



Building a foundation for life.

# NEWSLETTER

Dear Community Partners and Friends,  
February. The month when many of us celebrate our valentines-our loves. To you and your loves, we hope you have a wonderful month!

This month, four other staff members and I were trained in a special program that is being instituted at the Ranch, to help



even more boys in foster care. It was such a blessing talking to other agencies like ours that are like-minded and have a heart for kids like we do. Some of us talked about how we know that it was meant to be.

VTR also received a grant last year from the Kaiser Foundation that is allowing us to become a training center for our staff and other nonprofits in the community. Our first round of classes offered will be on Diversity. After years of working with youth, it has been one of our goals to open a VTR Training Center. We are youth specialists, and our goal is to provide specialized trainings, only often found in major metropolitan areas. We can offer it here, in the San Joaquin Valley where it is more convenient and provides a realistic cost for our staff and other nonprofits.

Thank you for all your continued support. Please keep us in prayer!

Every best,

*Andrea Evans*  
CEO

## Equine Assisted Psychotherapy

The picture on the top right shows our two horses in the early morning. They are used in Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) at the Ranch. Rather than ride the horses, youth will interact as staff provide a unique space for an emotionally safe, hands-on experience with the boys.



With real-time feedback, youth can learn about themselves and others to process and discuss feelings, behaviors, and patterns they see in their lives. There is a healing bond between humans and horses.

Our goal in the next couple of years is to become certified in EAP so that we can extend our help to other children and youth at VTR. If you can help in

any way, we would love it! From help with the horses, a donation of new horses or a donation of hay, helps us with this unique and specialized therapy.

There is a form on the back you can fill out, or contact [charise.hansen@valleyteenranch.org](mailto:charise.hansen@valleyteenranch.org).



*Early morning at the Ranch. Picture by Kim Gerhardt, VTR Quality Assurance Specialist*

## When Our Boys Leave

Two boys are exiting our program at the Ranch this month. It is hard sometimes on them to leave familiar and safe surroundings. It is also hard on the staff who grow close to the boys helping them navigate feelings, behaviors, life skills, while building relationships with them. We are happy that they are moving on in their lives, but also saying goodbye is always hard. We don't always know what happens to them when they leave us. Not because we don't want to, but to create a healthy start for them, to empower them, it is best if they move forward. We say goodbye this month to Nathan and Demarea and wish them well! Keep them in your prayers.

## A Special Donation for VTR Foster Kiddos

Sharacey Warsinger, Events Coordinator of the African American Alumni Club at Fresno State, contacted us last month to set up a time to bring in their donations.

The Fresno State African American Alumni Club, for the third year, has partnered with Fresno State Chicano Alumni and Junior League to host a Luggage Drive for Youth in the Foster Care system.

Their goal is to help foster children carry their personal belongings with dignity. They donated new or gently used suitcases, luggage, duffle bags, and backpacks to VTR.



# The VTR Signage Needs Replacing



If we talk to anyone, they always mention our location because they have seen the sign on Avenue 12. A few couple of years ago, a car ran into it and knocked it down.

We also lost our sign at the entry of the Ranch due to another car accident. We currently have \$5,000 to replace this sign, but need another \$5,000 to make this a reality. If you can help in any way-through donation of construction needs, or funding it would be appreciated! Please contact the office at 559-437-1144

# Become a Resource Family

## New Resource Family Orientation Schedule

Meeting time is 6:00-7:00 PM

Jan. 17	July 18
Feb. 21	Aug. 15
March 21	Sept. 19
April 18	Oct. 17
May 16	Nov. 21
June 20	

*Finding Homes,  
Building Families*



Mark Your Calendars!

Our VTR Online Auction Event will begin on Friday, September 15th-23rd

To join the committee or to become a Sponsor email [charise.hansen@valleyteenranch.org](mailto:charise.hansen@valleyteenranch.org) or 559-437-1144



2610 W. Shaw Ln., Ste 105  
Fresno CA 93711-2775

Return Service Requested

*Equine Therapy*



**NONPROFIT**  
Valley Teen Ranch  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Fresno, CA  
Permit #9

## Ray of Hope Fund

For Children, Youth, Young Adults, and Families

This fund is designed to charitably support essential services and resources.

### You Can 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.

### Help us in Other Ways!

- Go to our website at [valleyteenranch.org](http://valleyteenranch.org)/Get Involved to volunteer
- Give to us from our Wish List at [valleyteenranch.org/Ways to Give](http://valleyteenranch.org/Ways to Give)



SCAN ME  
For online donations



CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION

2610 W. Shaw Ln., Ste 105  
Fresno CA 93711-2775  
Tel: 559-437-1144  
[valleyteenranch.org](http://valleyteenranch.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- Equine Therapy
- Care for the Horses
- Ray of Hope Fund
- Please send monthly donation envelopes
- Change of email address
- Change of address

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_