



Flying H Youth Ranch 370 Flying H Loop Naches, WA 98937



(When each boys completes the program, we all sign a Bible for them)



(Evan when he first got here)

Dear Friends of the Flying H,

Although it is difficult to say goodbye to young men who have lived with us for almost two years, it is a great joy to review their growth and progress and bless their going out from us. Evan Hoy enrolled here in April of 2012, and we watched him grow up in so many ways. On March 14, 2014, his family joined us, and we all celebrated Evan's successes while here.

When the Hoys were seeking placement for Evan, they looked for reviews and references that would give them confidence that Evan would be safe here. Since Evan's mom Janie went to the web site and looked over the partner letters we had posted, we felt she would be an encouragement to other seeking parents. Therefore, we asked her to write note about their experience here.

No one makes an overnight decision to send their teenage son to live on a ranch. For Mark and me, a

continuing series of struggles over many years (we adopted Evan at one year of age from an orphanage in Russia) led us to believe that we wouldn't be the only ones to carry Evan along on his journey to adulthood. When we moved to Bakersfield, CA, from Dallas, TX, in the summer 2011, Evan began to make choices that headed him in a very bad direction. I started looking online for places where he could go that would be good for him and our family. In November, I found the Flying H Youth Ranch and called. The person on the phone said that yes, there were spaces. I started working on the application, and I didn't finish it until the following March when it became clear that we needed to make a drastic change because Evan was suspended from school.

I mailed the packet, and Jim Fried called me the next week. I will never forget how right it felt that Evan would go there. However, in order to do due diligence, I looked at other programs, but they didn't seem to be the best fit for many reasons. The ranch leadership prayed, Mark and I prayed, and we all agreed that Evan would go to the Flying H Ranch. We had never seen the ranch, or met anyone there; so a few days prior to taking Evan, I panicked and asked for references. Calling the references really put me at ease.

Frankly, we were afraid to tell Evan. When we did tell him, he said, "I'm not going!" and a lot of other things as well. He wouldn't speak to us for several days. We wanted him to go peacefully, not under force. So Jim said, "We'll pray, and you pray." People who knew what was going on prayed too. In two days, Evan said to me, "Mom, I'll go." When I called Jim, he shouted, "PRAISE THE LORD!!" We knew that we were doing the right thing.

I will never forget the day we took Evan to the ranch. It was such a sad, horrible feeling. Even after a great meeting with Jim and Steve, to see Evan put on the uniform and say goodbye was so hard. We all cried, but truly, this decision was best for Evan and best for us. Going to Flying H gave us hope that Evan could learn relationship and life skills, grow in maturity, and also enjoy the things a country life offers.

Throughout the program, we always wanted to know, "Is Evan on track? Is this what it's supposed to be like?" Every week, we looked forward to talking with Jim and hearing the report. And we looked forward to talking with Evan. The ranch knows that every boy is different. They each have a different story that takes them there, and a different story while they're there. It took about A YEAR for Evan to "get with the program." He had white cards, double digit hours, and all his free time was spent working. But then something clicked. He decided to do the right thing. When we picked him up at the airport for spring break after a year of being at the ranch, he said, "You're going to see a difference in me." And we did! It was awesome. To enjoy our relationship with Evan was and is such a great blessing! To be able to respect him as a young man was/is just awesome.

Over the last year, Evan's journey has had ups and downs. He wasn't a top-ranked guy, but we could see changes and great progress in achieving his goals. We love the ranch and the staff, and we were very thankful for family resolves, and we spent two wonderful Thanksgivings there. We had a special time seeing Evan graduate and hearing what the staff had to say. We are touched by their love and sincerity. We're also thankful that we'll be together for all eternity.

It's a new journey for our family, and we're thankful that God's work is never done this side of heaven, that we can trust Him to work all things together for our good and His glory. To God be the Glory. He makes all things new. --Janie Hoy



(Evan and Family)



(Presenting of certificate of completion)