



Building a foundation for life.



APRIL 2022

## A Note From Andrea Evans, CEO

### Happy Spring, Day of Hope

Spring is finally here and Easter too. To all of our partners and friends, we wish you the joy of both.

This newsletter highlights two stories of young men who's life transitions began with the experience of God, the impact of VTR staff, and opportunities at the Ranch that changed their lives.

Along with National "Child Abuse Month", it is also the month we are inspired by the "Day of Hope". It motivates us to remember the need to rescue children, youth, and adults who are passing through phases of different kinds of abuse. We strive as an agency to help those in need and advocate for an end to the abuse and neglect. We want to give hope to the hopeless in whatever way we can. In fact our mission statement is to "Provide HOPE to vulnerable children, youth, young adults, and families through life-changing relationships and experiences".

It is because of you, we can continue our mission.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are grateful for you. Please keep our kiddos in your prayers, those that are with us now, and those that leave our care.

## A Return to The Ranch

### Manuel comes back after 12 Years



Manuel Gomez and John Addington

Manuel Gomez recently returned to the Ranch after 12 years. He thought about the ranch often, and knew he wanted to come back to the place he said, "Opened his eyes and was a life changing time for him". He wanted to come back to share his experience with the boys at the Ranch, to let them know, their mistakes do not define them. That the future is filled with hope. John Addington, the Ranch Administrator was there to welcome him.

Manuel said, "Mr. Addington supported me. He was like a father figure and didn't give up on me. But the whole staff there was really cool, especially Ms. Solis. She would spend time talking to me and helping me work through things".

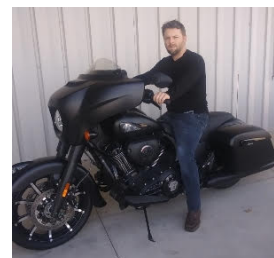
"My most memorable day though, was the day I went to church with Mr. Addington and Mr. Horn. The pastor asked if anyone wanted to accept God into their life. When I did, I felt a weight lifted off my shoulders, it was peaceful, loving, and caring and I felt like everything was going to be okay", said Manuel.

Manuel spoke to our boys at the Ranch with a message of not giving up. He let them know God had a better plan for him and knew he was going to be okay, eventually. He let them know that VTR helped him. He told them when they feel anxious to take it day by day. And to remember that if you know you are going through the storm, why would you stop there?

Manuel gifted the boys a video game and at the end of his visit the boys were filled with appreciation and hugged him. Manuel said he cried when he left. He knows this is not the last time he is coming back.

## In The End it Had to Be Me, I Had to Change

### Troy checks in with the Ranch



Troy Meloy

Troy contacted VTR last month. He had been a resident of the Ranch in 2007. He was calling to check in with Mr. Addington and Mr. Harris.

At 32 years old, Troy lives in Kansas now, works in construction for an asphalt company and has four children. But he recently went back to school. He wants to become a Patient Care Technician, to help people, which has been his life long goal.

Troy said, "VTR helped me change direction in my life".

He first saw John Addington, Ranch Administrator at the Madera Juvenile Hall. He said he felt that John found him and brought him to the Ranch.

One day the Ranch had a festival. A Christian band was there and Troy said he was anointed with oil. He new then that he could do better with his life and put the past behind him.

Troy said from that day forward his life changed because of the structure of the Ranch. The various chores and expectations of school and daily activities, helped him to develop positive life skills. He played football, which he was really good at, and was able to ride the horses and win ribbons for barrel races.

Troy talked fondly about the staff, especially Mr. Harris and Ms. Robbins who he said was there for him at his lowest, who would spend time talking to him and helping him when he found himself upset.

But Troy said, "Through it all, in the end, it was me. It had to be me. I had to change."

*The Ranch often receives calls from former residents to check-in. So many of our staff have been there for years, and their continued relationships have provided VTR such wonderful blessings over the years.*

*As we celebrate our 35th year, we are thankful for all our staff and leadership under Connie Clendenan that helped so many of our children, youth, and young adults that were ushered into new life. Our history lives on for those in need who are placed in our care.*

# Corporate, Business, and Community Group Giving to VTR

We love to present our organization to our community! If you would like us to speak, or if you would like to collect either funding or in-kind items for us through employee giving or grants, please let us know. Call us at 559.437.1144 or [development@valleyteenranch.org](mailto:development@valleyteenranch.org). Thank you!

## Save the Date

Our Annual Online Auction Fundraiser will be September 16th-24th! We hope you can join us!

## Transitional Living Home

We are expanding our Transitional Living Home to include a program called "Rapid Rehousing" to help young men ages 18-24 that are homeless. Please consider a donation today to help with the extras they need.

Find our Wish List at [valleyteenranch.org/Ways to Give/charitable giving](http://valleyteenranch.org/Ways to Give/charitable giving)

## THANK YOU MONAT GLOBAL

Thank you to Shannon Ferreira and the Fresno Team for collecting needed items for VTR!



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## Ray of Hope Fund

For Children, Youth, Young Adults, and Families

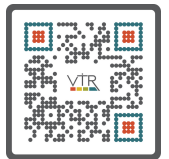
The Ray of Hope fund is dedicated to the children and youth and directly support program services. Give online at [valleyteenranch.org](http://valleyteenranch.org)

### 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 Ranch for Repair/New Equipment  
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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](mailto:charise.hansen@valleyteenranch.org)

Please make donations payable to Valley Teen Ranch

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_