



Building a foundation for life.

FEBRUARY 2022

A NOTE FROM ANDREA EVANS. CEO

Our Valentine For You

This month there are a couple of stories in the VTR Newsletter from The Ranch. They couldn't be more perfect as it is from the heart of one of our staff members. The sometimes impossible, becoming possible because of hope, love, and care. You will notice we do not use names as the stories are recent.

Our Ranch homes care for male youth ages 13-17 years of age. Our staff is trained to help stabilize and effectively transition youth from the need for treatment to reunification, primarily with their family or foster care. We provide around the clock care in a safe environment that helps them to heal, and to learn appropriate behavior. Sometimes we even have to mend broken spirits-all to help them eventually thrive.

Some teens end up with Resource Families (for foster care). It is difficult for them. They are older, their memories are tied to their family. They have their culture, their ethnicity, their entire identity wrapped up in their family and now they have to be placed in a home unfamiliar to them. But, it only takes one positive relationship to impact a life.

Many teens in foster care end up roaming from home to home needing stability. If you have ever considered becoming a Resource Family please visit our website today! [valleyteenranch.org/Foster Family Agency](http://valleyteenranch.org/Foster-Family-Agency). Or contact FFA@valleyteenranch.org for more information.

A Miracle at the Ranch

A Boy at The Ranch Reunifies With His Family

-by Carlos Vigil, STRTP Caseworker

This story is one of many miracles that happen at the Ranch. It is about the awesome power of my colleagues faith for the healing of the boys, their experience in quality of care, and honestly, their hearts that are always there in hope for the eventual well-being of the boys.

The boys placed at the Ranch by the courts come to us with many challenges. VTR provides specialized and intensive care, supervision, services, supports, and treatment. That is what we do by definition, but we provide so much more.

One boy placed at the Ranch recently required a high level of care, and didn't understand why he had to be away from his family. Because of this, VTR had one staff person with him at all times. They helped him feel at home in his surroundings and in relationship with the other boys at the Ranch.

The VTR staff worked hard to make sure that the time and attention needed for his rehabilitation was given him. They surrounded him in relationship and care. This made him feel accepted, connected, and most importantly, built his trust in staff. They helped him to succeed in changes to his attitude and behaviors.

So what eventually happened? The courts recognized his significant change! So much so, that court attendees gave him a round of applause and recognized this young boy's miraculous healing, as did his family. After winning in court, he was allowed to go home.



A Second Chance

A Boy Makes Life

Decisions and Amends

-by Carlos Vigil, STRTP Caseworker

One of our boys at the Ranch was able to complete his program recently. He had many adversities and challenges, but he stayed focused and managed to transition out of care. This in part was due to the high level of care that all his counselors and staff provided. The other part was his conscience. He suddenly became very aware that his journey was also spiritual and that the values his family taught him were at odds with the values he learned on the streets.

This young man had been raised in a Christian home and had a spiritual awakening while in our care. Youth For Christ visits our boys at the Ranch at their request.

Amidst the challenges of not speaking English, nor fully understanding the American culture, he accepted his circumstances and more importantly, took ownership of his mistakes.

This young faith filled boy is so thankful and shared with staff that he he had been rescued from danger. He said, "God demonstrated his mercy and love by placing me with caring people and giving me a second chance in life".

How We Help Boys at The Ranch

VTR provides educational, social, physical, and mental health supports through Social Skills Education, Life Skills classes. Daily point Meetings, Gang Intervention, Victim Awareness, Gang Intervention, and Anger Management.

The youth have House Group Meetings and learn Stress Reduction. Youth participate in individual therapy with a therapist on a weekly basis. We provide each young man with many opportunities to experience himself as successful, in a healthy, prosocial environment

Boys attend school at VTR, have recreation time, Vocational Training and we work towards Family Reunification

VTR WISH LIST FOR THE RANCH

HOMES

- Twin Bed Pillows
- Twin Bed Sheet Sets
- Bath Towels
- Blankets
- Blender
- Large deep skillets
- Large stock pots
- Pots and Pans
- Cooking utensils
- Sectional Sofa
- TV

FOOD AND HOUSEHOLD

- Beans -refried, Denison's, baked
- Cake mix
- Snack food-trail mix, potato chips, etc.
- Shredded cheese
- Tortillas
- Granola-sweet and salty only
- Top Raman
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Laundry soap
- Cutlery forks and spoons plastic and real
- Knives set

SCHOOL

- Lined and plain paper
- Pencils
- Binders
- Notebooks
- Art Supplies

*If you have any questions,
please contact VTR
at 559-437-1144 or
development@valleyteenranch.org*

GROUNDS

- Yard and Garden Equipment
 - Push lawnmower
 - Ride-on Lawnmower
 - Weed-eater



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The Ray of Hope fund is dedicated to the children and youth and directly support program services. Give online at valleyteenranch.org

Text "GIVE2VTR" to 73256

To give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply.



This will take you to our giving portal



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- The Transitional Living Home**
- Ray of Hope Fund**
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- Change of email address
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For in-kind donations like gift cards, mail to our office or contact Charise Hansen at 559-288-1003 or charise.hansen@valleyteenranch.org

Please make donations payable to Valley Teen Ranch

Total enclosed \$ _____