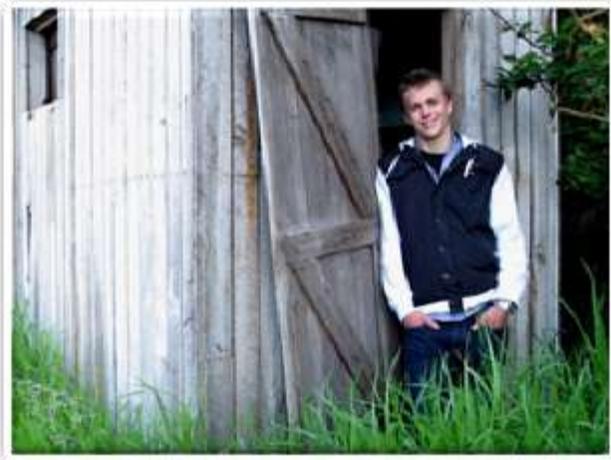


www.flyingh.org

Flying H Youth Ranch

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



Dear Flying H Friends,

One of the most significant events at the Flying H is the graduation of a young man from the program, and in Brendan's case, from high school as well. As a staff we tell stories about, give tribute to, and send the graduate off with blessings and prayers of dedication. We also give opportunity to the family members to speak and give their perspective about their son's journey to this point. Brendan's mom took our hearts as she shared from her heart about and to Brendan. She has given us permission to publish her remarks by way of encouragement to all of us who love this ministry.

What a year! This is a tough letter to write. I'm sure I'll cry, but they are tears of joy. Today is a joyful day.

As a parent, a mom, your babies are your babies forever. When they are grown and pull away from you, it is one of the most difficult emotions you can experience. It is like ripping your heart out of your body and letting it walk around on its

own. When behaviors become destructive, instinctively we want to "fix" it. There comes a time when we can't. How do you let your kids "be their own person"; how do you "let them fail"? I don't know the answer. I do know that just as God will never leave me; I will never leave my kids. I will do everything I can to guide them on to the right path, and through God the path led to the Flying H Youth Ranch.

The Flying H became our anchor, our anchor of hope. During a storm, hope gives us the ability to look at things as they are and still be confident that something better is coming. No one can promise that we will not deal with more disappointment or trouble, the important thing is that we never stop hoping. Maintaining a positive attitude and holding on to the hope we have in Christ puts us in a position to see God's miracle working power (Joyce Meyer, *Everyday Living*). The ranch became a disruption in the current. While we kept throwing duct tape on the leaking pipe, trying to take control, the ranch was able to shut off the water and get down to the real problem.

When we decided to send Brendan to the Ranch it was the most peaceful moment I have ever experienced. I did not have any doubt, any misgivings. My friends wondered at how difficult it was to make that decision, but it truly was a peace that passes all understanding. It was one of those "aha" moments that you can look back and say "this is what it feels like to truly give control to God and believe in His power and know it is right." There is no way you can explain this to someone without faith. It is like trying to explain pregnancy to a man. They can listen and nod their head; they can see the manifestation; but they cannot feel the all-consuming power in that faith.

"The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God." (1 Cor. 1:18).

We raise our children to think and question, and reason and then how difficult it is when they turn their back on God because they cannot see Him or touch Him.

Einstein said, "Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence." Just because you do not see it does not mean it is not there. This is what I have learned about faith. The more I have put my trust in God, the more I have followed His rules, the more I have turned my back on desires of the world rather than desires of the Spirit, the more peaceful I become. The more I worship God and wish to please Him and let Him be in control, the more I am blessed. Each time I try to grasp control, the farther it slips away. How many times must I fall before I choose the right path?

My hope when Brendan came to the ranch was that he would stop his destructive behaviors—defiance, disrespect, dishonesty, and enlightenment. I now pray that he can look at the peace and success he has reached here and know that only through God could this have happened. In times of distress, I hope that Brendan can look back at his time here and remember his lessons of humility, truth, respect, and hard work. There is no "easy" road, but the road can be so much easier than we make it.

The first 3 months of Brendan's stay were incredibly tough. In the last few months I have watched this young man emerge: a loving, smiling, talkative, and honest young man. I see joy in his eyes and I hear joy and excitement in his voice. I have seen him grow in the loving arms of the people around him who have poured the love of God into him and I know that God is a living God not a dust filled story book. His consequences are real but so are His promises. We must listen with our spirit not our ears. The future is so bright, Brendan. It is a new day full of possibilities. Do not be blinded by the little things and the temporary things; grab hold to what is right and good. We love you. Mom & Dad



Prayer Requests/Needs:

- We have about 8 buildings that need painting; we feel it would be more cost efficient to get our own paint sprayer instead of renting one for each project. Would you consider helping us get one?



[Graco Magnum 261830 210ES Hi-Boy Cart Airless Paint Sprayer](#)

- Our "General Funds" account is low, please pray for donors who would give to this account.
- Our Family Resolve will be October 11-13. The topic is Integrity.
- Our Staff Retreat follows Resolve October 14-16, with ACSI Oct. 17 & 18. Pray for safety and for a great learning experience.
- Please Pray that the Lord would send the right boys and their families to our program. We would like to have 14 boys right now in the program.

Praises:

- The school year is under way, and the boys are all doing pretty well.
- Clay and Wendi Griffith, our newest fulltime staff are now on site and serving our boys and families.
- For the boys and families that have recently inquired about our program.
- The Lord is good and generous beyond all measure.