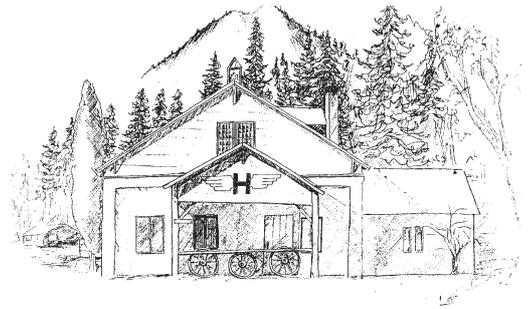


Flying H Youth Ranch

370 Flying H Loop
Naches, WA 98937



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

September 6, 2010

Dear Friends,

August 27, just days after boys and staff returned from the eight day Survival Hike, three boys graduated from the Ranch program and returned home to attend their local schools. Robert Popi was one of these young men. Joining the ranks of an honored few, he reached and held the rank of “Ringer” for at least three months before graduation and returned home with the coveted Flying H ring. Last fall we published a young man’s testimony who had earned the “ring,” but before him there was a several year stretch. Why is the rank of ringer so hard to attain? Simply put, the ranking system is based on daily/monthly relational and attitude evaluations by the staff (and parents). To come out on top consistently, with sincerity and humility, takes patience, courage, and much hard work. With deep respect for Robert, we are pleased to share his testimony with you.

Looking back at my life before I came to the Ranch, I realize that I was a complete mess. Two main reasons I was sent to the Ranch are that I skipped school and I was disrespectful to my family during times of critical turmoil.

Before I came to the Ranch my plan for the rest of my life was to sit on the couch. My mother would beg me to go to school, but I would only go three to four times a week. I received poor grades, of course, and my grade point average was a 1.9.

I was also a jerk to my family. After my dad committed suicide in 2004, my family began to fall apart. We started to fight a lot and began to hate each other. I would disobey my mom because she had many problems and wasn’t strong enough to spank me. She would ground me, but I wouldn’t listen. I hurt her emotionally many times. We lived that way for a couple of years, and then in 2008 my mom sent me to live with a family friend for the rest of the school year. In the summer I went back to live with my mom. Then in July my Grandpa died. It was really hard on my mom and family. The following week she was laid off from work, and she suffered a mental breakdown.

A couple of months into the school year, because of things going on with my mom, our family split up. My little sister and I went to live with one of my older sisters; the older kids had already moved out. After two months of living with my sister, I decided to just give up. I didn’t want to go to school anymore, and I didn’t want to live with my older sister. They threw me out of the house and told me they were sending me to the Flying H. At that point I thought it was the end of the world. I stayed with family friends (these friends are now my guardians) for two weeks until I came to the Ranch.

When I first came to the Ranch I thought I was in jail and that nobody loved me. I thought my family had abandoned me forever. After a few months I

realized the Ranch wasn't so bad. I decided to listen to the staff and to try to do well in the program.

My goals to complete while at the Ranch were to respect my family and authorities, catch up in school, and have a loving relationship with my family and God. I've completed every one. I've learned how to respect and love my family as well as other authorities. I have found that I can succeed in whatever I put my mind to. I can work hard, do well in school, and live for my Savior. God and the Ranch staff are the ones who have helped me change my life. At the Ranch I have managed to be top rank for eleven months and achieve the highest rank—Ringer.

As I leave the Ranch, my goals are to apply what I've learned at the Flying H and to succeed in my education and not fall back into my old habits. I will love my family and my God just like I've been doing at the Ranch. After high school, I would like to go to college to become a police officer.

Finally, being at the Ranch for nineteen months has been a great learning experience and life changing for me. I believe that I am firm enough in my faith to keep applying the things I have learned in the "real world." I plan to follow God and let Him direct my life.

Loving these young men,

Patty Fried

Patty Fried

Praises:

- We had a successful Survival hike, everyone came back safely and a few pounds lighter!
- We had 5 new boys enter the program during the month of August.
- The school year has kicked off.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- For the new boys in the program, that they would see their need for change and that their hearts would be softened toward the Lord.
- For the school year, that the boys would apply themselves to their education and work diligently.
- For the Schippers and Albright families as they continue to raise support. We are short handed and could really use more staff!

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