?” “I am a writer, but lack self-confidence. How do I build my confidence?”

To see more of Monte Yellow Bird’s art, go to blackpintohorsefinearts.com

Monte Yellow Bird talks to kids about his art, but also about learning from your mistakes and making good choices.

Minot greenhouse program receives support from Verendrye Electric and Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

The unique population of children served at the Ranch usually come to the Ranch without a history of gardening or greenhouse activities. By providing students with the opportunity to “get into the soil,” we are building background knowledge they will carry with them back to their families. Many of the students also find gardening a therapeutic tool.

Through standard education about greenhouses and gardens, children learn about growing plants and flowers from seed. They also have the opportunity for hands-on experience in the Ranch greenhouse, where they learn how to:



The Minot Horticulture class planted the first Goliath pansies of the season in early February with our new wand seeder, purchased for the Ranch by Verendrye Electric through Operation Round Up dollars.

- Use a germinator/seeder and growth chamber.
- How to plant and pot flowers and plants at the right time of the year and during the proper growth period.
- How to tend to the different plants in order to get the best results.
- How to build birdhouses, which include areas for pots to be planted.

A grant from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod’s Walter Ray Meyer Endowment Fund, and annual support from Verendrye Electric helps cover the costs of greenhouse maintenance, electricity, water, plants, seeds, soil, gardening tools, and other miscellaneous supplies and equipment.

Volunteers are the hands and feet of God



Oil Workers from Hess and Enbridge teamed up with the Ranch to clean the ditches, walking path, and areas surrounding the Minot campus for “Pick up the Patch,” sponsored by the North Dakota Petroleum Council.



Young men and women from North Dakota State University's Sigma Nu fraternity and Alpha Gamma Delta sorority washed windows, cleaned vehicles, and picked up trash.

Students from Oak Grove Lutheran School helped shovel and wheelbarrow rocks.



Students from the NDSU Volunteer Network work on the Ranch's landscaping as part of The Big Event, a community-wide volunteer event.

A Ranch full of pastors

While in Minot for their North Dakota District Pastor's Conference, LCMS pastors stopped by the Ranch for dinner and tours. They were quite impressed by the depth of our services to kids and families, and our commitment to helping kids find their value and true identity in the world and in Christ.

One of the pastors, who is in his 70s, shared that his son had lived at the Ranch for a year and a half almost 40 years ago. One of our residents helped give him a tour of “his” cottage, and at the end of the tour the pastor gifted the young man with the cross he was wearing and promised him his prayers.



While on the Minot campus, LCMS Pastors learned how the Ranch helps kids find their value and true identity in the world and in Christ.

What's “normal?”

Several Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch staff and residents attended a North Dakota YOUth Leadership Board presentation on “Normalcy & Independent Living.” The leadership board consists of current and former foster care youth who use their experiences and expertise to support foster care youth and make positive changes in North Dakota's child welfare system.

In the presentation, foster care alumni told of their experiences transitioning to adulthood from foster care, talked about the skills necessary to aid in that transition, and gave tips for helping foster care youth feel “normal” while in care.

KIDS AGAINST BULLYING

The Dakota Memorial School Student Council held an anti-bullying week on the Minot campus to share what they learned about bullying with their classmates. From left: Danny, Landen, Shelby, Mitchel, and Beau



Many of the kids at the Ranch have been bullied, or have been the bully themselves. So when the Dakota Memorial School Student Council in Minot wanted to put together an anti-bullying presentation, school counselor, Lauren Ballentyne, and school principal, Tina Degree, immediately got on board.

Student Council members, Danny and Chris, came up with the idea, and it quickly gathered support among the Student Council members who gathered statistics, created a Powerpoint, and agreed to share their stories.

The week of February 29 was declared Anti-Bullying Week and the group presented to the entire student body.

“I’ve been to quite a few bullying assemblies,” Student Council member, Landen, said. “This was the best one. Our Superintendent said she had been to many bullying assemblies and that this one really touched her.”

Here are some excerpts of the stories they shared:

Beau’s Story

“I was in the third grade when I

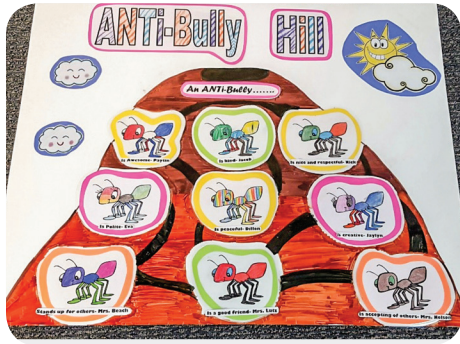
was bullied. It happened to me for about a year. After the time I was bullied, I became a bully.

“My dad was in a snowmobile accident when I was in the 3rd grade. He got his right leg cut off and wasn’t able to do anything for two years. The kids picked on me in the lunch line, at recess and in the classroom. One time when I was in the lunch line, two kids were talking about their dads. One kid said, My dad has two legs. Does your dad have two legs?” They always put me

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down because my dad only had one leg. They drew pictures of a stick figure with only one leg and put it in my desk. They made jokes about legs and blood.

“When I was out for recess, a group of kids pushed me into the corner of the playground. I was trying to get away and they pushed me back to



the wall, punching and kicking me. I was crying and tried to leave, but they punched me in the face. They left me there. It was raining outside and no teachers saw me there, so I was left there for the rest of the day.

“After that day, I was sick of being bullied so I became a bully myself. I used to pick on my siblings and my dad told me to cut it out because they needed me to become their big brother. After that I picked on all of the bullies.”

Landen's Story

“Do you know why people bully others? Well, mostly people bully others because they are upset with themselves and think if others were as miserable as them, it would make them happier. Believe it or not, I was bullied as a kid—from 1st grade to 8th grade. I didn't like it and tried to talk to someone but it didn't change anything. Yeah, they said they would talk to them but they continued, or had their buddies do it for them.

“I was bullied about my ears. One of my ears has less cartilage than

the other so it sticks out. I had the opportunity to change it, but I told my mom ‘no,’ because I believe God made me this way. I was called names like Big Ears, Elephant, Monkey, Monkey Boy. I was bullied every day at school and even on Facebook. I hated everyone who bullied me. I tried sticking up for myself but I just couldn't do it.

“I turned to drugs so people would accept me for who I am, and from there I went downhill in life. So, that is my story about being bullied. Don't do it because it can ruin people's lives. It's wrong and dangerous, so don't be a bully.”

Danny's Story

“I started getting bullied when I began second grade at a new school. I had a lot of trouble with schoolwork and needed quite a bit of help. Other kids called me things like stupid and special ed. This hurt me a lot and I was often upset at school. After so long, I got used to the bullying and thought it was normal.

“This is where I started to bully other people. When I got into middle school I started to pick on the little kids on the bus to please myself. I even picked on kids in my grade because I liked the reaction I got. I moved to Montana for awhile and the bullying stopped because I had a new start at a new school. But when I moved back my bullying got out of hand. I remember one time when me and my friends locked a kid in the bathroom to scare him. I was mean to other people and didn't care what they thought. I thought picking on people was fun, so I just kept doing it.

“When I finally got to the Ranch, I was angry with everyone and threatened people with eating

utensils. I'd say things like, ‘I'm going to stab you with this fork,’ and ‘I'm going to kill you.’ After a while, I started to realize I needed to quit this habit. People at the Ranch know I'm better than that and they're just trying to look out for what's best for me.

“What I'm trying to say is that if you bully someone, sooner or later you will get into trouble. I just want everyone to get along and quit bullying.”

It took a lot of courage for Beau, Landen, Danny and others to share their stories—especially when they told about the bullying they inflicted on other people. According to Beau, they did it because they want to make an impact on Dakota Memorial School. “One student came up to us after and told us her story about being bullied. People really listened to us!”

“Being here changed me, and I want to leave a legacy here,” Beau said. “I want the elementary students to rise up to what we were—be better than us even!”

The students would also like people to hear their stories and realize how hard they are working to improve their lives. While most of the kids came to the Ranch because of things out of their control—they all made mistakes along the way.

Mitchel said, “This isn't a school for bad kids. It's a school for kids who made mistakes. Being here means you're trying to get help for yourself.”

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

A “heart for human care”

Rev. Rick Jones, chaplain at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, received the call to ministry during a youth group mission trip when he was in high school. The group traveled to San Francisco where they helped out in a soup kitchen.

At that time in San Francisco, there were a lot of working class homeless people. The cost of living was so high that people would have full time jobs but couldn't afford to have a house. They could afford rent or food, but not both.

“So this pastor was running the

soup kitchen. His parish was ready to close,” Pastor Rick said. “He had hardly anybody in the pews on Sunday mornings. There wasn't a lot of practical hope for the situation, so I asked him why he was doing this. Why he didn't ask to be placed somewhere else?”

“When you go out there and talk to people after they go through the line, you will know why I stay,” the pastor answered.

So he went out and talked to the people, where he saw how the soup kitchen was making a difference

in people's lives. “You are giving them something they aren't getting anywhere else,” Pastor Rick said. “Something that will change their lives. That is a priceless thing to be involved with, and something I couldn't pass up.”

From that moment, Pastor Rick knew he wanted to be in ministry. He didn't know exactly how, or in what capacity, but he knew he was being called to the ministry.

While Pastor Rick ended up taking the pastor route—going through seminary and becoming ordained as a pastor of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)—he didn't stray far from the type of work he was doing at the soup kitchen when he first received the call.

Pastor Rick was first introduced to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch while in seminary at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. For his required vicarage year, he was sent to Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Minot, where part of the vicar's role was to conduct spiritual life groups, chapel services, and other duties at the Ranch.

“On vicarage, when I got that little introduction, that's when I realized this is a special place. Even if I hadn't got the call here, the Ranch would have been a special place to me and I would have found ways to be a part of the Ranch because it is just that amazing what we are able to do here and how we are able to help these kids. The work we do is so important.”

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Pastor Rick shows Christ's love to the children at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch through his compassion, gentleness, and listening.



A 15-year-old girl who recently completed treatment asked Pastor Rick to affirm her baptism in the prayer garden before she left.

When he completed seminary and it was time for the call process, Pastor Rick and his wife, Betsy, were delighted to come back to North Dakota.

“Some people would be resentful being sent to North Dakota. Some pastors would even be resentful being sent to an institution instead of a parish, but for me it was, ‘No, you don’t understand. I get to go back. I get to go back to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch and be involved in a much larger capacity. This is a great thing!’”

Pastor Rick’s ecclesiastic supervisor agrees that the Ranch is a great fit. “Pastor Rick has a heart for ministry, a heart for human care,” said Rev. Dr. James A. Baneck, President of the North Dakota District of the LCMS. “He shows Christ’s love through his compassion, his gentleness, his listening. He cares for the kids and shows it by not being judgmental. He doesn’t put them down. He sits down with them face-to-face and has a good conversation.”

In addition to Chapel and one-on-one spiritual counseling, Pastor Rick builds relationships with the kids by sharing meals with them. “It sounds really silly, but I get to know the kids by eating lunch with them. We have five cottages so I sit with a

Ranch makes international impact

Pastor Rick is the chair of the Task Force of International Mercy Care for the North Dakota District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). The district partners with the Lutheran Church in both Kenya and Chile. He travels to Chile at least once a year to help them build congregation buildings and churches, and recruit pastors.

“We are really good at the things they need help with. Planting churches, educating and taking care of pastors, and disaster relief. Those are the things they need help with and we are walking together with them,” Pastor Rick said.

One of the congregations in Santiago, Chile, is building a care facility for people with disabilities. Rev. Christian Rautenberg, President of the Confessional Lutheran Church of Chile, was in Minot this spring and toured the Ranch with other LCMS pastors. Karen Berg, therapist at the Ranch, led Pastor Christian’s tour and showed them some of the sensory tools she uses for trauma-informed therapy. The next day, Pastor Christian talked to Pastor Rick about the living sand they use with the kids, and how



Pastor Rick Jones travels to Chile each year to build churches and congregational buildings, recruit pastors, and provide pastoral support to the Confessional Lutheran Church of Chile.

excited he was about using this with people with physical and emotional disabilities in Santiago. He ordered some and asked Pastor Rick to bring it to Chile when he travels there for another mercy trip in November.

“We are on the cutting edge of how we provide care with our trauma-informed philosophies and how we integrate that into our work in the cottages, in therapy, and in school,” Pastor Rick said. “Through our work with churches in Chile, the care we provide and the specific methods we use to have our breakthroughs, we are now having an impact internationally. That is incredible.”

different cottage every day. I ask them questions. See how their day is going, and it builds from there. ‘Pastor Rick, will you come see me today after school?’ ‘Pastor Rick, will you pray for me?’ ‘Pastor Rick, my mom is going through this, will you pray for her?’ Some of the pastors in the kids’ lives have been sources of fear and intimidation, so I try to break down those barriers.”

Pastor Rick believes the Ranch is full of amazing kids with incredible potential.

“Do our kids have behaviors? Absolutely. But where are those behaviors coming from? What is motivating them? When you unpack that you realize our kids are victims. Victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, poverty, family circumstances, developmental delays, fetal alcohol syndrome, and more. They don’t know any other way through a problem. That’s the way they’ve been taught.”

Through building relationships with Pastor Rick, their youth care

workers, and their therapists, kids at the Ranch learn who they really are. “They learn they have a Heavenly Father who loves them just the way they are and who knows the pain they have gone through, who sent His Son to experience that pain and remove it from their lives,” Pastor Rick said. “Slowly they come back to reality and they are able to function as the joyful children they are intended to be.”

Ministering to the staff

In addition to his work with the kids, Pastor Rick ministers to all 500 of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch staff. He emails a daily staff devotion with the purpose of lifting them up, acknowledging the difficulty of their work, and reminding them of the Ranch’s Gospel-focused care philosophy. If you would like to receive the daily devotion like the one below, please send your request, along with your name and email address, to Tammy Noteboom at t.noteboom@DakotaRanch.org.

1 John 4:7-12

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to

love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

“What, exactly, do you guys do out there?” When people first heard I was working for Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch I got this question a lot. When you hear it for the hundredth time it may be a tired question but it is still a good question. What do we do at the Ranch?

If we take the words of 1 John 4:7-12 seriously, the answer is simple: we love people. We show compassion and concern to people who have been told they are unlovable. Our work at the Ranch is to bring help and support to children and families that have nowhere else to turn.

No matter what your specific job or task is at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, you are showing love to people who need it desperately. Your work for our clients fulfills John’s words in 1 John. As you put your own comfort and convenience on hold for the sake of our at-risk children, you

demonstrate the love of Christ. You lay down your life for someone else. Thank you for all you do here at the Ranch. You are a worker of God’s love and your service shows Christ to our clients. Thank you.

If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Prayer:

Most merciful God, please give to me, and all the workers of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, a special measure of compassion and patience as we care for our residents and clients. Comfort us in times of distress and anxiety, and give us understanding hearts as we extend our hands in acts of mercy to those can no longer care adequately for themselves. Enable us to find time to care for ourselves so that we may continue to serve with joyful hearts and capable hands; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Prayer is paraphrased from the LSB: Pastoral Care Companion. Concordia Publishing House: St. Louis MO, 2007 p. 231.

Martha Anderson

Martha Anderson is a Spiritual Life Specialist on the Minot campus where she works full time providing one-on-one spiritual support for residents, students and staff; conducting spiritual life groups; and assisting with the weekly chapel service.

Length of Service: 13 years

Hometown: Ladson, South Carolina

Purpose for being at the Ranch: My purpose for being at the Ranch is to allow the Love and Light of Christ to be shared. I truly do believe that God has allowed me to be at the Ranch to share my story of deliverance through His Word and God's ability to bring healing and wholeness in our lives. God has enabled me to help our youth understand God's truth, and to understand that He loves them and desires good and perfect things for their lives.

What Bible passage most connects with your work at the Ranch?

"Faith comes by hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."
(Romans 10:17)

"Then you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)

I believe sometimes we don't know about God's love because we have not heard His truth. I believe God sent me to the Ranch and He has opened up doors for me to minister in the position of Spiritual Life.



Other interests: My other interests are spending time with my husband, my children and grandchildren. I enjoy doing whatever the Lord leads me to do. I love ministering at church, with families in need, and in the community. I enjoy visiting the elderly at the Nursing Home and assisting in Birthday celebrations for the elderly. I enjoy working with individuals as God is setting them free from the bondages that have entangled them in life. I love to praise God in song, dance, in Spirit and in truth. I truly do love doing the will of God.

Tell me about the kids at the Ranch. The youth at the Ranch are some pretty awesome kids; some have experienced some pretty challenging things in life. Some say they believed in God at one point in their lives; however, as a result of what has happened in their life, they are struggling in their faith right now.

Some were taught you don't ever have to worry about anything bad happening because you have God in your life. Well, that is not truth, the Bible says those who live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution and because we are living in a sinful world, the results of sin (which is death) affects us all. We don't have control over what might be presented to us in life; however, we do have the choice on how we will allow it to affect our lives.

Jayson Schaefer

Jay Schaefer is a Spiritual Life Specialist on the Fargo campus where he provides one-on-one spiritual support for residents, students and staff; and conducts spiritual life groups and weekly chapel services.

Length of Service: 10 years

Hometown: Oakes, ND

Purpose for being at the Ranch: I provide spiritual care for the residents and staff of the Fargo campus. That comes in the form of Bible study groups, chapel services, praying for and with the residents, and spending individual time with them as needed.

What Bible passage most connects with your work at the

Ranch?

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”



Philippians 4:6-7

I truly love the imagery that God has it all under His control and we can (and should) talk to Him about all of it. We need to know that in the midst of the crazy stuff in life, God is guarding those who are in Jesus. I simply try to share with residents and staff that Jesus is that safe place through it all.

Other interests: Teaching and recording music, running, fly fishing

Rev. Thomas R. Marcis, Jr.

Rev. Thomas R. Marcis, Jr., is senior pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Bismarck. The Ranch partners with Zion Lutheran Church to provide spiritual life support on the Bismarck campus. Pastor Marcis spends about ten hours a week on campus, working the residents, students and staff; conducting spiritual life groups; and conducting the weekly chapel service.

Length of Service:

16 years

Hometown: Northern Ohio

Purpose for being at the Ranch: My role is to model Christ by touching the lives of both the residents and staff. Saying Jesus cares doesn't mean much to these young people if they don't see how Jesus cares. I'm there to help model that love of Christ.

What Bible passage most connects with your work at the Ranch?

“Have I not commanded you? Be

strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

I see it as my job to help these young people be strong and courageous in their faith and life. It's always exciting to watch the growth of the young people. It's always a challenge gaining their trust, but it is so worth it.

Other interests:

I am married to Sara and we have four grown children and three grandchildren.



I am senior pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Bismarck and the head boys and girls soccer coach at Legacy High School.

A father's mission—a family's commitment



Wes and Marlys Kunz touch lives through gift to the Ranch.

Marlys Kunz remembers her father talking about Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch before it even existed. He was a pastor at a small congregation, St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Hannover, N.D. Marlys says, "Every once in a while there was a young man who would get into some trouble. They would be sent to the state training school in Mandan. My father was never happy with that because he said the only things they learned there were new tricks."

Her father, Pastor William Gierke, felt there should be another place these boys could get help...a place where it was OK to talk about religion, and incorporate Christ into the daily activities of the children. Marlys isn't sure how it all came together, but she does remember her father's excitement about Dakota Boys Ranch, the place organized by the North Dakota District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

As soon as the LCMS leaders began talking about the Ranch, Pastor Gierke started spreading the word. As a circuit rider (senior pastor to other pastors), he visited every congregation and pastor. While there, he met with the pastor and the church council, and often preached a sermon.

"Once there was talk of the Ranch, he managed to work it into many of his sermons," Marlys says. "He asked congregations to help get it organized, and to support it financially."

He also shared his love for the Ranch with his family. Marlys remembers that it was often included in their family prayers.

As she grew up, Marlys carried her father's love of the Ranch with her. She and her husband, Wes, started supporting the Ranch by sending memorial gifts. As they raised their family and pursued their careers (Marlys as a school teacher and Wes as a healthcare administrator), their interest slowly built. They read the Ranch Voice from cover to cover, attend Ranch events, and have toured the facilities several times over the years.

Marlys remembers one particular tour when a teacher asked a young man living at the Ranch to give the tour.

"He started out flustered, but by the time we left, I think that kid felt like a million bucks. We both complimented him. He found success and that built his self-esteem. He showed us where he slept and where he kept his books. I was so happy for him."

"The Ranch has always been a part of our giving. Now, when we are older



A published poet on campus

One of our Dakota Memorial School students is a published poet! His English teacher, James Miller, encouraged him to submit his poem to North Dakota Horizons, and they accepted it for publication in their Spring, 2016, issue. Congratulations Tristen!

God's Farmers By Tristen

Cracked knuckles, dirt-stained palms.

Jeans faded like a worn-out marker.

Cowboy boots with more miles on them than a New York City taxi.

From sunup to sundown it's blood, sweat, and no tears.

Just a stone-cold smirk. A life that will make your bones shake like a jackhammer.

Another brutal winter passing means spring has arrived and is here to stay awhile.

Morning birds waken the world.

Newborn calves bawling through the air like jeers through a crowded stadium.

The start of spring means you will soon forget what sleep is.

Planting has begun.

Thick, black smoke fills the sky. The smell of diesel floats.

Green giants come to life, roaring across the rumbling hills, tearing up the land, planting the new crop.

As midsummer approaches, it's time to tend to the cattle. Fences to fix, hay to be cut, just adds to your already mile-long "to-do" list.

"Cling, clack" goes the post pounder, forcing the iron post into the hard, rocky soil.

Sweat waterfalls down the side of your face. Cuts from the barbed wire sting and burn as the feeling of salty sweat brushes across it.

God's farmers give their all to provide the world with food and resources.

No ease to this life...

Everyday sacrifices are made just to provide for their families and others around them.

They live a life most couldn't handle.

These unbreakable warriors are God's farmers.

and have more to share, we continue to believe in the mission of the Ranch. We like the Ranch and the way you care for kids. I can't imagine what we would do with all those kids if the Ranch went away. That would be the worst thing."

Their heart for children and love for the Ranch led Marlys and Wes to decide they wanted to make a major gift to advance the mission of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. After discussing their options with Linda Medhus, Senior Development Officer at the Ranch, Marlys and Wes made a decision to transfer ownership of a piece of property to the Ranch, an outright gift of real estate. (Gifts of real estate provide a double benefit to the donor—a charitable deduction, in most cases, for the full fair market value of the property, plus avoidance of any potential capital gains tax.) The gift was recently completed, with the expectation that the Ranch will sell the property and put the money towards the Hope in the Heartland Campaign, to help complete the building project on the Fargo, N.D. campus. Wes and Marlys made the gift in memory Marlys' parents, Rev. William and Lydia Gierke.

Wes and Marlys are humble people and when approached about letting us tell their story, they were thoughtful before saying "yes."

"As long as the article gives the glory to God, because that's what it is all about for us," Marlys said. "We feel so great about our decision to gift the property, and we are happy to help Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch... it just truly makes us happy to be touching young lives."

A life well lived – Dr. Norman Luebke



Dr. Norman
Luebke

Jordan Johnson, the nephew of Dr. Norman Luebke, remembers his uncle as a kind and gentle man.

“I don’t know anyone who didn’t like and respect him,” Johnson said. “He was all about his church and his family and his faith and about the practical application of that.”

When Norman died in 2015, he left the majority of his estate, in excess of \$2,000,000, to charity—with over \$216,000 going to the Ranch. The gift supports the Hope in the Heartland Campaign for the expansion of the Fargo campus to include a gym, nutrition center, and

chapel. The Ranch will recognize the gift through the naming of the Science classroom on the Fargo campus. A plaque outside the classroom will read, “The Science Classroom is dedicated to the Glory of God in the memory of Dr. Norman Luebke.”

Norman learned about the Ranch, a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS), through his church. Norman was a life-long devoted member of the LCMS, first as a

“He was all about his church, his family, and his faith; and about the practical application of that.”

member of the church his father founded, Grace Lutheran Church in Hayward, CA, and then as a member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Danville, CA.

Johnson said, “Norman embraced the philosophy and underlying

Keeping family close

mission of the Ranch. Apart from being a doctor, he was very interested in education and youth in general. When he retired, he mentored a lot of kids through his interest in boxing.”

As a long-time fan of boxing, Norman assisted several youth boxing programs. He served as an attending fight doctor at amateur bouts, traveling with the U.S. team throughout the U.S. and to England, Thailand, and Ireland. His visit to Ireland came at the invitation of the Irish Boxing Association after he diagnosed one of their fighters, who was in the U.S. for a match, with a potentially fatal condition. He was recognized as “Physician of the Year” in 1994 by USA Boxing, but was most proud of the young men he mentored.

Johnson said, “He had a lot of acquaintances that might have started on the wrong side of the tracks—he helped them attain a good family life and good future.”

Norman’s gift will allow children and families to find professional care, compassionate expertise and new possibilities at the Ranch. Through his gift, he will help children find their value and true identity in the world and in Christ.

“My uncle, Norman, had a deep affinity for children, and he really appreciated the overall mission and philosophy that guides Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.”



Families connect through shared meals.

Sometimes it’s difficult for families to maintain strong connections while their child is in placement. It’s hard to visit, the weather doesn’t cooperate, or there just isn’t enough money to go around. Keeping families connected is very beneficial for most children’s treatment, so we do whatever we can to keep them as involved as possible.

Thanks to generous donors over the years, on the Minot campus we have a three-apartment Family Living Unit where families can stay when they visit their child. Jennifer Berg, Treatment Manager, says cottage and facilities staff stock the FLU with basic supplies whenever a family visits. If a family has a favorite meal, staff will try to stock the kitchen with the ingredients the family needs. Families are also invited to eat in our dining hall. Shared

meals can be a great way to open up conversation, talk about experiences, or share struggles.

The importance of sharing family meals was brought home at Thanksgiving last year. On each campus, we hold a family Thanksgiving dinner. We invite the kids’ families, as well as staff and their families, to share a family style meal. After the meal at the Fargo Youth Home, one of the parents told staff it was the first time they’d sat down for a meal with their son in years. It was just too difficult to come together as a family without fighting, so they quit trying. They were thrilled to have this family experience that we often take for granted.

“Some of the best conversations are centered around family meals,” Jennifer says.

Heading Home campaign update

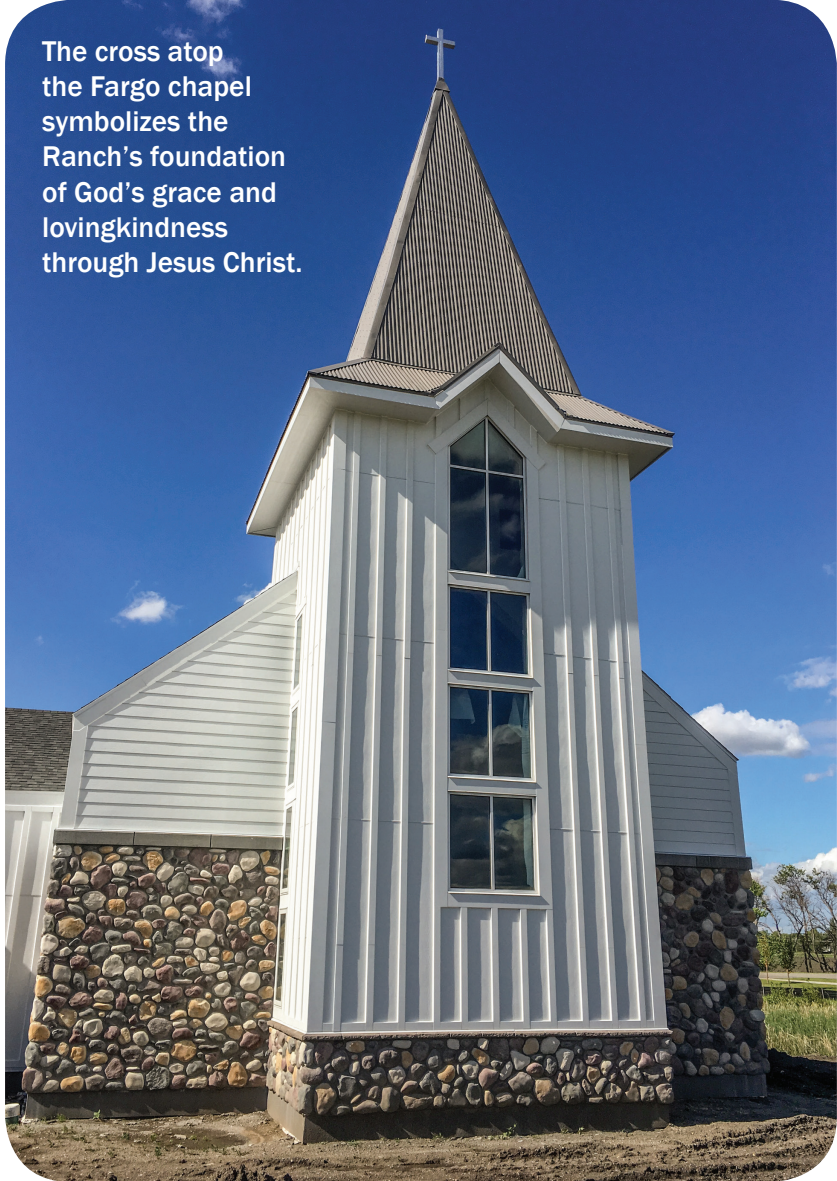
By Phil Campbell, Chief Operating Officer, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation

God is good!

The photograph of the Fargo Chapel included with this fundraising update depicts the most exciting component of the Fargo construction addition. Hands down! We would be nowhere, lost really, without God's plan for our lives. God's design for Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is equally defined and special. All of the good work we do to provide healing and education to our children is built upon the foundation of God's grace and lovingkindness through Jesus Christ. While the cross atop the Fargo chapel is only symbolic, and made of aluminum, it represents why we're here, what we do, and the purpose of serving "the least of these."

As donors, staff members, volunteers, community partners, and supporters of all kinds, we are emboldened and strengthened by the knowledge that our work, treasure, and prayers are honored by God's perfect plan. I am honored to work alongside each and every one of you.

I am excited and humbled to report that, as we approach the September 22 Open House, we have surpassed the \$10,000,000 goal of our Heading Home Campaign Public Phase. Thank you so much for your longstanding commitment and dedication to the vision of expanding the services and facilities needed in Fargo! As you know, this project is much more than a gymnasium, nutrition center, and chapel, but the next phase in helping at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ. We have a bit further to go to fully fund



The cross atop the Fargo chapel symbolizes the Ranch's foundation of God's grace and lovingkindness through Jesus Christ.

the project, and I trust that God will provide through the generosity of our supporters.

Please be assured that our fundraising focus is not solely on raising support for these new facilities in Fargo. We continue to balance the capital needs of the Ranch along with the ongoing and necessary programs that impact our children in therapy, treatment, education, and spiritual life

programming. We are excited to partner with you in all facets of our agency.

We are all in this together, and we couldn't do this good work without you. Please continue to pray for the children of the Ranch and for God's guidance in how you can continue to support His work on our campuses in North Dakota. Thank you again. God bless you.



Dakota
Boys
and
Girls
Ranch™

P.O. Box 5007
Minot, ND 58702-5007
Phone 701-839-7888
Fax 701-852-1190
r.berg@dakotaranch.org
www.DakotaRanch.org

Giving Retirement ASSETS

▶ Americans own several trillions of dollars of wealth

in the form of qualified pension plans, profit sharing plans, 401(k)s, 403(b) tax sheltered annuities, SEP, Keoghs, IRAs and stock option plans. Congress never meant for these plans to be passed on to heirs. These assets are considered “income in respect of decedent or IRD.”

▶ **Someone has to pay the tax on these assets.** By leaving them to someone other than your spouse, you can subject your heirs to significant taxes on their inheritance. Even if you do not have a taxable estate, the tax rate on these assets could well exceed fifty percent.



▶ IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

If you are 70½ or older, you can make a gift of up to \$100,000 from your IRA this year to help our cause. Making direct charitable gifts from your IRA is one of the best ways to give to us, and it is simple to do! Gifts from your IRA are not reportable as taxable income and, therefore, are not included in your adjusted gross income. Contact your IRA administrator to make a gift from your IRA or contact us to learn more.

This information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.

▶ CHARITABLE BEQUEST

If you plan to include charitable gifts in your estate plans, consider naming a charity like ours as the beneficiary of your IRD assets while leaving your cash and other investment assets to your heirs. Why? Charities are tax exempt and, unlike your heirs, will not pay taxes on IRAs and other retirement plans.

Naming a charity as the beneficiary of an IRD asset is easy. You can make a beneficiary designation by completing a simple form provided by your plan administrator. Then leave your heirs the assets like your home or stocks that can step up to fair market value when you pass away. This permits your heirs to sell these assets with little or no tax due and make use of their full inheritance.

▶ CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Some individuals prefer leaving their IRD assets to fund a charitable gift annuity that will benefit a friend or family member with lifetime fixed payments. Typically, this type of gift is appropriate when the beneficiary is fairly senior and/or would like to receive payments that never change. A gift annuity is easier and less expensive to establish and administer than a charitable remainder trust. It also may be funded with a much lower amount. With this plan, usually only one charity is the named beneficiary of the remaining value. Please contact us to view an illustration of this plan for your loved one.

▶ CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST

Funding a charitable remainder trust with your IRA or other IRD assets as part of your estate plan can help you provide for your heirs and lessen their tax burden. The trust will pay your loved ones income over a number of years. Your heirs will pay tax on the income over time, as opposed to facing a large tax bill if IRA proceeds were given to them all at once. At the end of the trust, any remaining principal will go to help further our mission.

▶ MAY WE ASSIST YOU?

We are here to help! Please contact us to learn how you can provide for the people and the causes you care the most about while avoiding unnecessary tax on your IRD assets.

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

Memorials

December 1, 2015 - April 30, 2016

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AASAND, FRANK

Frank & Linda McCann

ABERLE, LEO

Adeline Rorvig

Carolyn Merkel

ACKERMAN, CAROL

Gerald R. & Carol G. Danuser

ADICKES, DONNA

Mark & Delores Glessing

AHO, MELVIN

Bruce & Norine Johnson

ALBERS, EDITH

Howard, Joyce, Lonnie & Ben Henke

ALBERS, JOAN

John Albers

ALBRIGHTSON, CARROLL

Paula & Doug Pfau

ALLARD, ALFRED

Fred & Judith Otten

ANDERSON, DARLENE

Beverly Mundell

ANDERSON, ERVIN "SHORTY"

Bob Huether Family

Wayne Kienenberger

ANDERSON, JOHN

Bob & Jaunell Roever

ANDERSON, MARY

Pam Smith

ARNDT, ALTA

Elaine Kunz

Arlon Fuchs

ARNDT, MYRON

Paula & Doug Pfau

ARRISON, ROBYN

Gary Enget

AUREN, LORNA

Wesley & Myra Norton

BAKER, IDA

Dorothy Painter

BANDEL, GARY

Beverly Mundell

BARTHOLOMAY, MARION

Carolyn & Dave Utke

BAUER, ROY

Elsie Buchmann

Wilbert & Delores Kunz

Wilbur Pfennig

BAUER, VICTOR

Wilbert & Delores Kunz

BAUMANN, LUTHER

Bradley Baumann

Marilyn Baumann

Beckie Wahlin

BECKER, SALLI

Frances Ryland & Family

BENNETT, CHARLES

Olga Juergens

BENTZ, RITA

Don & Arlene Schumacher

BERG, HILMAR

Robert Anderson

BERGER, NICK

Lyla Helmenstein

BINGEMAN, DENNIS

JoAnn Faulkner

BLACK, EVA WOLSKY

Bill & Irene Webster

BLOCK, GARRY

Florence Smette

BOGER, LEO

Loren & Lori Hoffman

BONNIE & JACKY'S SISTER

Ethel Mae Kopischke

BORG, JUNE

LaMae Pettit

BOURASSA, BLANCHE

Rev. Leroy & Carol Westphal

BOWERS, LOREN

Bruce & Norine Johnson

BRANDON

Laurie & Dale Dannewitz

BRINKMAN, FRED J. & ELIZA-

BETH

Anthony Brinkman

BROWN, RICHARD

George & Eleanor Krueger

BROWN, SHIRLEY

Lorraine Gabbert

BUCKLEY, BOB

Lyle & Becky Hangsleben

BUCKMAN, LESTER

Caroline Buckman

BUTTENHOFF, MEL

LaMae Pettit

CALHOON, JIM

Adeline Rorvig

CARVELL, AL

Elaine Kunz

CASKEY, MIRIAM

James Gerke

CHRISTIAN, MARY

Delores Maier

CHRISTIANSON, KATHRYN E.

Lilia Christianson

CLOETER, DORIS

Muriel Juers

CORNELL, JACK

Beverly Olson

DAHL, PHIL

Ray & Joyce Gruby

DEBERTIN, EVERETT

Linda Hill

DENKE, JANET ACKERMANN

Doris R. Knudson

DEUEL, MILO
 David & Janice Oppedahl
 DIEDE, CLARA
 Wallace & Midge Anderson
 DIX, MARY
 Beverly Olson
 DUBOURT, LEON F.
 Laurence Charbonneau
 Ronald LeClerc
 DRAEGER, LUELLA
 Ilene Bussler
 DUGDALE, DELORIS "AILEEN"
 Albert & Eleanor Griffith
 DUNKLAU, RUPERT
 Lisa & Roger Cole
 Laurie & Dale Dannewitz
 Larry Knutson
 Vicki & Rob Reiner
 Sandy Schmidt
 DWYER, TIM
 Tim Dwyer Family
 ECKERT, RICHARD "DICK"
 Linda Hill
 ELAYNE WICHMANN'S SISTER
 Ethel Mae Kopischke
 ELDER, BRADY
 Laurie & Dale Dannewitz
 ENGEL, BRADLEY
 Mark & Delores Glessing
 ENGLAND, MARGARET ELENORA
 Doris & Jack Simich
 ESTES, RON
 Muriel Juers
 FARGIS, GEORGE
 Elizabeth Ravenscroft
 FARMER, HENRY JOHN
 Lilia Christianson
 FATLAND, JAN
 Dean & Sylvia Fatland
 FATLAND, SYLVIA
 Vern & Jean Rockstad
 Virgil & Arlys Torgerson
 FLADELAND, DARREL
 Larry & Bonnie Thronson
 FLAIG, FRANCES
 Karen Fjellanger
 FOCKE, JIM
 Dorence & Sharon Cote
 Jerroll Erickson
 FOSLAND, JOHN
 Joyce & Sharon Knudsvig
 FOSNAUGH, JOAN
 Nolan & Eileen Bode
 FRAME, THELMA
 Adeline Rorvig
 FREDRICKSON, BARBARA
 Dorothy Painter
 "FRIENDS"
 Charlotte Carow
 FROELICH, MARY
 Lyle & Becky Hangsleben
 GANGL, ROBERT
 Mrs. Alice Gangl
 GENTER, ELMER A.
 Ralph & Clara Fiechtner
 GERBINO, CHARLES
 Martin & Ladeen Guericke
 GERMAIN, JEANINE
 Shirley Sackman
 GILBERT, DAVE
 Lyla Helmenstein
 GOODMAN, MARIE
 Janet Klebe
 GRACE KOPISCHKE'S SISTER
 Ethel Mae Kopischke
 GRANDMA IVY JOHNSON
 LaMae Pettit
 GREGOIRE, MARGIE
 David & Sharon Miller
 GRONVOLD, ELLEN
 James & Sarah Shanks
 GROSSMAN, JEAN
 Morris Wegner
 GROVER, RON
 Evelyn Montgomery
 GRUENHAGEN, KEN
 Don & Arlene Schumacher
 GUENTHNER, MARVIN
 Dorothy Bauer
 Armond & Vi Isaak
 Jack & Rose Krukenberg
 Bonnie Schlecht
 GUST, JOAN MARIE
 Richard & Lucille Gust
 HALL, GENE
 Greg Anderson
 Janet & Larry Bartz
 George Bohl
 Bernard Conlin
 Gerry & Joan Fiechtner
 Richard & Michelle Galster
 Donald & Laura Malchose
 Jean Roland
 Geneal Roth
 Don & Sandy Skolness
 Jim & Donna Stewart
 HANSON, BERNETTA
 Ethel Mae Kopischke
 HANSON, CONSTANCE
 Mrs. Anita L. Petersen
 HARMS, CORENE
 Kathleen Stelzer
 HARTMANN, ANITA
 Linda O. Hansen
 HASZ, DENNIS
 Lucille Grueneich
 HATRICK, BETTY
 LaMae Pettit
 HAUGEN, GILBERT
 Mr. & Mrs. Dallas Grieger
 HAUGEN, MARTHA
 William & Janice Taylor
 HEINZ, WILLIAM V.
 Milton & Sandra Loyer
 HEMINGWAY, HARLAN
 Mrs. Anita L. Petersen
 HENDRICKSON, LOIS
 Elsie Buchmann
 HENKE, HOWARD
 Hank & Jan Albers
 Delores Maier
 HENRIETTA, HILDA & ALVIN
 Deloris Alm
 HERDINA, LAUREL
 Ethel Mae Kopischke
 HERRICK, IOLA
 Marilyn J. Baumann
 HILL, VANCE
 Janet & Gordon Fry

HINRICHSEN, LLOYD

Barbara Hanson
Jeff & Mona Pithan

HOESEL, MILTON

Wilbert & Delores Kunz

HUHTA, NAEMI

Muriel Juers

HURLEY, LLOYD

Al & Johnne Bierdeman

JOHNSON, CURTIS

Richard & Lucille Gust

Evelyn Schwagler

Tim Schwagler

JOHNSON, LYLA

Judy & Armand Barbot

JOHNSON, TERRY

Paula & Doug Pfau

JOHNSON, VIOLA

Dorothy Wrabek

JORSTAD, MIRANDA

Bernice Feiring

Thor & Eileen Strand

KALKE, KERMIT

Ethel Mae Kopischke

KARI'S BROTHER

Ethel Mae Kopischke

KASCHMITTER, ODILO

Bud & Sheila Gerry

KATHY'S MOTHER

LaMae Pettit

KELDERMAN, SAM

Muriel Juers

KELLER, DUANE R.

Douglas Keller

KELLY, JEREMIAH

Janice (Kitty) Dill

KENNEDY, ARLA MAE

Robert & Joyous Bartle

KIRCHNER, DUWAYNE

Ethel Mae Kopischke

KITZMANN, FERN

Marian Kitzmann & Family

KLEMP, ALBERT

Darleen Klempe

KLIMPEL, CAROL

Ron & Donna Hansen

KNUDSON, GLENN P.

Wiley & Richie Butler

KNUTSON, MILDRED

Anita Petersen

KOWITZ, VIRGINIA

Mr. & Mrs. Loren Sabrowsky

KRAFT, DANNY

Ms. Adeline Rorvig

KRAGE, WAYNE

Elinor Dennert

KRONBECK, HYACINTH

Harley & Cheryl Haug

KUDRNA, DON

Paula & Doug Pfau

KUHLMANN, LEONA

Tom & Pat Laufer

KULBERG, CLARENCE

Don & Arlene Schumacher

KVESET, HELEN

Bill & Irene Webster

LAIR, MILDRED

Ethel Mae Kopschke

LANG, MYRON

Roger & Lisa Cole & Family

Vicki & Rob Reiner

LANG-AUDETTE, CASSI

Rich & Karen Berg

LANGENBERG, LYNN

Fred & Judith Otten

LARSON, HELEN

Rev. Donald & Deanne Kirsch

LARSON, HERZELL & MARGARET

Phillip D. Lovchik

LARSON, JAN "Grams"

Heidi Llewellyn

LARSON, MAE DEAN

Ethel Mae Kopischke

LEE, NORMA

Muriel Juers

LEISENRING, BETTY & DEL

Cathe McClure

LEYH, IVERA

Robert & Ilene Meyer

LINK, MICHELLE

Michael Kuntz

LLEWELLYN, MONA "Mom"

Heidi Llewellyn

LOEHRKE, SR., JAMES H.

JoAnn Loehrke Arney &
James D. Arney

LOEHRKE, JEANETTE M. "JEAN"

JoAnn Loehrke Arney &

James D. Arney

Joyce Henke

Patrick & Gail Lengenfelder

Rowan Rosendahl

Marvin & Laverne Schulz

LOOMIS, MICHAEL

Linda O. Hansen

LORENZEN, MARVIN

Irene Luoma

Adeline Rorvig

LOUDEN, KAYE ANN

Wayne Kienenberger

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Searles

LUDWIG, JIM

LaMae Pettit

MAGNUSSON, CHARLES

Ardys Horner

MAIER, FRIEDA

Frances Priebe

MANSHOLT, EARL

Lydia Kehr

MARKS, ADELIN

Richard & Lucille Gust

MAROHL, KENNETH

Judith Baumann

MARTIN, KEITH

Peninsula Iron Works

MARTIN, MICHAEL

STEPHANSON

Bill & Kris Heller

MARTINSON, MELVIN

Lucille Grueneich

MATTERN, AGATHA

Laurie & Dale Dannewitz

MATTERN, ORVILLE

Richard & Lucille Gust

MCCABE, EUNICE

Barrett Pharmacy

MCGLYNN, RYAN

Lyle & Becky Hangsleben

MEYER, DORIS

Roy Meyer

MEYER, ELLA
 Wilhelm Meyer

MEYER, MAVIS
 Jeanenne Wilcox

MICHEL, LORRAINE
 Morris Wegner

MIDGARDEN, JOEY
 Ron & Jennifer Thompson

MILLER, PASTOR DAVID H.
 Mrs. Ginny Miller & Family

MILLER, JOANNE
 Karen Fjellanger

MILLER, MILDRED
 Phyllis Heuer

MITSKOG, ARLINGTON T.
 Robert Rostad

MOELLER, FRANTZ
 Bill & Joan Ferguson

MORAST, DENNIS
 Elsie Buchmann

MOSBRUCKER, WILBERT
 Lyla Helmenstein

MUELLER, MAVIS "MAZIE"
 Bonnie Schlecht

MY BEAUTIFUL
 GRANDDAUGHTER

BETHANY FAYE
 Laurel Moser

NEUBARTH, WILLIAM "BILL"
 Ilene Bussler
 Ivandel Myrlie
 Bruce & Rosemarie White

NIEMANN, LYLE
 Clarice Mosolf

NILSON, PAUL
 Marilyn J. Baumann

NOGOSEK, LOIS
 Linda Hill

NORMAN, HARRIET
 Patricia C. Jones

NOVAK, ROSE MARIE
 Morris Wegner

OLSON, BRENT
 Wes & Marlys Kunz

OLSON, KENNETH
 Pam Smith

ONNEN, GERHARD
 Mick Onnen

OPPEDAHL, GRANT (GRAND-
 SON)
 Janice & David Oppedahl

OSTBY, MILTON
 Don & Marlene Brandenburg

OSWALD, JERILYN
 Hank & Jan Albers

OTTO, MYRTLE
 Jeff & Mona Pithan

PELLETIER, ROBERT "BOB"
 Dot Painter

PETERS, DALE
 Don & Arlene Schumacher

PETERSON, SHANNON
 David & Brenda Niess

PLASTER, THELMA
 Frances Ryland & Family

POOKER, MATTHEW J.
 Norman & Lois Pooker
 Warren Pflantz

POURIER, LAURETTE MARIE
 Bill & Joan Ferguson

QUINNILD, CLAYTON
 Sherry Colehour
 The Quinnild Farm

RAATZ, KEITH
 Bruce & Pam Smith

RAHN, ARCHIE
 Don Guebert

RAHN, EDNA
 Arlon & Leslie Fuchs

RAMBERG, CHANTZ
 Bernice Teiring

RAUGUTT, WALTER
 Lucille Grueneich

RECKER, EMIKO
 Bruce & Pam Smith

REHWALDT, DR. CHARLES
 Donna Clements
 Lois P. Lackore
 Warren Rehwaldt
 Renae Williams

REITAN, CLARENCE "BUD"
 Dallas & Carol Grieger

RETTIG, BOB
 Laurie & Dale Dannewitz

RICHARDSON, MARGE
 Lawrence Charbonneau

RICHERT, FAY
 Gladys & Harold Blume
 Dorene Richert

ROSENTHAL, JANICE
 Bonnie Schlecht

ROSSOW, REV. E.J.
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Naugle

RUDOLPH, AUGUST & MARY
 Bob Rudolph

RYNESTAD, LLOYD & PAT
 Rob & Vicki Reiner

SABROWSKY, NORM
 Milford, Eleanor & Loren Sabrowsky

SATROM, HAZEL
 Alan & Jennie Smith

SAVAGE, TERRI
 Arnold Kleinfeldt

SCHIMMELPFENNIG, ERNIE
 Robert & Shirley Detlaff
 Linda Hill

SCHOCK, WALTER
 Lucille Grueneich

SCHOENBORN, CHAD
 David & Brenda Niess

SCHUELKE, RONALD
 Darleen Klemp

SCHULLER, CAROL
 Antone & Opaldine Clausen

SCHUMACHER, SHERREE
 Dottie & Jackie Nelson
 Verna Welk

SHELKEY, ROSE
 Roger & Lisa Cole

SIEDSCHLAG, WENDELL
 Dan & Marlene Brandenburg
 Marvin & Mary Siedschlag

SKORHEIM, BUD & VERNA DELLE
 Donald Skorheim

SMETTE, DONALD
 Donald & Rosella Debele
 Richard & Lucille Gust

SMITH, BEN
 Lyle & Becky Hangsleben

SPURR, DAVID J.
George & Eleanor Krueger

STANGELAND, PAUL
Dallas & Carol Grieger

STEELE, JOAN
Harold & Elaine Weisbrook

STEFFAN, ROSEMARY
John & Brenda Steffan

STEINWAND, RICHARD
Lucille Grueneich

STEVENS, MARCH
Basil Talley

STEVENS, LEFTENANT MARTHA
Laurie Dannewitz

STIGGE, DR. N.E.
Eldean & Sharon Adams
Anonymous Donor
Armin & Chris Blanken
Hamlin & Dorothy Burtness
Dean & Pat Frost
Alice McLain
Douglas Newland
Rueben & Mildred Peitz
Art & Barb Schauer
Doug & Kayla Stigge
William Taylor
Dennis Tegtmeier Family

STOCKBURGER, OTTO
Richard & Lucille Gust

STOCKDILL, FLOYD
Leatrice Stockdill

STRANDER, ARNOLD
Don & Marlene Brandenburg

STRANG, DUANE
Harley & Cheryl Haug

STRUNK, MARGARET
Marilyn Baumann

STRUTZ, GREG
Patsy Moerke

SZEWCAK, CASEY
Patricia Szewczak

TAMMEN, PATRICIA
Martin & Ladeen Guericke

TERNING, EVAN
Marvin & Delores Glessing

THIEM, REV. ALFRED
Rebecca Thiem

THORSTENSEN, TERRY
Ed & Dawn Tyson

TISDEL, LORRAINE
Patricia Bahr

TOEPKE, GLADYS
Delores Maier

TSUTSUI, SUMI
Dot Painter

TURNBOW, LEANN
Hank & Jan Albers

TWO LITTLE ANGELS
Ethel Mae Kopischke

VANDERHOEF, AIDAN
David & Karen Rasmusson

VANVIG, ANDREW
Doris Carlson

VIESTENZ, RONALD
Jeanne Olson

VOGT, DARLENE
Jeff & Mona Pithan

WABBE, JOHN
DuWayne & Joann Kloos
Don & Arlene Schumacher

WALKER, EVELYN
Dorothy Painter

WANNER, GLADYS
Sidney & Ruby Peterson

WEIDNER, STEVEN
Tammy Noteboom

WELSTAD, SHERMAN
Wanda & John Kitzman

WENZEL, LILLIAN
Jean Rubbert

WHITTY, HESSTON
Roger & Lisa Cole & Family
Matt Garbel & Amanda Mosser

WIDSTROM, DON
Patsy Moerke

WILLIAMS, HAROLD
Mrs. Anita L. Petersen

WOLFF, ILO R.
Laurie & Dale Dannewitz

WOLTERS, John
Wayne Kienenberger

WURM, VIOLET I.
Rebecca Clark
Mr. & Mrs. John Wurm

ZIEMER, BRIAN
Ilene Bussler

ZIMBLEMAN, ARDITH
Ed & Gertrude Anderson
Don & Marlene Brandenburg

ZIMMERMAN, ADDIE
Steve & TyLynn Theis

ZULCH, GREGORY
Carol Wardin

Honorariums

December 1, 2015 - April 30, 2016
Honorariums

-----A-----

ANDREASEN, REV. & MRS. JOHN
Stephen & Ruth Carnal

BERGSETH, MR. & MRS. KENNETH
Lee Bergseth

BERNTSON, MARK
Chris & Camille Harvey

BRUEGGEMEIER, AUDREY
Don & Arlene Schumacher

FRIED, SONYA & WARREN
Donna Linnertz

HEFTER, JOHN & JOAN
Debra Engley

HESTERMANN, BUD & BETTY
Tom, Rick & Dino Hestermann

JULIANN HANSON'S BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION
Karen & Linda Fjellanger

LAFRAMBOISE, SABRINA, ETHAN
& SETH
Tom & Sue Miller

LINNERTZ, DONNA & TOM
Warren & Sonya Fried

MELOM, BERNICE
Norma Austreim

MORENO, LOUISE, GEORGE &
ELVIRA
Arthur & Pamela Moreno

MY FATHER
Mr. & Mrs. Curt Abfalter

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Boards of Directors

OTTEN, FRED

John & Denise Batcher

RAYMOND DAENZER'S 90TH
BIRTHDAY

Donald & Caroline Maurer

RHONDA LIVEDALEN & FAMILY

Sue Miller

SATCHER, LARRY

Dorothy Painter (Mom)

STAFF AT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH—BAY CITY MI

Rev. & Mrs. Leroy R. Westphal

STORM, MR. & MRS. WES

JoAnn Grilley

STUTE, CLARENCE

Joe Stute

THE GREG VASEK FAMILY

Gary & Nancy Vasek

WEINAND, SCOTT

John & Tena Weinand

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Michelle Anderson

Dr. Brent A. Askvig

Maxine M. Beckwith

Robert W. Briggs

Robert Drees

Pastor Derek Harkins

Rev. Paul Krueger

Jerry Leeseberg, Honorary Member

Dr. George O'Neill

Robert Rosenvold

Dr. Wayne Sanstead

Dick Shorma

Wayne Ulven

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Dr. Brent A. Askvig

Maxine M. Beckwith

Scott Differding

Gereld F. Gerntholz

Harley Haug

Mrs. Gudrun R. Marx, Honorary
Member

Brent J. Mattson

Daniel Olson

Robert Rosenvold

William T. Simmons

Amanda Thomas

Dakota Family Services Board

Dr. Brent A. Askvig

Dr. Donald Burke

James R. Dankenbring

Gene Kaseman

Dr. George O'Neill

Amanda Thomas

Dr. Rebecca Ulven

Community Partners

Grants and corporate donations

MDU Community Foundation

\$2,000, General Operating

St. Joseph's Community Foundation

\$5,000, Baby Think it Over Program (Minot)

Falkirk Mining Company

\$500, Library books (Minot)

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Walter Ray Meyer Endowment Fund

\$1,500, Greenhouse Program (Minot)

Oklahoma Lutheran Women's Missionary League

\$3,000, Bibles for residents

Elmer and Kaya Berg Foundation

\$1,000, Hope for the Heartland Building
Campaign (Fargo)

F-M Home Builder's Care Foundation

Ongoing assistance with repairs and renovations
of the Fargo Youth Home

Verendrye Electric

\$500, in-kind donation of new Verendrye
Greenhouse sign (Minot)

North Dakota Ag in the Classroom (North Dakota FFA Foundation)

\$500, garden supplies for the greenhouse (Minot)

Heading Home

a final celebration



**Thursday,
September 22
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch
7151 15th St. S., Fargo**



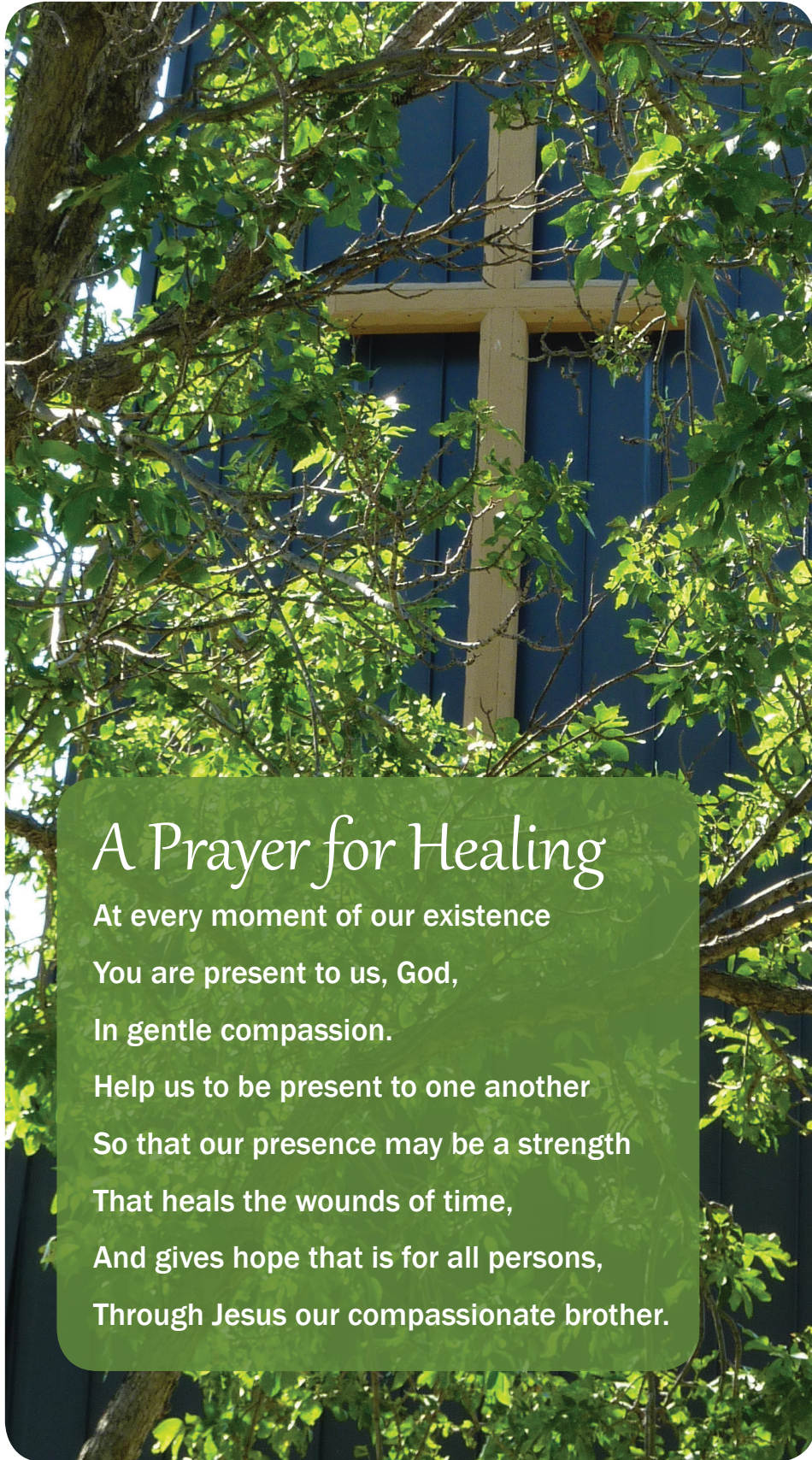
After 64 years of service to children and families through Residential Treatment Facilities, Outpatient Psychiatric and Psychological Services, and Spiritual Life Programs, we are celebrating the completion of our Fargo Expansion Project—made possible through your generous gifts!

Please join us for a

**11 a.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Noon - 2 p.m. Open House/Luncheon & Campus Tours
3 p.m. Celebration Service in Marx Chapel**

We hope you can join us for this very special celebration. And always, please remember the children at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in your prayers.

For more information, call 1-800-344-0957



A Prayer for Healing

At every moment of our existence

You are present to us, God,

In gentle compassion.

Help us to be present to one another

So that our presence may be a strength

That heals the wounds of time,

And gives hope that is for all persons,

Through Jesus our compassionate brother.

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

Your Name

Your Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Please pray for



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

Change Service Requested



Linocut designed and crafted by a
Dakota Memorial School student.

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

