



New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranches

CORRAL

Fall 2021

Yes, the truth isn't always easy.

By Heath Kull

I know a lot of people that I don't actually know. In today's world, that seems more common than it's ever been. But, with social media being so prevalent and time such a scarce commodity, knowing people is both easier and harder than it has ever been. As a result, I spend a lot of time with a small number of people and interact with others using texts and phone calls and, the ever present and aforementioned, social media. The joke around here is that people who know me from my writing tend to think more highly of me than those who actually know me. The joke lies in the absurdity of the statement. You see, I get some less than awesome feedback at times. From the gentleman who wanted to explain to me all the ways that an article that I wrote about my feelings about the metaphorical "Caesar" was misguided and just plain wrong, to the most recent lady who seems to think, based on my writing, that I hate my job and thinks that I complaint too much. According to her, I should just quit my job if I am unhappy. Apparently, according to her, the best thing that I could do for the kids at The Ranches would be to stop being honest with them about them and just be the next person to abandon them. I don't get a lot of feedback, but often the feedback that

I do get is sometimes harsh and rather biting.

So, on to the truth. I love my job. I have the opportunity to do what I love to do just about all of the time. I get to mentor staff and kids and often have the opportunity to engage in some genuine discipleship of others. It comes with some late nights and some early mornings, but it also comes with some significant rewards. Seeing a child break free of years of conditioning and exclaim what they actually want or seeing adults go from focusing on the pain that has been present in their lives to focusing on the lesson that the pain was meant to teach is simply priceless. At this point, I can't imagine not doing those things. As one of the staff children who watches house remodel and "flipping" shows recently told me, "Heath, you are a people 'flipper' and always try to make people better." It was a sincere and heartfelt compliment that hit pretty deep for me. I wouldn't have described it that way but can certainly see this from her perspective.

So, why then does the negativity often show through? The answer to that is quite simple; there is an almost unfathomable amount of pain in the

The Ranches Alumni

"Knowing that you're not alone, you're not the one unwanted kid, teen, or young adult. And that you do have a purpose and a chance for a meaningful life."

- David G.

If your business would like extra print copies of The Corral please contact us at dev@theranches.org.

Want to receive our newsletter digitally? Sign up [@theranches.org](https://www.theranches.org)

Follow The Ranches



Rekindling HOPE for At Risk Youth - Since 1944

Continue reading on page 3



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Heath Kull

President

As we head into our busiest season, I often find myself in a position of happiness and gratitude. Despite the tough decisions and the hurt that goes along with the kids we serve; I love my job. To be completely honest, I don't know what I would be doing if I wasn't doing this. It makes sense to me and also seems to slide all of the pieces of my childhood and younger days into proper alignment to form a reasonably beautiful picture. I never dreamed that I'd be in this position and previously found comfort in standing just outside the fire and either judging or approving of the fundraising and program competency of those that used to be in charge.

Being in this position leaves me with far fewer folks to judge and a new crop of young and talented people who are eager to cast their judgements in my general directions. I get it because I have been there and responded in the same way.

But the beauty in my career lies not in the stress, but in the opportunity to mentor guide and shape the next generation of courageous and competent childcare workers and work to ensure that the kids in our program don't have kids in our program later in their lives. Unfortunately, that isn't really a 9-5 job, and it doesn't lend well to self-care or slowing down. And that is precisely what I love about it. And I genuinely appreciate that there are people that support us so that I continue to get to have the best job that I can imagine. The thing is, the kids have no idea how much they will appreciate all that you have done for them. They may never know your name or have the pleasure of interacting with you, but they have felt your presence and your generosity. For many of the kids, their general prayer is that someone will care about them and I get the honor of explaining to them how much and how generously you care about them and their future.

So, on behalf of what I often consider the personification of the Biblical principle of the least of these, thank you. As the son of someone who grew up at a place very much like The Ranches, I can tell you personally that their children will reap all that you generously sow today.

Sincerely,

 Heath Kull - President
heathk@theranches.org

#RaiseThemUp

We asked our Alumni Group what they would tell our donors, here is what one of our former residents had to say.

"Words cannot describe the lives you saved and feelings you've touched! God Bless you, from all our hearts!"

- Derek J



One of our residents made lunch with a family recipe for the entire campus. She did the shopping and all the preparation with the help of a few of her peers. It was delicious and restaurant quality!



Photos by Lani Kull

Facebook:
(facebook.com/TheNewMexico-BoysandGirlsRanch)
Twitter & Instagram:
@TheRanchesNM
or my
personal Twitter: @HeathKull
#HeathKull



THE RANCHES



continued from page 1

kids that I work with. When you shine a light on their pain and are willing to go into that pain with them, you must acknowledge the pain that you have also experienced and all those present who are witnessing that exposure of that pain, are forced to look inward at their pain as well. It can feel overwhelming.

I suppose that I represent the difference between a fundraiser who utilizes their talent to help kids and someone who grew up knowing and helping hurting kids who was later asked to be a fundraiser. Sometimes – often times – I see problems first and tend to see blessings as they relate to solved problems or lessons taught or changes in perspective and behavior. Occupational hazard, I suppose. It would seem that my efforts to connect y'all to the pain that is such a part of the kid's lives has alienated some. Others though, have sent very affirming and uplifting notes and I read them often to remind myself of all the support and encouragement that people have taken the time to send to me on behalf of the kids.

So, on to our blessings! We currently have 34 kids in our program. We have two girls' cottages and two boys' cottages and are but one couple short of fully staffed. We got to fully staffed, but a couple chose to pursue other interests after nearly 5 years with us. We have faith that another couple is out there ready to pursue a career that they never knew that they could love, and we're keeping our eyes open for the right applicants.

For most of the summer, we have been raising animals for 4-H. Pigs, lambs and goats make for a rather full set of pens at the barn. Through the 4-H process, we were able to teach the kids about responsibility and hard work and the benefits of both. All those early mornings and effort paid off as we had 7 kids "make the sale" at the Socorro County Fair. After all was said and done a few kids who were raised in the city found a way to embrace country life for a few months.

The thing is – and this is the point where those who are sensitive to negativity, have the option to quit reading – their stories are still what led them to The Ranches.

There were two of those kids who had been in significant trouble with the law and several who specialize in screaming words that start with F at staff. Also in attendance were a few kids who are certified as both lazy and unmotivated. Well, at least until they started working

with an animal in pursuit of a positive outcome, that is. There were also a whole host of kids whose behaviors before coming to The Ranches were quite reprehensible. To see where they ended up after knowing where they came from was nothing short of amazing and astounding at the same time. But that is what we do at The Ranches. We take awful stories and turn them first into hope and then, with a little effort and a dash of talent from our staff, into stories of self-worth, self-esteem, and self-respect. I just don't really know how to connect you to those stories while keeping it all positive, sunshine and rainbows.

There are so many beautiful stories in the world, but those beautiful stories often don't need us here at The Ranches. Those that do need us often have stories that will break your heart and leave you with little more than a desperate prayer and dedication to hope for tomorrow. As a result, I spend the majority of my time working to transform some pretty horrific stories into hope for a much brighter future for the kids in our program, and more importantly, for the kids that they will one day have. I also spend a little time trying to raise a little money in pursuit of transforming those stories.

Like the kid who owes more than \$1,500 in restitution for past indiscretions, but who raised a pig that took first place in his category and sold for \$2,500. Or the girls who came here angry, defensive and on probation who is working on buying a car because she now has the trust of those who believed in her when others – including herself - didn't. How about the boys with several moms and sisters who has no frame of reference for appreciating women, but is working at it. Or maybe his sister who learned that emotional outbursts will lead to her getting her needs met, but who doesn't know how to give up the outbursts.

So, if my previous communication led you to believe that I didn't love my job or that I am too extreme in my belief that, since we take no governmental funds, the state of New Mexico should only attempt to control us within the confines of the regulations that they wrote for us, I would like to apologize for leaving you with the wrong impression. Since I am of the belief that the responsibility of ensuring that the message communicated is properly conveyed rests solely on the person communicating, I accept full responsibility for missing the mark with some. I'd also encourage anyone who wants to further the conversation with me to email me at HeathK@theranches.org. I'd love to hear from you for both the struggles and the encouragement.



#RAISETHEMUP @THERANCHES



Ranch Worx

Rarely has anything that we have done garnered so much positive attention and support as our Trades program Ranch Worx. The kids have recently remodeled our conference room at the ranch and have just a few more classes before it is completed. Apparently, The Ranches is going to finally banish out 70s era wood paneling that covers the conference room walls to its rightful place in the dustbin of history. The old will soon be gone in favor of some thoroughly modern "shiplap" wall covering. I've been told that this "shiplap" is all the rage, but we'll let you be the judge when we get some pictures of the new conference room out to you. Thank you so much for supporting our efforts to offer kids a career pathway that has often been overlooked but is sorely needed for a lot of kids.



The trades program taking a tour and learning about manufacturing at Cemco - Belen.

If you would be willing to host our trades program and give them a tour of your facility, please contact us at 505-881-3363



#RAISETHEMUP @THERANCHES

JUMP IN2 SCHOOL BASH

With having a year of no events or outings the youth from The Ranches was excited about the "Jump In2 School Bash" put on by Boss Wear Official, Liv's Good Nutrition and Advanced Compressor Systems. This was their inaugural event to help kids in need in the community and The Ranches. The event had lots of community support to get the kids ready for another school year. There were several jumpers for the elementary students. The Residents enjoyed the dunk tank, games, the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office Swat Vehicle, great music from DJ Mitch, snow cones and so much more. The Brotherhood Biker Club collected school supplies for the youth in attendance. The Ranches Residents were blessed with receiving water bottles, school supplies, and a fun day out. Thank you so much Boss Wear Official for partnering with The Ranches to help bring Hope to the kids in our care. We look forward to joining this event next year.





THEIR JOURNEY





THE RANCHES

Being in the World, But Not of It!

Growing up at The Ranches and in a Baptist church, I often heard the expression, “You have to be in the world, but not of it!” At first, I had no idea what this meant, but as I got older, I came to understand that I am a part of the world, but I needed to keep my values rooted in the Bible rather than in the values of a selfish and secular world. To be honest, it was a lot easier back then than it is today. Avoiding rock music – or at least using headphones – and not being disrespectful to adults was about all that was required to meet this lofty standard. As I got older, avoiding controversial subjects and standing for everyone while standing up to no one was all that it took. Like every other person that has come before me, I find myself lamenting the fact that times have changed. Gone are the days of just keeping one’s head down and shutting up about uncomfortable or controversial subjects. Being in the world but not of it is now an almost insurmountably difficult task. I do my best, but there are so many issues that the world has created that people seem to demand a response to. And those issues aren’t as easy as the choices of my youth. Were it a series of choices that were easily recognizable as a choice between a clear “right” and a clear “wrong”, my life would certainly be quite a bit simpler. Unfortunately, it isn’t as easy as I’d like for it to be.

Lately, I’ve often found myself in the proverbial valley that lies between two firmly held beliefs. All too often, the two firmly held beliefs are both my own. For instance, I am a firm believer in forgiveness while also firmly believing in accountability and consequences for one’s choices and behavior. While the kids at The Ranches extoll the virtues of forgiveness, many of the staff want to offer the kids opportunities for consequences and accountability. Often, I must make the decision as to which path has the greater merit and greater opportunity for positive outcomes later in the kids’ lives. Quite simply, for every kid who has never been given the grace of forgiveness, another child has never had to

endure the consequences of their behaviors. Often, the two are roommates. In order to be effective, I must rely on discernment that often feels just beyond my reach or level of wisdom.

Another valley that I often find myself in lies between the ever-present demands of getting a lot done and the need to give a child the individualized attention that they need in pursuit of better decisions and a greater sense of hope. Recently, while facing a deadline for this very article, I found myself in a 6-hour standoff with a child who was dead set on going home and a family that was ill-prepared for his return. The time wasn’t wasted but it sure prevented me from engaging in other activities as it required my entire focus and all of my attention. So, 6 hours later, the article wasn’t finished but the child was able to accept that returning home immediately wasn’t the best scenario for him or his family.

Unfortunately, I don’t see it getting any better any time soon. There no longer seems to be a desire on the part of a majority of our country to return to founding and Biblical principles. The thing is, I don’t have much say or much sway for the country as a whole, but I do have influence over 2,400 acres, 20 or so childcare workers and about 35 kids. In that small piece of the world, I have a whole lot of influence and I can work with others to change lives one at a time. I do, however, have to pay close attention to what and how I communicate as the urge to misperceive and misunderstand is as real and present as it has ever been. As a result, I spend more time on my knees in prayer than I used to and I spend more time engaged in conflict than I’d like to, but I couldn’t imagine a career that I could possibly love more. For the kids that I get to work with are often of this world while also struggling to be in it. I get to teach them and show them what lies just beyond their pain and their past and give them hope for an eternity free of both.



THE RANCHES

Pete Leyva Memorial Golf Tournament Benefits The Ranches

For 24 years Richardson & Richardson, Inc. has hosted the Pete Leyva Memorial Golf Tournament benefiting The Ranches. This tournament is a great opportunity for some of our current and former residents to interact with donors. Many of our residents who participated enjoyed their very first game of golf. This year we hosted 124 golfers; 15 volunteers and staff members from both The Ranches and Richardson & Richardson, Inc. helped put on this tournament. After a full day of fun and lots of sun we all enjoyed a Street Taco bar and hor's d'oeuvres where Hap Richardson presented The Ranches with a check for \$22,600. The Ranches is grateful and wonderfully blessed by the continued generosity of Richardson & Richardson and sponsors such as Minick & Co., Sunshine Plumbing, Mountain States Insurance, Domenici Law Firm, Kaufman Fire Protection, Windsor Door Sales, MSI Helicopter, Ricci & Company, Ideal Plumbing & Heating, Road Runner Waste Services, Berger Briggs, and Ray's Flooring Specialists. To everyone who participated in this tournament The Ranches would like to thank you, without you The Ranches wouldn't be in our 77th year of operation.



Thank you to all the businesses, organizations and churches that made monetary gifts in excess of \$150 during the period of June 30, 2021 - September 28, 2021. We deeply appreciate your commitment to children and families!

THANK YOU

Alamo Ranch Company	Thermal	CA	Kohlhass Corp.	Albuquerque	NM
Albuquerque Community Foundation	Albuquerque	NM	Manzano Auto Sales, Inc.	Albuquerque	NM
Colquitt Company	Anthony	NM	MATT 25, Inc.	Clovis	NM
Foundation for Sustainable Living	Albuquerque	NM	NM Acoustics and Specialties, Inc.	Albuquerque	NM
Greeman Ranches	Tishomingo	OK	T or C Moose Lodge #2050	T or C	NM
Harper Cattle, LLC	Arlington	TX	The Johnston Company	Albuquerque	NM
Hillsboro Union Church	Hillsboro	NM	The Man's Hat Shop	Albuquerque	NM
JSCO, Inc.	Albuquerque	NM	The TC & Rita Shook Horton - Broken Ranch		
Ken Brudos Insurance	Albuquerque	NM		Albuquerque	NM



Become a Partner

Holiday Giving

First of all, I don't think that there really are that many people that have everything, but I could be wrong. What I can tell you is that giving is contagious and generational. Teaching young ones (of all ages) to support great causes can start by giving a gift to a great cause in the name of someone that you love. Not only can you help a worthy cause, you can teach your loved ones about the causes that are important to you and, hopefully, help them to catch the "giving bug" this holiday season. While I am partial to The Ranches, there are a plethora of great causes out there.

Help Us Share Our Story

Representatives of New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranches are available to meet with clubs, civic organizations and fellowship groups, either in person or via the web, to share our story of bringing hope to hurting youth.

If you are interested in arranging a speaking engagement for your organization, simply give us a call at (505) 881-3363 or (800) 660-0289.

YES! I would like to Become a Partner!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: You may contact me by email. My email address is:

My Monthly donation will be: (a minimum gift of \$25 a month is required to become a Partner)

\$25 a month (\$300 yearly)

\$100 a month (\$1200 yearly)

\$50 a month (\$600 yearly)

Other: _____

If you would like to make a Donation by credit card
please visit us at

www.theranches.org/invest-in-our-youth/

or call us direct at (505) 881-3363 or (800) 660-0289.

Please contact me at the number listed above to set up monthly payments by Credit Card or Electronic Funds Transfer.

Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Dan Cover
Chairman

Heath Kull
President

Tommy Sanders
Treasurer

Allen Lewis
Secretary

DIRECTORS

Larry Koester

Holly Larson

Linda Yates

THE RANCHES

P.O. Box 9
Belen, NM 87002-0009

(505) 881-3363
(800) 660-0289

www.theranches.org

