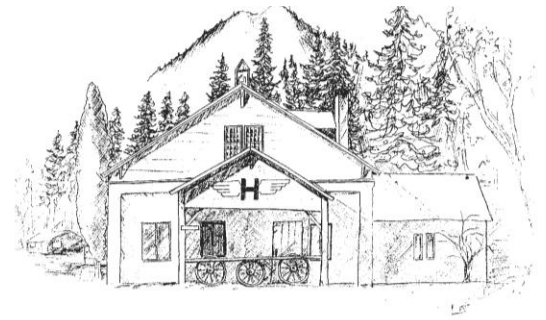


Flying H Youth Ranch

370 Flying H Loop
Naches, WA 98937



“...turning the hearts...” Malachi 4:6 since 1962

Dear Friends of the Flying H,

November 9, 2010

Once again, God so blessed us as we were gathered together for our fall Family Resolve. All of the boys' families were able to make it, most of them making it by Friday dinner which was the official kickoff. Following registration and dinner, Pete Smith, our director from 1998 until 2003, paved the way for the rest of the Resolve by leading the group in an interactive exercise in which they identified the barriers to trust in their families.

Saturday we shortened the number of speaking sessions and group discussions to one each in the morning (because of feedback from the parents). Jim Fried laid the foundation for trust in families in the one lecture session, followed by group discussions in which the young men were separated from their parents into their own groups. An application opportunity for the families with their sons was given at the end of the group discussions. Just before lunch, Bruce Gillespie led a treasure hunt, and Dave Forsman and Scott Eilts offered cider pressing.

Instead of attending another session in the afternoon, the boys were thrilled that they were able to play a game of paintball led by Aaron Hunting and Chris Rodriguez. During their game, the parents and staff discussed upcoming Home Assignment strategies in a session called “Nuts and Bolts.” Clearly, this was considered one of the most valuable sessions because parents were able to talk about their fears and concerns and ask for ideas from the staff and each other. Our staff men (especially Steve Alumbaugh, Brent Johnson, and Scott Eilts) did an excellent job of speaking to some of the issues the parents were facing and encouraging them to be strong.

On Saturday evening, Doug and Linda Shaddy shared concerning their journey through the Flying H with their son. This time was a highlight for many parents and boys. Speaking frankly about their issues and with deep emotion, the Shaddys gave hope to families who were feeling rather fragile about having to place their son out of their home.

After a long but rewarding Saturday, we all were ready to wind up the weekend by Sunday. Therefore, we enjoyed a time of worship led by Chris Rodriguez who also delivered a message on trust speaking from the Word and his own life. Mentoring opportunities and fellowship time rounded out the morning and our families took off with their sons.

Opportunities for teacher conferences and mentoring were offered throughout the weekend, but our responses from parents reflected that they would like even more time offered for that. Also, materials and books were available for purchase at a table manned by folks from Nick Marks's home church. Each staff family also housed at least one of the boys and his family. Parents clearly appreciated the opportunity of interacting with the staff to whom they had entrusted their sons for the past weeks/months. Since eating together is one of the most enjoyable activities of Family Resolve, we so appreciated the volunteers from the Calvary Chapel Church in Vancouver, WA, who took over much of the kitchen responsibilities which freed the staff to interact with the families.

All in all, Family Resolve and the Home Assignment week were very successful as per the parents' evaluations. There was concern that a few boys would run when it came time to return, but they all came back! The following are some of the parent responses to the Resolve weekend:

"It was great meeting all the other families and watching the interaction between the boys. Thank you for the great hospitality."

"Family Resolve was great. I enjoyed meeting the other families and boys. I also enjoyed hearing new observations of my sons strengths and weaknesses."

"I appreciated the compassion and caring for the parents and their issues. It was so good to realize that we are not alone in this."

"This Resolve was very well done. The food, as always, was fabulous. The interaction with mentors, teachers, staff, and other parents is highly enriching. I also love staying with Ranch families; they are so warm and welcoming. I particularly found the presentation of the Shaddys and the Nuts and Bolts time to be beneficial."

"I appreciated the common bond and pain and love that other parents shared. I enjoyed the Shaddy couple and their story/journey."

"I expected "good" and I received "wonderful." Getting to know other parents and boys helped me see our problems from a wider perspective. Getting to know the staff helped me see quality and love."

"I purpose to continue every day to pray for my son, family, my walk and example. I will encourage my son to speak to me what he is angry about and let him know he is safe to tell me."

"Thank you so much for this experience for my grandson and me—and all the fantastic meals!"

"This Resolve brought troubled areas to the forefront so there is no hiding them."

"I really want to work on restoring trust in our family."

Once again, we are praising God for His faithfulness. Thank you for joining with us.

Patty Fried

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