

# THE RANCH VOICE

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

Summer 2022



Paul Cordova cultivates hope through gardening as he teaches a young resident how to plant a tomato.



[www.DakotaRanch.org](http://www.DakotaRanch.org)  
1.800.344.0957

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# Message from the President/CEO

## A picture of hope



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

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DakotaRanch.org

Dear Friends of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch,

I have been at the Ranch for seven years now and it is an honor I thank God for every day. One of the great pleasures of having been here this long is that I now get to see and visit with adults who were children in care when I first came. I am always thrilled, and a little amazed, that these young adults touch base with us.

My dad was a great storyteller. He was also a voracious reader, which I think gave him the vocabulary to really give his stories color and texture. He had many stories to tell. He was in WWII in the Navy and was in every major Pacific Theater battle. He was on the USS Yorktown when it was sunk in the Battle of Midway. His love story with my mom was one for the ages! He loved to share about the people he met and the truths he had learned.

His own life story started with a very tumultuous childhood. Truthfully, it was very similar to the experiences of many of the children at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

When I wonder about the connection between the Ranch and the children who pass through our doors, one of my dad's stories comes to mind. He was living, as a 3 or 4-year-old, with his Aunt Barbra and Uncle Joe. One day, two "very old" people came down the steps at breakfast time. The woman was very tiny, even to the eyes of a small child. The man was tall and strong looking. This was in the 1920s, and the woman wore a blouse with small pearl buttons up the high neck, and also at the cuffs. The cuffs were not buttoned, and as they sat down at the breakfast table, she turned to the man with her arm extended and he buttoned those tiny buttons. When he was done with one cuff, he did the other.

That was my dad's first glimpse of his grandparents. It was also his first vivid memory of seeing one person treat another with kindness. Dad was quick to say that Barbra and Joe were truly kind people, but their kindness was never so overt! He told me the story many times and said he held that picture in his memory and it gave him hope. Unfortunately, when Dad left that home a couple of years later he was destined to live through many more horrors before that hope could come to fruition. It did. He was an excellent dad.

I think maybe that is part of what draws children who have left the Ranch to return as adults. This is the first place they saw kindness. This is the first place they felt hope. Life may continue to be difficult, but that picture remains with them.

Thank you for making that hope possible.

In His love,

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

# Understanding Our Kids

## The power of humor to connect and heal



**By Lisa Foster, LMSW  
Therapist,  
Dakota Boys  
and Girls  
Ranch**

*“I will look for the flowers by the side of the road; I will laugh and love and be strong. I will try to lighten another’s load this day as I fare along.” – Mary S. Edgar*

When children first arrive at the Ranch, they may feel vulnerable, afraid, and overwhelmed. To help create a comfortable environment where they can feel welcome, safe, and hopeful, we often use humor in our interactions.

People who visit our campuses are often surprised by the laughter they hear from our kids. “How can

children find humor in the midst of such adversity, trauma, and pain?” they ask. One reason our kids laugh is our intentionality—we help them find ways to bring humor into their lives. Many of our staff keep a collection of “Dad jokes” and riddles in their heads to make the kids smile. We use humor as a bridge to healing and connecting and it strengthens the bonds between us. A stronger bond means we can more successfully work with kids to promote healing.

Studies show that laughter helps combat depression and anxiety. When you consider what so many of our children have experienced and survived, it is no wonder that depression, anxiety, and PTSD are highly prevalent.

Humor also plays a critical role in building resilience. When our

kids talk to us honestly, laugh with us, and show a little vulnerability, they develop new skills that help them make healthier choices. They discover they have a voice, and that people are listening. They start to value themselves. They begin to organically build a foundation of healthier boundaries and expectations. Once resilience roots, its effect on kids’ lives is astounding and long-lasting.

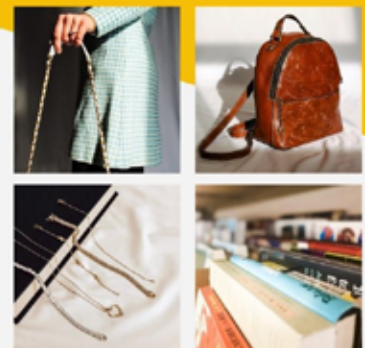
Through their laughter and tears, our children learn to embrace every part of themselves. The changes are incremental and built through hundreds of hours of bonding and laughter, as well as intensive therapeutic interventions.

When children leave the Ranch, we can take comfort in the hope that humor and laughter will continue to heal their aching spirits.

### DAKOTA RANCH ONLINE

#### Shop online to support Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch!

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



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[DakotaRanch.org/thrift-stores/shop-online/](https://DakotaRanch.org/thrift-stores/shop-online/)



## The power of a place How the Ranch helped Zach find his voice

“Before our house burned down, life was just normal,” Zach said. “We’d go to school, eat, go home, play, and stuff. But after the fire, we were sleeping in our car, at the homeless shelter, and at my dad’s friends’ houses. That was when my mom really stopped being there.”

When Zach was in third grade, he and his brother were placed in foster care. His parents both struggled with addictions that intensified after the house fire, and they couldn’t provide the care their children needed.

Zach and his brother lived in a couple of different foster homes, moved back with their dad for a couple of years, and then went back into foster care. Zach said foster care wasn’t all bad, “but I was always in a different place. It just wasn’t stable.”

Not having a place to call home took a toll on Zach.

By the time he came to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch at age 16, Zach was struggling with severe depression, skipping school, and getting in trouble with the law.

I wasn’t happy about being [at the Ranch] at first, but it honestly wasn’t that bad. People started actually



**At the Ranch, Zach was surrounded by people focused on helping him get better.**

listening to what I said. Before the Ranch, my opinion didn’t matter,” Zach said, “but here everyone was focused on helping me better myself.”

One of the issues Zach tackled at the Ranch was his education.

“It wasn’t like I was dumb. I knew I was smart enough to finish. I just hated school. I tried to express that before but until I got to the Ranch, no one listened,” Zach said. “Mrs.

DeGree arranged for me to complete my GED and I got it done in like a week. Once I figured out that they would listen to me, I figured I could actually start trying here.”

In addition to the psychiatric care and therapy he received at the Ranch, Zach received a lot of support from Ranch staff, particularly Youth Care Worker, Jim Herdt.

“Right away when I got there, I felt like I could be open with Jim,” Zach said. “He made it easy for me to express how I feel. He told me all these things about the Ranch and how I could utilize my time there to do what I want to do with my life. He supported my dream of enlisting [in the Marines] and helped me research and figure out all of that stuff.”

As Zach got close to completing his treatment, he learned there wasn’t anywhere for him to go.

“I was doing everything I needed to do, but they couldn’t find a place for me. There were no foster homes or anything,” Zach said.

While Zach waited, Ranch staff helped him get an off-campus job. With their help, Zach researched local jobs, learned how to complete the applications, and practiced his interviewing skills. When he got a job, they made sure he had transportation to and from work and showed him how to budget.

Eventually, Zach left the Ranch to live with his older brother. It wasn’t easy and Zach had some conflicts with his brother’s girlfriend, but thanks to the continuing support of the Ranch through its Aftercare Program, he has been able to work it out.

“Shaina [Vanyo, my Aftercare Specialist] helped me with transitioning and some of the things I ran into when I left the Ranch. I was able to talk to her about the problems I was having with my brother’s girlfriend. And then I was able to communicate with my brother and his girlfriend and work it out. Without someone like Shaina to help, I probably wouldn’t have been able to do that.”

Zach said he also wouldn’t have completed his GED without the Ranch, and he’d probably be in detention. Instead, he is working, living in the community, and planning for his future.

As for what he would like to tell other kids about the Ranch, “Just give it a shot, even if you don’t think it’ll work. If you at least try or are open-minded about the help you can get at the Ranch, you’ll have a better chance.”

## Lack of skill, not will



**By Tim Gienger,**  
**Director**  
**of Therapy**  
**Services/**  
**Clinical**  
**Director**

We talk a lot about trauma-informed care here at the Ranch—it is a philosophy of care we take very seriously in both our treatment and education environments. But it can be a difficult concept to understand—both for new Ranch employees and for people outside the school and treatment world.

When I was asked recently to describe trauma-informed care in a nutshell, I said, “Trauma-informed care starts with being nice, being curious, listening, and giving kids the benefit of the doubt.”

What does that look like in action? First, let’s talk about our kids and why they are here. Kids are often placed at the Ranch because they are engaging in challenging behaviors in their home communities. These behaviors arise because they lack skills like frustration tolerance, flexibility, and problem-solving—often because of past trauma, past life events, and ongoing mental health concerns.

One of the ways we are further solidifying our trauma-informed philosophy and practice is through Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS). CPS is based on the understanding that children don’t behave poorly due to a lack of will. In most cases, they are already trying hard, but don’t have

the skills they need to behave well.

CPS teaches a structured problem-solving process we can use with our kids, giving them the space to learn and practice being flexible, managing frustration, and solving problems. As our kids develop these skills, their challenging behaviors are less frequent, and they solidify skills they can use throughout their lives.

Implementing the evidence-based practice of CPS strengthens the trauma-informed practices we already had in place—giving us more tools to empower our kids to leave the Ranch with the skills they need to make decisions on their own, communicate in socially acceptable ways, and care for their physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

CPS also provides a different way to think about treatment planning. Traditionally, treatment planning focused on the child’s challenging behaviors and the ways in which those behaviors are reinforced. With this model, we instead identify lagging skills and how we can help the child build and strengthen those skills. For instance, a Collaborative Problem-Solving Assessment might identify certain thinking skills that are causing a child’s challenging behaviors. We focus on developing those thinking skills so when a child is faced with a difficult situation, they can use those skills to deal with the frustration rather than engage in the behaviors that brought them to us.

Collaborative Problem Solving provides three options, referred to as “plans,” to address a problem. Plan A, imposing adult will, only addresses

the adult’s concern. We use Plan A for imminent safety issues or problems that can’t be solved collaboratively in the moment. Plan C, dropping it for now, only addresses the child’s concern. We use this plan when we proactively decide to remove an expectation and focus on other higher priority issues.

The third option is referred to as Plan B, which solves the problem collaboratively and addresses the concerns of both the child and the adult. We do this by planning in advance to have a conversation with the child where we hear their concerns, express our own concerns, and work together to find a solution that addresses both sets of concerns. Quite simply, it is a practical approach to “being nice, being curious, listening, and giving kids the benefit of the doubt.”

At the Ranch, we believe that kids would do well if they could. This model will help us to better identify, teach, and solve problems with kids instead of for them. We cannot solve a behavior, but we can solve a problem that leads to challenging behavior. CPS gives us tools to identify the lagging skills; and to engage in conversations rooted in compassion and curiosity, where kids are given the benefit of the doubt, have voice and choice, and learn skills that allow them to become their best selves.

*To learn how you can implement CPS in your life, check out “Changeable: How Collaborative Problem-Solving Changes Lives at Home, at School, and at Work,” by J. Stuart Ablon.*



# *Learning, healing, and having fun*

**Summer at Dakota Boys and GIRLS RANCH**

When you think back to your childhood, what do you remember about summer? Long, lazy days exploring the outdoors? Going to the local beach or swimming pool? Biking? Playing softball or kick-the-can? Family reunions? Vacation Bible School? Summer camp?

The list goes on and on, but the common denominators are having fun, building relationships, and participating in activities that will benefit you your whole life.

While some of the children who come to the Ranch have had these same experiences, most haven't. Many of their families didn't have the resources to send them to camp or enroll them in summer activities, so they spent summers indoors watching TV or playing video games. Others lived in the chaos of addiction and poverty where they took on the role of caring for their siblings and trying to protect them from violence. Still others used drugs and alcohol to escape their circumstances.

Summer programming gives our kids a unique and positive summer experience. They experience activities they may not have been exposed to before—like gardening, fishing, hiking, art, music, and more. They learn new things in classes like Discover Dakota, Sports History, and Pop Culture. School has rarely been consistent for Ranch kids so it's important to challenge them to learn. Learning without the stress of tests and grades helps kids see that learning can be fun and that they can succeed.

Through scheduled summer activities, our kids also learn the value of routine and structure, which is especially important for children who have experienced trauma or are processing difficult emotions in therapy. Schedules, rhythm, and predictability allow them to trust what comes next and reduce their hyper-anxiety.

While the classes are different, the structure of summer programming is the same on all three Ranch campuses. Classes start at 9 a.m. and go until noon, Monday through Thursday. Residents are split into small groups that rotate



**Above:** Students use a jigsaw and woodburning tools to make their own charcuterie boards.



**Left:** A card game gave one student a chance to practice his math skills in a fun and low-stress environment.



**In addition to teaching kids valuable life skills, gardening can be therapeutic. It helps kids clear their minds and relax, which is especially helpful when they are working through difficult issues in therapy. Gardening has been shown to also boost brain development and increase cognitive flexibility in children.**

through the activities.

In Bismarck and Fargo, Thursdays are reserved for special outings. In Fargo, the kids spend Thursdays going to the zoo, touring a local radio station, and waterskiing at a nearby lake (thanks to a nonprofit that brings together at-risk kids and volunteers with boats).

“Thursdays in Bismarck include things like touring the career academy or the heritage center,” said Tal Pollert, Wellness Coordinator, who coordinates summer programming in Bismarck. “We hike the trails and go through the informational center at Game and Fish. And every year we take one day to visit Medora and hike in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.”

## How our garden grows

Gardening is one of the kids’ favorite classes.

“They don’t all like it at first because watering and weeding is work,” said Paul Cordova, Recreation Specialist/Youth Care Worker. “But when they see how something grew from a seed they planted, they start to understand and like the process of nurturing it,



The kids learned about movies and actors of the 1930s in the math room turned theater—complete with movie popcorn!



Above: The GEAR Mini-bike Program (Getting Engaged and Responsible) begins with classroom safety training.



Left: The day’s Food and Fun project, baking blueberry muffins, was fun and delicious. And, the kids learned a lesson in weights, measures, and how to read a recipe.



Building popsicle bridges is an annual summer programming event—with a strength test at the end to see who built to strongest bridge.



paying attention to it, and feeding it. And, of course, they all love the harvest. When it comes time for that, they'll pull stuff right off the vine and eat it right there."

When it's time to harvest the produce, residents give some to the kitchen where it's incorporated into the children's meals and used to prepare dishes in their Food and Fun class. In Bismarck, they set up a table filled with produce at Zion Lutheran Church and give it out for free-will donations.

Introducing unfamiliar activities can help kids build confidence, gain independence, and learn how to navigate new environments—all of which are important for long-term success.

One of our residents said it best, "I love how calm I feel [in the garden.] You don't have to focus on other people or get along with other people. You just get to focus on the plants."



Above: Scheels in Minot, ND donated several new bikes for the kids to ride around the campus.

Right: One of the summer programming art projects was to paint treasure boxes—painting on small items strengthens small motor skills.



## The great outdoors

Marisa Rudie, Program Director on the Ranch's Bismarck campus, believes getting kids outside is one important aspect of summer programming.

"I'm a true believer that fresh air and sunshine make everybody feel better," Rudie said.

Wildlife/outdoors class, taught by Andrew Meier, a Dakota Memorial School teacher, gets the kids outdoors through a variety of activities. They fish from the shore of the Souris River, cook outdoors, go birdwatching, care for and release pheasants into the wild, learn how to tie knots, plant flowers and apple trees, and make charcuterie boards in the shop.

The mini-bike program, available to residents in Minot and Bismarck, is also a favorite activity. The kids spend a couple of weeks learning about safety, then learn how to care for and maintain the mini-bikes, and finally, learn how to ride.

Putting at-risk kids on mini-bikes may seem like a bad idea, but our many years of experience with the mini-bike program have proven

Left: The kids went back to the 70s with the latest "new" fad in home decor—colorful toadstools!



Our summer art teachers introduce many different mediums for the kids to explore— fabric paint, acrylic, tie dye, watercolor, and more.





it's a great way to teach kids how to be responsible for their own safety, build trust in their ability to make good decisions, and learn to understand and accept rewards and consequences. The minibikes also build self-confidence in kids as they learn how to care for and ride the bikes. They become very conscientious about the safety, maintenance, and riding rules, often speaking up to keep each other accountable.

### Pieces of childhood

The goal of summer programming is to introduce unfamiliar activities that help kids build confidence, gain independence, and learn how to navigate new environments and work with other people—all of which are important for healing and long-term success.

While children come to the Ranch from all walks of life and all perspectives, they have all experienced something difficult that has chipped away at their childhood.

Red River Zoo's rare 1929 Allan Herschell carousel delighted Ranch children. Well...let's be honest—Ranchers who accompanied the children to the zoo loved it too!



“But at the heart of it,” Tal said, “they are still kids. What I love about summer programming is that we get to give some of those pieces of childhood back. We get to say, ‘You don’t need to take on all those grownup things right now.’ And then we show them how to have fun and to enjoy being kids while they can.”

In Discover Dakota, the kids created a diorama of Medora and the surrounding Badlands. Making tepees was their first project.



Going to the zoo is more than just a fun outing for Ranch kids. Spending time with animals is calming and therapeutic for children with mental health issues.



At the Children's Zoo Farm, children can pretend to be a farmer inside a real combine (You can't really see them behind the smoked glass, but two Ranch girls are in the cab checking it out.)





Left: One of our art students decided to decorate his mini treasure box with glitter and glue!

Below: In Minot, Deaconess Kelly gives group and individual music lessons—piano, guitar, ukelele, and more. This young musician discovers the power of music in managing stress.



Left: Wake the World (WTW) boat owners gave Ranch kids a day on the water to waterski, wakeboard, and tube behind the boat—providing a “normal” summer experience where they could practice their social skills and in some cases, face their fears.



Above: Food and Fun students learned the basics of reading a recipe and measuring ingredients.

Left: Andrew Meier started off with a safety lesson before demonstrating how to use a jigsaw.

## A bittersweet goodbye

As she graduated from Dakota Memorial School in May 2022, Stacy used her graduation speech to address current and future Ranch residents. Her words speak for themselves.

*I was so blessed to come to Dakota Memorial School back in 2020. I really want to show the upcoming kids that go to this school, how to love the school, and how to appreciate school.*

*This day isn't just about me. It's also about the people who got me here. Without them, I wouldn't be here talking to you today. We need help even if we don't think we need it. We need help during the hard times just like we need air to breathe. If you don't get help, it will make things much more difficult. [At the Ranch], you will always have someone that cares about you. I say that because I do. The staff here does, the teachers and you, your peers. Even when you're going through a rough time, remember that someone cares. Even though at that moment, when your brain bully tells you you have no one, you have someone.*

*I know that someday you are going to be happy again. Jesus is watching over you. It may seem that He is not watching, but He is. You are capable of whatever the problem is. You can overcome it. I believe in you because Jesus is trying to make you stronger.*

*I promise myself that I'm gonna keep*

*going. I got this far, and that means I can keep on going through anything that the world throws at me.*

*You can too. I believe in you.*

*Saying goodbye to DMS is hard. I have a family here that I will never forget.*

*Even though I had moments where I wasn't the greatest version of myself, this place got me through my worst times. I didn't even see the light through the tunnel. [The Ranch] was my light through the tunnel and it can be yours too.*

*The people here helped me get through the dark thoughts and my past too. As Natasha Romanoff, AKA Black Widow, also my favorite*

*superhero said, "I don't judge people on their worst mistakes." Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch was my Natasha Romanoff. They didn't judge me on my worst mistakes. They were there to hold my hand during the worst times. They showed me that I can make mistakes and move on from them. They showed me how to learn from them.*

*One of my mistakes was not realizing what I already had. It's funny, my whole life I used to think that I didn't have any family. It turns out I have two.*

*When I was just a kid, I had no understanding of family. I had no siblings, I had no parents until an amazing family took me as their own.*

*I also have the Ranch family. You have been with me through my roughest times. Let's give both of my families a round of applause!*

*I'm really happy to be here today. I was told I would never make it this far in my life. I was told I wouldn't graduate from high school. I wish those people were here today to see that I proved them wrong. Sometimes we have to choose between what the world wants us to be and who we really are.*

*"Struggles along the way are only meant to shape you for your purpose," said Chadwick Bozeman, the actor who plays Black Panther. Yes. Another Marvel superhero.*

*If I didn't go through the bad, I wouldn't have become the person I am today. Remember that pain only makes you stronger.*

*It is going to be hard not coming to school every day. It is my happy place, safe place, and my personality place. This is the end, but I will keep this legacy of the school. The legacy of the school is helping others to succeed. I will help others to not make the same mistakes that I did and help them get through it.*

*This family won't be forgotten. I thank everyone here for supporting me through it all. Thank you for the best years of my life.*



**After the formal graduation ceremony, Stacy danced her way down the aisle with her diploma.**

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.

# Celebrations

## Giving back to their community

To celebrate Earth Day, Student Council members at Dakota Memorial School, Minot hosted a used towel and blanket drive. Students donated the collected items to a local animal shelter.



Student Council members sorted the donated blankets and towels to ensure they were in usable condition.



When they delivered the items, members of the Student Council met some of the furry friends they were helping at Souris Valley Animal Shelter.

## Quilting for the kids

Quilters from Trinity Lutheran Church in Long Prairie, MN made beautiful quilts for our kids and delivered them to our Fargo campus.

Pictured from left: Joy Ryan, Peggy Kortuem, Kris Ryan, Janna Floerke, Jean Weinzierl, and Marilyn Freie.



## Thrift Store volunteer appreciation

During Volunteer Appreciation Week, the South Fargo Thrift Store celebrated two of its long-time volunteers, Peggy Rudick and Judy Herzog. They received flowers, thank you notes, and a special cupcake treat.



Megan Christensen, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Thrift Stores, presented Peggy (left photo) and Judy (right photo) with their appreciation gifts.

## Celebrating a long-time Ranch leader

Jim Vetter, Vice President of Treatment Services and Government Relations, received the 2022 Walt Odegaard Leadership Award, presented by the North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations (NDANO), for his great work on behalf of children and families at the Ranch and in North Dakota.

The Leadership Award is given to an individual who has made a difference by strengthening North Dakota and its nonprofit sector through long-term commitment to leadership, volunteerism, and/or philanthropy.



Vetter has dedicated 33 years to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, and works tirelessly to advocate for and improve the systems that serve North Dakota's most vulnerable children and their families.

## Sharing hope and inspiration

Students at Dakota Memorial School, Fargo heard from Will Dort, owner of Skill Cutz Barbershop and Salon, and a first-generation American from Haiti. He shared with the kids that he struggled in his early teens and 20s, but always had a passion for cutting hair. While in jail, he found God, strengthened his faith, and used it as an opportunity to turn his life around for himself and his family.



Will told students that when life throws curve balls at you, put God first and everything will fall into place.

## Beautifying Ranch campuses

Kids at Dakota Memorial School, Fargo helped the Facilities Team plant trees for Arbor Day. They learned how to make the perfect planting hole for the new trees and how to fill in the holes to secure the trees. They did a phenomenal job and had a lot of fun, too!



Ranch facilities staff worked side-by-side with students to plant trees on Arbor Day.





## Spreading May Day cheer

The Kiwanis Club of Minot put together May Day baskets filled with delicious treats for Ranch kids on the Minot campus.



Jeremy Feller, Kiwanis Club of Minot, delivers May Day baskets and other treats to Tina DeGree, Principal/ Director of Education, Dakota Memorial School, Minot.

## Welcoming a guest artist

Kids at Dakota Memorial School, Minot worked with local artist, Julia Petrovic, to create beautiful works of art! Petrovic, who emigrated from Russia to the US in 1998, lives with her husband and children on a small organic farm in North Dakota.



Art helps kids at the Ranch tap into the creative parts of their brains, which helps them work through their trauma.



Creating art is a healthy coping skill many kids at the Ranch use to express themselves and practice self-care.

## Learning a life-long skill

Kids in the Applied Topics Health Class at Dakota Memorial School, Minot did a CPR training course with Dakota Memorial School teacher and Ranch CPR instructor, Todd Fjeldahl.

At the Ranch, we teach life-long skills our children can take with them, even as they leave our care and return to their home communities.



# Celebrations

## End of the school year fun!

During the last week of school, kids at Dakota Memorial School, Bismarck participated in some fun activities including building bottle rockets, karaoke, an on-campus escape room, airplane making contests, trivia, and a campus-wide clean up!



Bismarck kids designed, built, and launched bottle rockets.



Ranch kids completed a series of tasks to beat the “escape room.”

## Learning a “sweet” new skill

“P,” a resident on our Bismarck campus, joined Robin, one of our amazing kitchen staff, for a baking day. She and Robin made sugar cookies, and P talked about her future plans. This was the first time P had made cookies—she was incredibly proud of her work and the final result.



Every staff member at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch plays an important role in helping kids heal.

## Strengthening spiritual ties

The Spiritual Life Team recently held their annual Spiritual Life Summit. The team uses this time to connect as a team, discuss what went well in the last year of ministry at the Ranch, and plan for the year ahead. This was the last summit for Vicar Aiden and his wife Deaconess Intern Naomi, as they head back to St. Louis to finish up at seminary.



Vicar Jason Kohm (not pictured) received a call to Zion Lutheran Church (Bismarck, ND) in April 2022 and joined the Ranch’s Spiritual Life Team in July 2022.

Pictured from left: Vicar Aiden Moon, Deaconess Intern Naomi Moon, Zeke Moon, Rev. Rick Jones, Deaconess Stephanie Wilde, Rev. Tom Marcis, and Deaconess Kelly Bristow.

## Servant Team supporting the mission of the Ranch

A Servant Team from Immanuel Lutheran Church (Cedar Falls, Iowa) visited the Ranch's Bismarck campus with a goal of improving the facility for the children we serve. They painted the entrance sign and rec shed; spruced up the landscaping next to the basketball court, playground, and upper parking lot; and even repaired a Ranch trailer!



Servant Team members (from left): Bill Simmer, Bob and Linda White, Ron and Laverne Kelderman, Lois Bonefas, and Rev. Gerald (Gerry) Kapanka—all from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls, IA.



Volunteers from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls, IA, put their passion for the Ranch mission to work.



## Connection and community

Reyna Bergstrom, Miss North Dakota 2021 and 1st runner-up at Miss USA, visited the Ranch's Fargo campus where she talked to the kids about social media responsibilities and the role of social media in their lives. Reyna emphasized the importance of finding value, community, and connection through face-to-face communication; and encouraged the children to make a positive difference where they are at right now.

Reyna encouraged students at Dakota Memorial School, Fargo to not give up on their dreams.



## GROW Day Garden Sale a success

Dakota Memorial School, the on-campus school of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, held its 3rd annual GROW Day Garden Sale in May. Despite the crazy winds blowing through Minot, staff, teachers, kids, and community members flocked to the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Minot Thrift Store to purchase items created or grown by Ranch residents.

In preparation for the sale, teacher Suzanne Erz and her students grew hundreds of beautiful plants in the greenhouses. Other teachers and classes produced plant stands, coasters, planters shaped like barns and chapels, and other neat items for purchase.

In the Fall, funds raised at the GROW Day Garden Sale will be used by our Leadership Class to distribute grants to departments around campus.



Dakota Memorial School students not only grew the plants and made planters for the sale, but they even helped hang posters around town.



Residents tended to their plants in the greenhouse as they prepared for the GROW Day Sale.



Strong winds moved the garden sale inside the thrift store, but that didn't dampen the spirits of the shoppers.

## A Minot campus tradition

Once again, our Minot campus was home to dozens of fuzzy pheasant chicks this past spring. Caring for the pheasant chicks is a favorite activity for the kids on our Minot campus, and serves as a great quiet time to reflect while surrounded by nature. While at the Ranch, the pheasant chicks, supplied by Pheasants for the Future, are under the care of the Ranch's Wildlife Club.

In mid-summer, when the pheasants are grown and ready to survive in the wild, kids, and staff load them up and do a special release.



Raising pheasants gives kids at the Ranch the opportunity to care for another living thing and teaches them responsibility.

## Excellence in Art and Writing



Three students from Dakota Memorial School were recognized at the 99th Scholastic Art and Writing Exhibition held at the Plains Art Museum, Fargo, ND. “J” received a Gold Key for her photography; “E” received Honorable Mention for her printmaking; and “A” received Honorable Mention for his jewelry/textile work.



## Frozen fishing fun

In early Spring, members of the Wildlife Club on the Minot campus planned a campus-wide ice fishing trip for kids and staff.



## Safety leads to healing

Thanks to a grant from our friends at Walmart—Minot, the Ranch is a safer place for our kids to live, learn, grow, and heal. Due to the severity of trauma many Ranch kids have experienced, safety upgrades are important to keep the kids as safe as possible, while still providing a somewhat “normal,” home-like environment.



A check was presented to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch as part of Walmart’s grand re-opening celebration.

Ranch employees accepted the grant on behalf of the Ranch (from left): Gabrielle Kwiatek, Program Manager; Tracey Watson, Program Manager; and Sheila Miller, VP Finance, Facilities, and Technology.

## Shining God's light through music

When Kim Black moved to North Dakota with her husband, an active-duty member of the military, she brought with her a passion for music and a love for at-risk kids.

As founder and president of Lightshine Recordings, Kim equips kids with free musical instruments and lessons. When she retired from her own career in the military, Kim founded the nonprofit to bring God's peace, comfort, hope, and joy to foster kids across the U.S. who haven't had the resources or opportunities to make music.

"God created music to connect in a way nothing else can," Kim said. "It can be a healthy outlet for kids."

When her husband was stationed at the Minot Air Force Base, Kim learned about the Ranch and connected with Deaconess Kelly Bristow to bring music lessons to Ranch kids.

Kim donated musical instruments including an electric guitar, electric bass, drums, keyboard, amps, cables, stools, and headphones. Then, she started teaching basic garage band skills to the residents who were interested. Most of the participants had never played an instrument, and they each came with their own unique challenges.

"It can be challenging for these kids to work together as a team, and to listen to each other, so they can play something that sounds good," Kim said. "They are

so focused on themselves and their own struggles."

The music, along with Kim's encouraging spirit, eventually brought them together and they started looking forward to their time with Kim.

"Every Friday, the kids literally bust through the chapel door and run to their instruments. It's so uplifting," Kim said. "It lights me up and brings me joy."

Kim teaches different styles of music—rock, hip hop, pop, rap, and reggae—and she rotates the kids on the instruments so they can learn them all and decide what they like the best. At the end of the year, they performed at the Ranch's campus-wide variety show.

"They worked hard to produce something that other people can benefit from and enjoy. They went away feeling good about themselves," Kim said. "Music is such an important tool of healing for kids."

Kim and her husband moved out of North Dakota in June, but the \$5,000 of donated equipment is for the Ranch to keep. Deaconess Kelly will use the instruments for her summer music program and music lessons throughout the year. Kim hopes an instrument is occasionally given to a student who has a special interest and commitment to music.

"We had a student who was showing such promise on the guitar," Kim said. "I love the thought of him having a guitar to take with him wherever he goes."



**Kim Black believes God gave us music for healing and connection. Through her nonprofit, Lightshine Recordings, she brought music and mentoring to Ranch kids.**

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Fake fingernails and rules for life

Last spring, after we mailed out the Spring 2022 issue of Ranch Voice, we received a couple of questions from concerned donors. Our President/CEO, Joy Ryan, answered each of them individually but we thought the questions and answers would give you a little insight into the lives of the children who come to the Ranch. We often talk about how “every small thing matters” in the care and treatment of these precious children, and these examples illustrate that perfectly.

*One reader asked about the long fingernails on one of the young girls on the cover of Ranch Voice. She was concerned about the cost and appropriateness of the nails.*

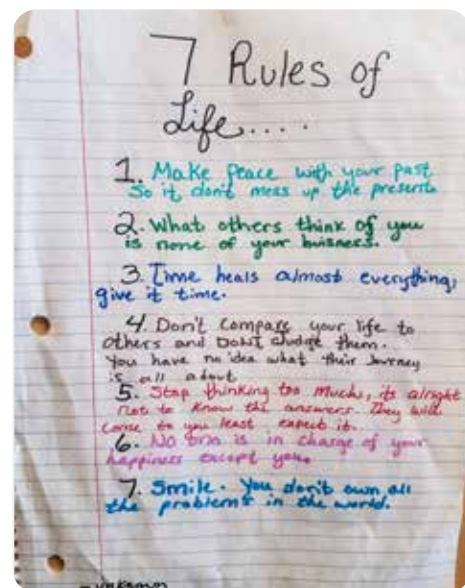
The photo in question was taken on high school graduation day for one of these girls, and they all wanted to celebrate. One of the girls had stick-on nails from Walmart that cost about \$5. For this event and time, they

made her feel pretty. What you see in this picture is nothing other than a child playing dress-up.

Sometimes, however, we do work with our kids on proper nail care. Many of the children who come to the Ranch do not have any hygiene skills. They have lived in such chaos that simple, everyday maintenance has gone by the wayside. As a matter of fact, the most frequent health care issue our children have when they come into the Ranch is ingrown toenails.

Also, some children with anxiety issues chew and pick and tear the skin around their nails. Sometimes, helping them care for their nails and providing alternate coping skills moves them one more step toward healthy self-care.

*Another friend asked about “Life Rule #2” and whether it meant it was OK to disrespect a teacher or elder who was trying to correct a child.*



The writer was referring to the “7 Rules for Life,” on page 24 of the Spring 2022 issue of Ranch Voice. The rules are a young girl’s shorthand for what she has learned about ignoring bullies and others who put her down. Of course, we would never teach the kids at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch to disrespect others. But teaching them they are precious and God’s children, regardless of others’ cruelty, is so very important!

Thank you to the readers who reached out with their questions. We love the chance to explain how many of the seemingly simple things we do at the Ranch have an underlying purpose that helps them live, learn, heal, and grow.

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.



## A big celebration

Paytin, the wise young man you met in the last issue of Ranch Voice, graduated from the Ranch's on-campus school in May, surrounded by his family and the many people at the Ranch who helped him reach this important milestone.

At graduation, he carried through on his promise to honor his father, who died unexpectedly in 2019. His promise? To make his father's presence known to everyone in the room with a Mohawk. And he succeeded with a Mohawk so big that you can't really imagine it unless you see it.

"My dad really liked his Mohawk. I've been growing my hair out forever so I could have one as a reminder of my dad," Paytin said.

While Paytin did well in high school and has a lot of interests, he's not sure where his journey will take him. For now, he is taking a year to mull it over before deciding what comes next. And as is his nature, he plans to pick up



You just have to see Paytin's Mohawk up close! Honoring his father in this way was so uniquely Paytin.



Paytin as a fifth-grader, his first year at Dakota Memorial School, and now as a graduating senior.



wisdom along the way.

"You really don't need to look for wisdom," Paytin said, "because it's literally everywhere you go. People talking, something that's on TV, how a character acts in a book. It's all about looking for it and then deciding what you want to take from it."

Wherever his journey takes him, Paytin will take with him the lessons he learned at Dakota Memorial School, and the people in his life will be blessed by his kindness, compassion, and loyal friendship.

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.

## Powerful words from Paytin

When Paytin says he likes to write, he doesn't mention how gifted he is at it! This is the last paragraph of his graduation speech, and it is a powerful combination of motivation and inspiration.

*"And now we graduate not from just a school, but from the ashes of every difficulty that has stood in our way, turning rage and anger to burning determination, turning depression into the sheer willpower needed to overwhelm the challenges that awaken to face us. Even those still lacking in the discipline I have listed as of this time, I know you too can stand and understand that when you put all of your force into it, any foe can be beaten and surpassed so long as you set your eyes on the goal you seek and grasp it with every last drop and strength and will. Of that, I am sure."*



# Ways to Give

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



## Give Now

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

## Prayers

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

## Memorials and Honorariums

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

## Planned and Estate Gifts

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

## Tree of Life

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

## Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

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



Tree of Life  
Order Form

## Honey Sunday

For decades, congregations across the U.S. have held Honey Sundays. You can bring God's love to a child by organizing a Honey Sunday for your congregation. Choose your Honey Sunday in September or October. We will send you a Honey Sunday kit, which includes posters, bulletin inserts for promoting your event, order forms, and labels. We suggest you charge \$10 per bottle. Keep 30 percent of the money collected for your group, and send the remainder to us. In return, we'll send an 11-ounce squeeze bottle of honey to each purchaser. Learn more at [www.DakotaRanch.org/honey-sunday](https://www.DakotaRanch.org/honey-sunday).

## A life of adventure, hope, and giving



Barbara, shown here with her dog Gigi, is a faithful giver and volunteer.

### Barbara Pingel



Barbara and her three brothers, all dressed up outside their church, May 29, 1949

When Barbara Pingel cares about something, she goes all in. As a supporter of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Barbara writes to Ranch residents as a Hope Notes pen pal, sends boxes of puzzles, makes regular donations, directs Thrivent Choice Dollars to the Ranch, and prays every day for the children and employees of the Ranch. She has also made arrangements for an estate gift to the Ranch.

Barbara's connection to the Ranch began when she cared for her elderly parents, George and Esther Pingel. They had learned about the Ranch through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and donated for many years.

George and Esther lived with Barbara for several years, and she'd see the letters and annual bottle of honey from the Ranch.

"After Mom and Dad passed away, I read more about it and thought it would be a wonderful thing to support," Barbara said.

Barbara's father was a Lutheran school teacher and taught first in Milwaukee, WI, and later in Marshfield and Clyman, WI. Because his last two calls were in

smaller schools, Barbara's dad was often her teacher.

"At one point, my dad was my teacher for three years straight," she said. "And let me tell you...it's not easy to have your own father for a teacher! He was also the principal, the choir director, and the organist. He did whatever needed to be done."

Her mother was a stay-at-home mom while Barbara was little, and Barbara says, "She was always there for us kids when we got home. When my youngest brother was in high school, she went to work at the grade school cafeteria and later at Aunt Nellie's canning factory."

### Making a career out of helping

The Ranch has become very dear to Barbara's heart because of her love for children.

"I always said that if I got married, I wanted 12 kids. I never got married so I spoiled the kids I took care of as a nurse on the pediatric ward. And when they got better, I sent them home to their mom and dad!"

Barbara's career as a Registered Nurse took her around the world. She started as a pediatric nurse in her home state of Wisconsin. A couple of years later, Barbara joined the Air Force Nurse Corps and left Wisconsin to serve as head nurse on the pediatric ward of a large army medical center in Denver, CO. In 1981, she joined the Army Corp of Nurses. Her last military posting was in Heidelberg, Germany where she served as head nurse on the pediatric

ward and as a supervisor on evenings and nights.

When she left the Army Corps of Nurses in 1988, Barbara moved to Rochester, MN, to be closer to her parents who had moved to Minnesota when they retired.

“For 22 years, I worked in GI post-up, post-op thoracic surgery, and post-op GYN surgery at Mayo Clinic. I spent my last six years working on the Ask Mayo Clinic triage line. While pediatrics always remained my first love, I loved my work at Mayo,” Barbara said. “After I retired, I got bored, so I went back to nursing doing home health care at Home Instead Senior Care, and finally retired again in 2016. I was going to be 72 years old, so I decided it was time.”

In retirement, Barbara enjoys puzzles, reading, knitting, and traveling.

“When I was stationed in Germany, I met some very dear friends who became my second family. I have been back to see them six or seven

times,” Barbara said. “I have a brother who is still living so I visit him and his family. But, with COVID, you’re so limited. It has put the kibosh on a lot of those trips.”

### Letters of hope

One of Barbara’s favorite Ranch activities is to write letters to kids at the Ranch as a Hope Notes Pen Pal.



Barbara's parents instilled a spirit of giving in their children at a young age. Barbara (on the left in this 1952 Christmas photo) has carried that into adulthood.

“Linda [Medhus, Ranch Senior Engagement Officer] stops by to visit and pick up boxes of puzzles for the kids. One time she asked if I’d consider being a Hope Notes Pen Pal. I thought, ‘Why not?’ I have the

time and I love to write letters.”

Deaconess Kelly Bristow matched Barbara with a young resident who needed extra support, gave her the child’s first name so she can personalize the card, and then Barbara sent her letter to Deaconess Kelly to give it to the child. She has since written to several young boys and girls on the Minot campus.

“These kids need that friendship—even just a short note,” Barbara said. “One of the girls sent me a picture she made last Easter of three crosses and it’s still hanging on my refrigerator. Every time I open that refrigerator, I think of that little girl and wonder how she is doing.”

“And, just last week I opened my mailbox and saw an envelope that turned out to be a letter from my most recent pen pal. She was getting to the end

of her stay at the Ranch, and she asked if I could send her one more letter before she was discharged. Of course, I was so thrilled and I got one off to her right away!”

And when they move on, Barbara prays for them, and all Ranch

# Our Friends

residents, during her morning prayers and devotions.

“I keep my pen pals in my heart and mind. You just don’t know what kind of environment they’re going back into. I ask the Lord to send his angels to watch over them. I don’t want them to ever forget what I told them, that Jesus loves them and is always with them.”

## A giving spirit

Barbara’s father nurtured her giving spirit early on. When she was a little girl, every Sunday morning she would go to her father’s desk where he had laid out a nickel and a dime for her, five cents for the Sunday School collection plate, and 10 cents for the church collection plate.

She took her giving very seriously, and on the Sundays when she sat in

a chair next to the organ bench while her dad played, (usually because she wasn’t behaving for her mother), she worried about the ushers passing her by with the collection plate.

Barbara said, “If the ushers walked by with the plate and didn’t see me sitting there, my tears would roll. Dad couldn’t get off the organ bench to help me, but he would assure me that after the service we would take the money downstairs to the collection plate.”

When Barbara started babysitting in sixth grade, her father told her that 10 cents of every dollar she made would go to the church.

“I was only making a quarter an hour—not even \$5 a week, but 50 cents always went into my church envelope. Tithing was just instilled in me from the time I was

a little girl,” Barbara said. “When I got older and heard about other charities, I’d send some money to them whenever I had a little extra money.”

Barbara said the first two things on her monthly budget these days continue to be the church and her favorite charities. She is quick to point out that she doesn’t have a lot of money, but a portion of whatever she has left will go to the Ranch because she cares about the kids.

“I had a mom and dad who loved me. We ate meals together. We had devotions together. I was never hit. I was never cursed out,” Barbara said. “We didn’t have a lot of money, but I didn’t know that. When I see what has happened to the kids at the Ranch, it breaks my heart. I want to help.”

## One of those moments

One of the activities we offer Ranch kids in the summer is bicycle riding—around our campuses and sometimes on trails in the community. When Cornelsen cottage staff learned one of our young boys didn’t know how to ride a bike and wanted to learn, they taught him how to ride.

Hannah Horinka, Youth Care Worker on our Minot campus, said, “The other boys helped teach him and cheer him on. By the end of the day, he was riding bike like a pro! This is definitely one of those moments that makes what we do so worth it!”



# HONEY SUNDAY



For decades, congregations across the U.S. have held Honey Sundays for Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. You can bring God's love to a child, and support your own ministry, by organizing a Honey Sunday (or Honey Wednesday) fundraiser for your congregation.

**Choose your Honey Sunday  
(or Honey Wednesday)  
in September or October.**

**We will send you a Honey Kit, which includes:**

- Posters
- Bulletin inserts
- Order forms
- Labels

We suggest you charge \$10 per bottle. Keep 30 percent of the money collected for your group, and send the remainder to us. In return, we'll send an 11-ounce squeeze bottle of Ranch honey to each purchaser.



Request  
materials

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is a Christian residential treatment and educational center for children. We help the most troubled, complicated and amazing kids by providing best-in-class psychiatric therapy and trauma-informed care.



1-800-344-0957 • [DakotaRanch.org](http://DakotaRanch.org)

For more information, contact Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation at

**1-800-344-0957**

## Giving the gift of stock Here's what you should know



By **Linda Medhus**,  
**Senior Engagement  
Officer**  
**Dakota Boys  
and Girls Ranch  
Foundation**

Each month, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is blessed by donors who desire to further our mission through charitable giving.

One gift option used to support the Ranch is the transfer of appreciated securities, including stocks and bonds. With this option, donors have the potential to receive a charitable income tax deduction and avoid capital gains tax. In some cases, donors can also look forward to increased discretionary income if the appreciated asset is used to fund a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. Beyond that, and most important to many of our donors, are the intrinsic rewards of knowing they are helping change the lives of children who are truly struggling.

Over the past years, individuals have realized some healthy gains in their portfolios. The current value of their investments may be significantly higher than when they were purchased, resulting in long-term gains. However, with the recent volatility in the market, donors are questioning if transferring stock is the best gift option.

Many financial advisors, due to a long bull market, are advising their clients to rebalance their portfolios,

ensuring they aren't over-weighted and vulnerable to market correction increases. In some cases, it may be favorable for investors to gift portions of their portfolio to charity to reduce exposure and receive the double benefit of a charitable deduction (for the full fair market value of the asset, if held a year or more), as well as the potential to eliminate (certainly minimize) the capital gains tax.

The unknowns can make us all a bit uncertain and cautious. We always encourage Ranch friends to visit with their financial advisors to determine the best gift options for their individual situations.

If you decide to make a meaningful gift to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch through the transfer of stock, you will need to know the following:

### Account Information for Stock Transfers to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

**DTC Number**

0725

**Receiving Institution**

Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.

**Account Number**

24516857

**Receiving Institution Contact**

Layton White, Bremer Investment Services  
701-857-6232, lgwhite@Bremer.com

**Gift Reference**

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation

**Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation Contact**

Sheila Miller, VP of Finance  
701-857-4245, s.miller@dakotaranch.org

When making a stock transfer, please let us know by contacting our Foundation Office at 800-344-0957, or by visiting with one of our development officers. Stock transfers don't typically come with a name attached. If we don't know it's coming, it is difficult for us to know who initiated the gift. And we want to thank you for your generosity and send you a receipt.

We are deeply grateful for your prayers and for the ongoing blessing of your friendship and support, through which the mission of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch—to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ—is sustained. Thank you.

If you have any questions about the Ranch, contact a member of our Mission Advancement Team at 1-800-344-0957.



**Dennis Aune**  
Development  
Officer



**Lisa Cole**  
Mission  
Advancement  
Officer



**Anne Compere**  
Director of  
Mission  
Advancement



**Laurie Dannewitz**  
Senior Development  
Officer



**Paul Krueger**  
Senior Development  
Officer



**Linda Medhus**  
Senior Engagement  
Officer



**Tim Unsinn**  
Senior Development  
Officer



**Denise Watson**  
Development  
Officer

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Vice President, Communications

# INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURES

Do you own stocks, bonds, or mutual funds? Would you like to pass them on to leave a legacy of hope and healing for the children at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch? If so, consider making a Transfer On Death (TOD) gift to the Ranch.

## Advantages of TRANSFER-ON-DEATH CHARITABLE GIFTS

- **SIMPLE**—To make a TOD gift, you simply complete a brief form provided by your financial or brokerage firm.
- **REVOCABLE**—You retain complete ownership of the account while you are living, and can modify or revoke your gift at any time during your life.
- **AVOIDS PROBATE**—The asset(s) passes directly to our organization without going through the probate process.
- **SAVES TAXES**—The asset(s) will be removed from your taxable estate, saving potential estate taxes.
- **INEXPENSIVE**—There is no cost to complete the TOD form, and in most cases there are no legal fees, as there is no need to amend your will or trust.

## How to Make a TRANSFER-ON-DEATH GIFT

To make a TOD gift to support our ministry, follow these simple steps:

1. Contact your broker or investment manager regarding the stocks, bonds, or mutual funds you want to leave to charity.
2. Request a beneficiary designation form for making a transfer-on-death gift.
3. Complete the form, naming “Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation,” as the beneficiary, and return the form to your broker or investment manager.

If you own stocks, bonds, and/or mutual funds and want to remember the Ranch in your estate and legacy plans, then a Transfer-on-Death charitable gift may be worth considering. To learn more, contact your broker or speak to one of our Development Officers.



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

1-800-344-0957

[www.DakotaRanch.org](http://www.DakotaRanch.org)



# Memorials/Honorariums

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

## Memorials

March 7, 2022 - June 30, 2022

ALWIN, REX

Betsy Alwin

ANDERSON, LARVEL

Keith & Roberta Hoesel

AVERY, AMANDA

Mark Avery

BAKKE, JEROME "JERRY"

Marilyn Bakke

BAKKUM, DONNA

Ray Ellingrud

BAMBURG, DENNIS

Don & Caroline Maurer

BANDEL, GLEN

Beverly Mundell

BARTOK, JANET

William Fariss

Joy Ryan

BAUER, DENNIS

Dave & Sharon Miller

BAUER, ROBERT

Mr. Jeff Givens

BECHHOLD, GERALD

Janice Filibeck

BEDKER, DONNA

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Carow

BELISLE, HARRY

Richard Gust

BELLERUD, EDNA

Alfred Bellerud

BIEL, KRISTIN

Daven Sanders

BIERMAN, RODGER

Bret & Sandy Bierman

Charles & Madeline Kirby

Cheryl Lorenz

David & Karleen Peterson

Gertie Belle Rogers Elementary

School

BIERMANN, ALLAN

Gladys Biermann

BLOEDEL, AUGIE "BUZZ"

Ilene Bussler

BOETTCHER, ARDELLA

Judy Schaefer

BOLLMAN, ANN

Wyaneta Timm

BORNEMANN, BERNICE C.

Delores Maier

BOWMAN, DENNIS

Dolores Simdorn

BRANDT, KATHY

Rosella Debele

BRAUN, JOHN & HELEN

Dean & Angie Stromgren

BREWARD, JOHN C.

Gloria Breward

BRODY, BEVERLY "BABS"

Elizabeth Ravenscroft

BUCKMAN, LESTER & CAROLINE

Austin & Sarah Buckman

BURNS, RICHARD & LEOTA

Sheryl Massey

*"Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."*

—1 Thessalonians 5:18

CALLIOTT, EDWARD

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CANTLON, EDWIN

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DEHNKE, LIVONA

Richard Gust

DESMOND, RAYMOND

Susan Mysliwicz

DICK, MILLIE

Gaylen & Teresa Dick

*"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."*

—James 1:17

# Memorials/Honorariums

DRESSLER, CAROLYN

Mrs. Kerry Horton

EBERLE, BONNIE

Carol Urbach

EISEMAN, DORIS

Richard Gust

Sharon Heil

Darleen Klemp

Wilbur & Mavis Pfennig

John & Pat Sebastian

EKSTROM, JERI

Arlys Torgerson

ELLINGSON, CURT

Brenda Ellingson

ELVERUD, ARLA

Shelia Gerry

EMMEL, MICHAEL "MIKE"

Dave & Sharon Miller

ENZI, CHRIS

Paul Wolbaum

ERDMANN, TANYA

Melvin & Marjorie Kohls

Annette Zimmerman

FABER, KARL

Mrs. Bonnie M. Faber

FATLAND, SYLVIA & JAN

Dean Fatland

Wayne & Sandra Meyer

FEIST, MICHAEL

Chris & Jean Hansen

FIEDLER, ERDINA

Vicky Huschka

FIGIELLA, THOMAS, HELEN &

ROBERT

Ron Viscovich

FLATAU, LORRAINE

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Carow

FORMO, JACK

Ruby Peterson

FRAZER, DIANA L.

Rob & Anne Compere

FUNK, WILLIAM

Bob & Karen Huether

GANDER, PHYLLIS

Clayton & Zona Pearson

GERGENBACH, EVELYN

Gertrude Knight

GONITZKE, MAURICE

Rosella Debele

GREBB, LINDA

Arlin & Harriet Buchholz

GRINDBERG, MARLYS

Arlys Torgerson

GRUSSING, GENEVA

*"I have not stopped  
giving thanks for you,  
remembering you in my  
prayers. I keep asking  
that the God of our  
Lord Jesus Christ, the  
glorious Father, may  
give you the Spirit of  
wisdom and revelation,  
so that you may know  
him better.*

—Ephesians 1:16-19

Anita Petersen

GUNDERSON, CHARLOTTE

Janice Filibeck

GUST, RICKIE

Richard Gust

HACKEY, CINDY

Vanessa Kummer

HAGERT, CURTIS

Mark & Jane Solseng

HAGERT, ROBERTA

Mark & Jane Solseng

HALL, DANNY

Ingrid Hall

HALL, KATHLEEN

Joyce Hessman

HANSEN, DON

Shelia Gerry

HAYER, HARRY

Mrs. June B. Hayer

HECK, GOTTFRIED & IRENE

Norm & Doris Steiner

HEGLE, OPAL

Kay Stoterau

HEINE, BARBARA

Kelly & Sharron Brady

HEITKAMP, ARLENE

Arlin & Harriet Buchholz

HEITKAMP, SCOTT

Patricia Bahr

HERMANN, JAMES J. "JIM"

Debra Hermann

HOFFMAN, DR. MARV

Douglas Hoffman

HONRUD, SONNY

Gary Enget

HOWELL, JOE

Bob & Karen Huether

JACK

Kathleen Weber

JAEGER, TINA M.

Charles & Helen Bohm

JANSSEN, DONALD

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Carow

JANSSEN, EUNICE

Mrs. Ladeen Guericke

JERMSTAD, SHIRLEY

Arlys Torgerson

JOHN, BEVERLY

Delores Maier

JOHNSON, ORLETTE J.

George Fick

KAMMRATH, JORDAN A.

Dan & Cindy Kammrath

KEEGAN, DANIEL

John & Pat Sebastian

KELLEY, KIM JOPP

Carol Urbach

KERBS, EDWARD & ILEENE BELL

Rev. Otto & Rosalie Reinbacher

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David & Callie Schimmelpfennig

KLATT, CAROL  
George Fick  
KLEMP, ARVIN  
Darleen Klempe  
KLOSE, ELMER & ELDORA  
Cindy Aaser  
KOIVULA, BENJAMIN  
Rosella Debele  
David & Margaret Hall  
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KOSS, SANDRA  
Beverly Olson  
KUNKEL, ALICE  
Irene Heid  
KUNZ, WAYNE A.  
Merry Engelhardt  
Mrs. Evelyn Schwagler  
KUSLER, JAMES  
Ms. P. Jan Smith  
LAVEY, LOIS  
Barbara Pingel  
LAWSON, MATTHEW  
Ms. Joanna Jessup  
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"RONNIE"  
Kimberly Young, Kim, Heidie  
and Holly LeClerc  
LEE, JUDY  
Marilyn Baumann  
LEHMANN, JAMES "JIM"  
Dennis & Alvina Overton  
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Suzanne Hough  
LEPPERT, JESSE  
Delores Leppert  
Judith Nelson  
Violet Podenski  
Lelia Schardin  
LINDEMANN, DOROTHY  
Carol Urbach  
LIZAKOWSKI, JUDITH  
Irene Dahlen  
LUND, SHIRLEY  
Robert Lund

LYBECK, GARY  
Dave & Sharon Miller  
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Penny Hoesel  
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Ilene Bussler  
MC CANN, LINDA  
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MC CLARY, CAROLYN  
Ken & Gail Drifmeyer  
MC GINNITY, GARY  
Mitch & Donna Hegstad  
MC NANEY, JOHN M.  
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MERHY, DEAN  
Arlys Torgerson  
MEYERS, JANET  
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MILBRATH, MARY A.  
Daniel & Mary Robinson  
MILLER, WILLIAM & ADELINE  
Donald & Eleanor Miller  
MOLLENHOUR, SHANNON  
Janet J. Johnson  
MOORE, JOEL  
Diane Moore  
MUELLER, DORIS  
Sharon Heil

*"We give thanks to God  
always for all of you,  
constantly mentioning  
you in our prayers."*

—1 Thessalonians 1:2

*"Grace and peace to  
you from God our  
Father and from the  
Lord Jesus Christ.  
First, I thank my God  
through Jesus Christ for  
all of you, because your  
faith is being reported  
all over the world.*

—Romans 1:8

MUELLER, KLOS  
Vernon & Elizabeth Keune  
NOKKEN, TERRY  
Al & Johnne Bierdeman  
NOLAND, GEORGE "MIKE"  
Lisa Gill  
NOLAND, KEITH WADE  
Lisa Gill  
NOVAK, SCOTT  
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Sue Hylland  
OSTBY, IONE  
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PELTON, GREGG  
Jim & Judy Mittelstadt  
PETCHELL, DAN  
Robert & Grace Swanson

# Memorials/Honorariums

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PIERCE, ELYZABETH

Marisa Knudson

PLINKE, THOMAS "TOM"

Irene Dahlen

POCH, RUTH

Don & Frances Allen

Anne Compere

Rosemary DeBlicck

Bryan Enright

Gloria Ernest

Rev. Geraldine Amaral Hodson

Jonathan Krosschell

Jeff & Kathy Leader

Eileen Melia

Carolyn Offutt

Martin Poch

Ruth's Book Club

William Thomas

Shane Winslow

Laura Wiesenhahn

Nancy Wood

PODOLL, CAROL

Rosella Debele

Sharon Grondahl

Richard Gust

PODOLL, MARY JUNE

Violet Podenski

Lelia Mae Schardin

POLLATZ, JR. REV. RAYMOND R.

Darleen Klemp

POSS, JANICE A.

Al & Johnne Bierdeman

RADA, MYRA

John & Pat Sebastian

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Carow

REIS, PAUL

Patricia Torgerson

ROED, ARDIS

Jeanne Lavanger

ROEPKE, ELDON

Roepke, Gary

ROSSOW, REBECCA LEE

LaDonna Rossow

SANDROCK, DR. JAMES

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Timothy Doherty

Fred Koch

Jean Cutler Prior

SCHAFFER, JOLENE M.

Robert Saroni

SCHIRADO, KATHY

Janice Filibeck

SCHMIDT, DONNA

Anne Compere

Sandy Schmidt

SCHMIDT, LEICHA-VETTER

Gary & Rose Vetter

*"The Lord bless you and  
keep you; the Lord make  
His face shine upon  
you and be gracious to  
you; the Lord lift up his  
countenance upon you  
and give you peace."*

—Numbers 6:24-26

SCHMITZ, GORDON

Roger & Mary Johnson

SCHNEIDER, OVIDIA

Richard Gust

SCHREIBER, DORIS

Janet Meany

SCHULTZ, REV. JOSEPH A.

Beverly L. Olson

SCHULZ, SHIRLEY M.

Delores Maier

SETER, REV. BERNHARD

Ron & Janis Bakke

Marilyn J. Baumann

SHEPPERD, VICTOR L.

Mrs. LaMae Pettit

SHERECK, DARREL

Cynthia Shereck

SJOGREN, DEANNA

Bruce White

SMITH, KATHLEEN

Robert & Grace Swanson

SMITH, LA VONNE

Doug & Mary Anderson

SPARLING, REV. PAUL

Rev. Otto & Rosalie Reinbacher

Sally Sparling

STEINBERGER, BETTY

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STENEHJEM, WAYNE

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LOTTIE MAE (HARTSOCH)

Mrs. Lola M. Vulles

STOLL, JOSEPH

Caroline Letzring

STRAUCH, SHIRLEY

Walter Strauch

STROH, LEONA

Gwen Roffler

SWARTZ, KRISTI

Clayton & Zona Pearson

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Marcia Shanahan

Geralyn Soder

Bruce & Marlene Swenson

Bill Taylor

Dick Wetzell

Michelle Young

THOM, MARVIN J.

Richard Gust

TEIGEN, DU WAYNE "DEWEY"

George Fick

TOLLEFSON, BEN & LILA

Sharon Kunka

VANDERHOEF, AIDAN

Dennis & Mitzie Nay

Shane & Anna Oas

VEDA

Merry Engelhardt

VOORHEES, WEBB & JOYCE

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Norma Von Osterholdt

WELCH, RODERICK "ROD" M.

Beverly Mundell

WIEDRICH, EVELYN

Maxine Beckwith

WINTER, CHRISTOPHER

Eleanor Sabrowsky

WOLF, EU ELLA

Violet Podenski

Lelia Mae Schardin

WOOD, MICHAEL

Paul & Elaine Carlson

WOODBURY, DAVID

Arlin & Harriett Buchholz

WYMAN, RONALD FRANK

Richard Gust

WYUM, VIOLET

Michael & Phyllis Wyum

ZOTTRICK, VERA

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Lloyd & Carmen Foster

CASEY SZEWCZAK,

Patricia Szewczak

CECILIA PODCZERWINSKI

Janet Podczerwinski

COLE BRUNER

Baylee Bruner

DANYEL & GAVIN MOE

Thomas & Donna Schneider

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Donna Jackson

DOROTHY ROMEO

Bob James

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WILLIAM COLE

Roger & Lisa Cole

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Ruth Jelinek

HARLEY HAUG

Jeffrey DeVillers

HAUGEBOG FAMILY

Heathyr Haugeberg

*"May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done."*

—Ruth 2:12

## Honorariums

March 7, 2022 - June 30, 2022

ALL ABUSED CHILDREN

Janet Riley-Dickson

AMANDA, JOHN, ANNA, & SARA

THOMAS

Cynthia Eggl

## MONTHLY GIVING MATTERS

**Change a child's life through your faithful, monthly support!**

Make your giving an even greater blessing when you join the Ranch as a *Honeycomb Partner*.

With each monthly gift, you'll share HEALING and HOPE with boys and girls who have endured unspeakable pain, crushing academic failure, abandonment, and abuse. But most important, you'll give them the chance to meet Jesus and know His love and forgiveness.

It's easy to join. Just visit [DakotaRanch.org/MonthlySupport](http://DakotaRanch.org/MonthlySupport) or call 1-800-344-0957.



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Cain Kaiser

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Roxanne Volk

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Anne Friederichs

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Sarianne Dickson

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First Lutheran Church of Litchville  
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REV. DR. PAUL A. KRUEGER

Mr. Paul League

REV. DAVID C. DAHL

Mr. Jim Engel

REV. ROBERT FRIEDRICH

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SARAH DEWITZ MARTINSEN

Dr. Wayne Martinsen

SUE KITTEL

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THOMAS R. DECKER

ShaRell Nelson

TOM KOPP

Peg Gilbertson

Conner Brown

VERONICA BOWERS

Christine Bowers

## Grants and Corporate Donations

**Julia Burke Foundation; Zurcher Cottage Campaign;**  
\$1,000,000

**Great River Energy; Fire Alarm Panel;** \$1,000  
(Bismarck)

**Walmart Supercenter; Safety Door Handles;** \$1,000  
(Minot)

**Otter Tail Corporation Foundation; Balanced Learning  
Environment Furniture for Library/Media Room;**  
\$8,500 (Fargo)

**Barnesville High School Philanthropy and Youth;  
Shelving for Library/Media Room;** \$1,000 (Fargo)

**Central Cass High School Philanthropy and Youth;  
Photography Program;** \$1,000 (Fargo)

**Verendrye Electric; Riding Arena Lighting;** \$2,500  
(Minot)

**Kansas District LWML; Kruse Memorial Chapel  
Lighting;** \$3,000 (Minot)

**Hope Lutheran Church; Deaconess Ministry;** \$1,500  
(Fargo)

**Minot Community Endowment Fund; Riding Arena  
Lighting;** \$5,000 (Minot)

**California-Nevada-Hawaii District LWML; Music  
Ministry;** \$2,072 (Minot)

**Chatlos Foundation; Bismarck Chapel;** \$5,000  
(Bismarck)

**Midco Foundation; Fire Alarm Panel;** \$1,000 (Bismarck)

**Minot Area Community Foundation; Financial Literacy  
Curriculum;** \$4,542.44 (Minot)

## 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](mailto:info@DakotaRanch.org).

Photo: Beautiful gladiolas on the Minot campus grown from bulbs given by a loving donor.



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

Change Service Requested

*Artist Statement*

I chose the words  
"I Am Beautiful "  
because I am talented  
helpful, and caring



Students made affirmation plates for themselves and for members of the Ranch boards of directors.

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](http://www.DakotaRanch.org)

Main Switchboard: 1-800-593-3098

Foundation: 1-800-344-0957

