



Flying H Youth Ranch

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Sponsored by Rocky Mountain Faith Mission

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Dear Partners:

“He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers...”
Malachi 4:6

Life at the Flying H Youth Ranch takes on an entirely different feel as we move out of the school year and into the summer months. A great deal is and will be happening in the next three weeks. The staff are “stressed to the max” as we prepare for the end of school, the Five-Day Hike, Family Resolve, and the boys’ Home Assignment. That is why having a **runaway boy** at this time was particularly difficult.

One week ago, sometime around 11:00 at night, “Darren” ran from the Ranch. Usually, the runaway boys are returned to the Ranch within the first few hours. However, “Darren” had been gone for almost 24 hours....our anxiety level was on the rise. Many of you received e-mails from various staff asking you to pray for his protection. On Thursday morning, we received word from his parents in Portland that he had left a t-shirt and a picture on their porch. In all likelihood, this was his way of letting them know that he was safe and in the area. Late that afternoon, he showed up at home again, sobbing and soaked. *“I need to be off of drugs...I need to change”*- his father immediately got him into the car and drove him back to the Ranch. We are in hopes that “Darren’s” heart is softening. He needs the knowledge of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. “Darren” is why we are here. He is why we do what we do. Despite busy schedules and other demands, we want to be available when God calls us to impart His love and His truth to “Darren” and boys like him. Please **PRAY**.

Thursday the 11th, is the **final day for school**, both academic and vocational. The boys are scrambling to get their final assignments and projects completed, while the teachers are winding up their lesson plans and preparing their final grades. Although no longer teaching, Patty Fried continues to be a tremendous help as she prepares to send report cards to parents. As the principal, Bruce Gillespie is taking great care to make sure that the boys’ credits are in order, the teachers are current with their certification, and that we are doing what we need to do as a school to maintain our provisional state accreditation. The school year culminates with a picnic and baseball game on our new field that afternoon. Please **PRAY** for the teachers as they draw this year to a close and for Kathy Hostetler, as she will be traveling back east to care for her parents. We will miss both Bob and Kathy immensely. They have been faithful ministers of Christ to not only the boys, but to us.

The very next day, Friday the 12th, Steve, Bruce Gillespie, Scott Eilts, Chris Rodriguez, Aaron Hunting and our summer intern David Melvin, will be taking the boys on the annual **Five-Day Hike**. This year Steve was able to obtain permission from Tall Timber Ranch (about one hour north of Leavenworth) to camp on their property and go on day hikes in the surrounding Wenatchee National Forests. In exchange for the camping privilege, our men and boys will be involved in helping on some work projects for Tall Timber, as they ready themselves for their summer program. The highlight of this trip will no doubt be the Wenatchee River rafting trip on Monday. Please **PRAY** for a safe and enjoyable time.

Preparations for **Family Resolve** actually began a few months ago. However, beginning Monday the 15th, everyone will be operating in high gear in order to get ready for Resolve on Friday the 19th.

Spring and Family Resolves are the single most important events on our calendar. Brent Johnson, our Family Service Director, and all of the mentors on have been, and will be, in close contact with the parents to finalize their travel plans...in short, making sure that they will be here for the Resolve. Kris Johnson, our bookkeeper, does double-duty as she also handles registration and housing needs for the parents. Janice Hobson, Rae Sherrard and Jenna Kissler, our office volunteers, will be readying workshop packets, in addition to their normal office duties. In addition to Brent, Nick Marks, Chris Carlile and Shon McIntyre (past ranch staff) are responsible for developing the teaching portions of Resolve. This has been a very time-consuming job for them, as they have had to prepare their speaking sessions when “off-shift”, and yet still have time to devote to their young families. Patty Fried has been very busy ordering food, arranging cooking schedules, and along with her crew of boys, has been maintaining the gardens and tackling some long-term cleaning projects. However, on Friday, at 9:00 in the morning, the entire staff and all of the boys, will converge on the lodge in order to receive their particular “last-minute” cleaning assignments, gardening projects and set-up instructions. Mary and Karin Forsman will be decorating the lodge. You’ve never seen this place lookin’ so sharp!! Please **PRAY** for stamina for the staff, especially for those in leadership.

At 2:00 on Friday, the parents/guardians begin to arrive, greet their son, pick up their packets, and mingle with other parents and staff. Many have met other parents before and immediately continue cementing the bond that began to develop at Spring Resolve. The parents of our new boys initially find this extremely uncomfortable, but when they discover they are not alone in their grief, embarrassment, anger....walls begin to dissolve. It is always interesting, and at times enlightening, to observe the interaction (or lack thereof) between the boy and his family. Some are, without a doubt, delighted to have their parents here. Still others do everything they can to distance themselves from their parent(s), if not physically, emotionally. Having said that, they are required to remain with their parents at all times. At Resolve, they are a family unit, not a group of Ranch Boys. Saturday is a day packed with workshops, teaching and discussion sessions, but interspersed with outdoor activities, worship and mingling time. We have been careful to build in time for boys and their families to get away on Ranch for truth application times. Mealtime is an important time of fellowship. Janice Hobson, Carolyn Berger, Patty Fried, Patty Simmons, Karen Carlile, Kris Johnson, Mary Forsman, and Chris Rodriguez, are responsible for meals....we are always well fed. Please **PRAY** that God would speak through our teachers and that parents’ and boys’ hearts will be open to His truth.

On Sunday the 21st, parents prepare to leave with their son for a two-week summer **Home Assignment**. This can be a time of excitement, but also excruciating high anxiety for both parents and boys. Each have expectations and yet at the same time, don’t really know what to expect. Parents are very aware of boundaries which will need to be set and consequences which will need to be in place. It is our hope for the boys that the positive behaviors we seek to enforce here, will carry over to their relationship with their parents and vice versa. Parents must also learn to respect and love their son in ways that they may not have before. Please **PRAY** for both boys and parents during this time.

Ranch Needs:

- Funds to replace the existing roof on the lodge
- Funds for Bibles for graduates

In Christ’s Service,

Terri Alumbaugh
for the Flying H Youth Ranch

Did you know that this partner letter can be found on our website @ www.flyingh.org?

Or, let us know if you would like to begin receiving this letter via e-mail @ youth@flyingh.org