



New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranches

CORRAL

Spring 2022

What, Honestly, Would Jesus Do?

By Heath Kull

As someone who somewhat deftly survived the late 80s and early 90s and the onslaught of WWJD bracelets, bumper stickers and t-shirts, the question of what our Lord and Savior would do has come up a time or two with me. Interestingly, I am more confident in what Jesus would do with lepers and blind folks and those that had recently, but unfortunately, passed away than I am with how he would deal with the kids and the staff at The Ranches. To be fair, most of the kids and staff are hardworking and honest and either looking to help or to be helped. None are lepers and none have recently passed away. All of the kids and some of the staff though, are in need of healing and to be loved as Christ loved us. But I still struggle to always know what I should do in scenarios that are a little bit on the outskirts of simple. What do I mean by that? Glad you asked. I struggle with those outliers within The Ranches who are...

Mixed Messengers - As a country and within our small culture here,

mixed messages are a way of life. You can want to ban guns, but not abortion. You can take Christ out of school because it can be seen as indoctrination and it violates the role and relationship of parents, but you can't teach educators not to talk about sexuality because it can be seen as indoctrination, and it violates the role and relationship of parents. Within The Ranches, there are also the mixed messages like, stand up for yourself but don't stand up to me.

Or, you have to respect me no matter how disrespectful I may be to you. While Christ had very clear messages, I often wonder how to maintain my patience with mixed messages and am fascinated by how Jesus would deal with them more effectively than I have been able to.

Emotional Entanglers - Emotional entanglement occurs when the emotions of the kids in our care and the emotional state of the adults that care for them are both interdependent and indistinguishable.

The Ranches Alumni

What did you learn from The Ranches that benefits you today?

"Being responsible, self-respect, patience and teamwork"

- Kee V.

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Rekindling HOPE for At Risk Youth - Since 1944

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Heath Kull

President

As we start to experience warmer weather and additional sunlight, we are getting prepared as Summer is coming. While it is a big switch for most kids, there isn't as much of a switch for the kids at The Ranches. We will be maintaining much of the structure that makes our program work with a little more time to work on school, in our VoTech program, our RanchWorx trades program and in the great outdoors.

We also get to spend a portion of our days at the barn caring for 4-H animals and getting ready for fair season. While it is a lot of hard work for the kids, it is one of the key character-building endeavors that we utilize with the kids at The Ranches. All of the early mornings and late evenings come together in late August and early September at the Socorro County Fair. While some kids will get the benefit of the experience, a few will (hopefully) make the sale and get a head start on a little bit of a savings account that they can use for higher education a little further along in their journey in life.

What's more, we will all get to go to not only the Socorro County Fair, but county fairs all over New Mexico to talk with people about the work we do, the kids we get to do it with, and our plans for the next few years.

I've had the privilege over the years of meeting some of the absolutely nicest and best people in the world at the county fairs around New Mexico. From Tom Mitchell up in Raton to Jack Blanford down in the southern part of the state.

With the help of some great supporters of The Ranches, we have been able to absolutely reduce our food costs while increasing the quality of meats by an astounding margin. And we get to go to the fair and connect with the communities that we serve when their kids need us most.

So, if you're free and possibly a little bored this fall, please come out to your local county fair and say hello. We'll have hats and possibly a few other items, but we'd love to see you. If you'd like to make sure we can connect, please send us an email at info@theranches.org. We'd love to see you.

Sincerely,

 Heath Kull - President
heathk@theranches.org

#RaiseThemUp

We asked our Alumni group, "What is one thing you would tell our donors?" Here is what one of our former residents had to say.

**Thank you so much...
you helped save my life**

- Brandie D.

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or my

personal Twitter: [@HeathKull](https://twitter.com/HeathKull)

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#RaiseThemUp

We asked our Alumni Group, "What is a story from your time at The Ranches that you would tell to a current resident to help give them hope?"

"Abd weekend", few will know but in the moment most of us residents didn't understand the point or the staffs Philosophy behind this said weekend. In the end we all understood and was one of the best "break down and rebuild" weeks of my life it was well needed and somewhat of a closure I needed in a sense that weekend is also when I found out that I was a "good kid" and really changed my prospective on things and life. Still to this day even in my early adulthood I catch myself telling my self "I'm a good kid".

- Dylan E.



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Unfortunately, many adults take this entanglement to mean that they are the ones who know and understand the kids best. This is inherently toxic, but often the kids and adults who are entangled view the lack of emotional boundaries as a sign that the unhealthy adults are good at building relationships with hurting kids. They aren't, but good luck trying to convince them. I honestly wonder how Jesus would deal with this while all involved and a group of hurting kids was watching. I've got a pretty good idea of His answer, but sometimes I fail.

Not Exactly Looking for Signs That They're Not Awesome – It is next to impossible to disagree with some children and adults. They will go to the ends of the earth and cross any boundaries to prove that the person daring to disagree is not qualified to criticize them. They rarely have any evidence of the criticism being untrue, but if you attack the messenger, you can mute the message just enough to not have to face the deep-seated insecurities within yourself. This, to me, defines those that were adamant that Christ be crucified. He loved them anyway, and I do my best. Unfortunately, I sometimes grow weary.

Allowing Empathy to be Totally Eclipsed by Pride – Some amongst us are so busy demanding empathy for themselves and all that they've been through that there is nothing left for anyone nearby... with the exception of a well-placed enabler; usually the spouse of a staff member or the parent of a hurting child. Again, Christ was crucified by those who allowed their empathy to be eclipsed by pride and He loved them anyway, I just wish I knew how to deal with them long when my attempt to love them doesn't change their behavior.

Strugglers With A Lack of Praise – Some staff and kids at The Ranches have convinced themselves that they are the best in any environment that they grace with their presence and that those that fail to

recognize their awesomeness are just "haters" and somehow inferior. They just can't believe that the concept that nobody is perfect can ever be applied to them. As a result, they are simultaneously the victims of your criticism and your lack of continual praise. This leads to them only having people pleasing praisers and those who lack the courage to criticize them as friends. There simply isn't room for anyone who might challenge their emotional belligerence and touch on their deep seated level of insecurity. I often wonder how Jesus would navigate an ongoing and long-term relationship with these folks. Again, I know that He would love them, but I'd love to see how He would guide them to change.

Conversation Monopolizers – Emotionally Belligerent staff and kids are so terrified of anyone else being seen or valid or compared to them that they take over every conversation and only allow the most weak, fragile and timid to have any long-term position in their lives. If you have a self-esteem and a healthy set of boundaries, emotional belligerents will find a reason for dismissing you from their lives as they will almost always deem you unworthy of their friendship, time, energy and effort. They will most likely have a number of short-term jobs in their life as they flee any scenario that may uncover their fragile self-esteem and penchant for self-loathing. Adult emotional belligerents rarely make it long here as employees. Seeing as Christ was clear on His boundaries, and quite patient, I often wonder how He would elicit that change that the kids needed in these folks.

While this may sound a bit challenging to you and may stand in opposition to your view of the kids and staff of The Ranches, I assure you that those I am describing are definitely the minority of the staff and not all of the kids. That's the thing about Jesus though, he lived and died for us all. The over-achieving ones and the ones who struggle. The ones

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Being Good Stewards of Contributions

One area that often gets overlooked as a part of our organization, and the support you generously give, is the plethora of vehicles needed for our operation serving kids. From all the vans to haul kids, to the cars needed for appointment runs and teaching kids how to drive, to the trucks needed to haul animals and supplies, vehicles are such a big and important part of our lives, but they aren't always considered when considering supporting our organization. In an effort to be good stewards of all that you give to us, we have always worked to build positive and meaningful relationships with local dealerships that care what we do and care about the kids that are our core mission. Chalmers Ford in Rio Rancho, NM has been the most prolific. Now, we don't usually buy new and we don't always get to pick the vehicle that they can offer the best deal on, but they have come through repeatedly over the years. In addition, they also take care of our employees when they are in the market for a "new to them" vehicle. When we call on behalf of The Ranches, Tom Cullen and his team always come through with a vehicle that meets our needs, and more importantly, our budget. As a supporter of our organization, I just thought you may be interested in understanding those that help us steward your contributions to meet our needs.

Valentines with Alpha Delta Kappa



Again, this year, the women of Alpha Delta Kappa remembered our residents with delicious and fun gifts on Valentine's Day. The ladies provided gift boxed candies, gift cards, stuffed animals, and other items to each of our residents letting them know they were on the minds of folks many had never met. They also shared unique and hand-made bolo ties with the kids made by Mr. Davies, who has sadly passed. This continuing generous and warm spirit toward the children in our program helps emphasize our point to each resident – there are so many more good people in our world than they can even imagine. Thanks again ladies.



THEIR JOURNEY



Photos by Lani Kull, Kensi Yoakum, and Tristin Dietrich



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who are open and the ones who have become closed off. God made us all with free will and I am working at a job that I love but I struggle sometimes to be a living and courageous example to kids and adults of someone who acts and treats them like I know Jesus would. Unfortunately, I've been guilty, at different times in my life, of each of the items on this list. Jesus forgives me regularly and I work to do the same for the kids in our care and the staff who work with the kids here.

Other Ways to Help

If you are one who looks at how many kids that your contribution goes towards helping, you may have noticed that we are currently maintaining a healing relationship with more than 35 kids. While each is a blessing, the rising cost of, well...everything, is felt when you have to multiply it by 35 in order to estimate what everything will end up costing. I don't think there is anyone who isn't feeling at least a little bit of an economic squeeze at the moment. While it can be easy to get down about the high cost of living, we often just decide to be thankful despite all of the reasons the world gives us to turn away from being grateful.

We are, indeed blessed. We are working to start on construction of our 5th cottage and are thrilled at the possibility of having a cottage with single bedrooms and private bathrooms for each resident. Those who've struggled with safety in their young lives can find a bit of peace in knowing that they won't have to share a room with anyone until they are ready.

While many of you have sent us significant gifts to help with the building of this project, many people ask me about ways to help the organization. We tend to focus on contributions, but there are certainly other ways to help.

Work Projects – If you have a group that wants to come out to our BGR campus and work on a project, we can work with your group to coordinate a project that will benefit us.

Short Term Respite Foster Care – We often have kids who are in need of a safe place to spend the breaks that are a part of our program. There is a bit of a process to get foster placements cleared, but this is an option for helping a child for a few days.

Work Trucks – While the current price of used trucks is a little on the insane side, we are always in need of a few "ranch trucks" for use on campus. In the past, a number of construction companies and oil companies on the eastern side of our state have generously given us some of their old pickups. A number of projects around here were made easier by those donations. If you have an old truck that you aren't sure what to do with, we can do something that helps kids with your old vehicle.

So, while our generous donors are our lifeblood and make our work possible, there are some other, less well known ways that you can make a difference for kids.



A Little Confusing

Over the past several decades, we have been attending county fairs across New Mexico in support of 4-H clubs and the kids that make up those clubs. Somewhere along the way, the buyers who were purchasing animals at the auction, but who didn't have the space or need for the meat from the animal, started asking about donating the animal to The Ranches. This has been an absolutely mutually beneficial relationship as it lowered our food costs and also allowed donors to support both 4-H and The Ranches in one transaction. We put a lot of miles on pickup trucks during fair season and it has always been well worth our time.

We are getting ready for 4-H season at The Ranches and that means that fair season will be upon us soon. While I am eagerly looking forward to some fair food and the colorful personalities of the various auctioneers around our state, not everyone has been as welcoming as we have always been accustomed to.

Last year, to our surprise, the Lincoln County Fair Board decided that our attendance had become somehow inappropriate and unwelcome. No real explanation was given, but we did receive a good 'ole fashioned shunning at an event that, by all indications, is open to the public. While our goal is never to offend, we have somehow offended the powers that be in Lincoln County but have no idea how.

So, we will be out in force in MOST counties this fall in support of the kids in 4-H and in support of our program. If you aren't in Lincoln County and want to come out and see us and talk about what is going on at The Ranches, or if you want to donate an animal from a different fair, we'll be there. We'll have some hats and be doing our best to enjoy one of the things that makes autumn special in New Mexico.

We look forward to seeing y'all!

Thank you to all the businesses, organizations and churches that made monetary gifts in excess of \$150 during the period of January 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022. We deeply appreciate your commitment to children and families!

THANK YOU

Alamo Ranch Company	Thermal	CA	JSCO, Inc.	Albuquerque	NM
Cash for Contracts, Inc.	Las Cruces	NM	Ken Brudos Insurance	Albuquerque	NM
Colquitt Company	Anthony	NM	M-Mountain RV Travel Club	Rio Rancho	NM
CS Cattle Company	Cimarron	NM	Ned's Structural Steel, LLC	Belen	NM
Fulton Motors	Albuquerque	NM	NM Acoustics and Specialties, Inc.	Albuquerque	NM
Greeman Ranches	Tishomingo	OK	Slayton Foundation	Roswell	NM
Harper Cattle, LLC	Arlington	TX	Standerwick Real Estate	Rio Rancho	NM
Hillsboro Union Church	Hillsboro	NM	Women's Christian Service Society	Los Alamos	NM





Become a Partner

Chipotle Mexican Grill - Food that filled our Spirits!

The Ranches was blessed by a very thoughtful and zesty food donation in March 2022 by a newly opened Chipotle Mexican Grill on the Northeast side of Albuquerque. As this location was about to open, they had to thoroughly train all new staff to the franchise and in doing so had to create hundreds of practice meals in the process. Rather than permitting any of this high-quality food to go to waste, they reached out to us. Since we could freeze about 95% of what they provided, it was a great match for our campus. When in Albuquerque, stop by this Chipotle at 1000 Juan Tabo Blvd NE, and show your appreciation for their community spirit and kindness to our residents and staff.

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.

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