



Ranch Roundup

Summer 2008

Valley Teen Ranch — Building Young Lives

Springtime Activities at Valley Teen Ranch, Inc

“The more we play together, the happier we are!”



▲ JC, Valley Teen Ranch Alumnus, met President Bush at the White House this past December.



▲ North Fresno Rotary Fun-Run and Pancake Breakfast, July 12, 2008. “Service Above Self.” We help each other.



▲ High school End of Year awards ceremony. Joined by Andy Alvarado, Assistant Superintendent, and Sarah Koligian, Superintendent, of Golden Valley Unified School District.



▲ Our fantastic foster parents at our Foster Family Agency Appreciation Dinner.



▲ 2008 Prom. A special thanks to our sponsors: North Fresno and Fig Garden Rotaries, Sequoia Brewery, D & L Roses, Act I Tuxedos, Larson Photography, Alpha Xi Delta and Kappa Kappa Gamma Sororities at CSUF.



▲ Trenton received his high school diploma and turned 18 in June. His teacher, Mr. Jesus Castillo from Valley Teen Ranch Community Day School, is there to congratulate him.



▲ Staff Retreat 2008. The other half of our staff came in the afternoon.



▲ Carissa Phelps and Connie Clendenan at our Anniversary Dinner, May 8, 2008.

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Upcoming Events

- * August 5, 2008
Magic Mountain Trip
- * August 10-16, 2008
Calvin Crest Summer Camp
- * August 18, 2008
School Starts
- * August 20, 2008
Back to School BBQ
- * August 26, 2008
VTR Board Meeting
- * September 1, 2008
Labor Day
- * October 18, 2008
Fashion Show/Luncheon at
TorNino's 10:30 a.m.
- * November 26, 2008
Thanksgiving Feast
- * December 22-24, 2008
Christmas at the Ranch

Needs List

- * Forks & Spoons (metal)
- * Cereal Bowls (plastic)
- * Dinner Plates (plastic)
- * Drinking Glasses (plastic)
12 oz or greater
- * Hand Can Openers
- * Electric Griddles
- * Microwave
- * Cleaning Rags
- * Bath Towels (not white, red
or blue)
- * Outdoor Swing Set
- * Thanksgiving Turkeys
- * Christmas Goodies (Dec)



Thank You . . .

- * Wells Fargo Bank
- * North Fresno Rotary
- * Fig Garden Rotary
- * Trinity Lutheran Church

Memorials A memorial gift is a very special way to express love and sympathy to bereaved families. It takes the memory of a friend or loved one and invests it in the future of a child at Valley Teen Ranch. Honorariums are a way to recognize special memories with living gifts to help build a better life.

In Loving Memory of
Maria DiCicco
Leon Ellis
Given by
Victor & Nadyne
Pellegriano

In Loving Memory of
Phyllis Smith
Given by
Bob & Marge Ebel

In Loving Memory of
Dean Downs
Jerry Magaha
Given by
Leona Lake

In Loving Memory of
Marion Clark
Given by
David & Betty Hatch

In Loving Memory of
Jessie Daily
Given by
Hillary Stewart-Polvado

In Loving Memory of
Ruby Siemens
Given by
Bob & Mary Wiens

In Loving Memory of
Bob Kidder
Given by
Margaret McCarroll

In Loving Memory of
Julie Schlichting
Given by
Bill & Shirley
Schlichting

In Loving Memory of
Robert MacInnes
Given by
Ron & Muriel Seay
Jack & Kathy Forrest
Jack & Joy Clark
Carl & Marlene Evers
Hillary Stewart-Polvado
Alan & Karen Hopkins

In Loving Memory of
Priscella Groefsman
Given by
Carl & Marlene Evers

In Loving Memory of
Marguerite Harvey
Jessie Armstrong
Given by
Dick & Jody Warner

In Loving Memory of
Edward Shirin
Pete Barsamian
Barry Wilson
Given by
Horsrof & Dolores
Davidian

In Loving Memory of
Kathy Hippenstiel
Given by
Gordon & Jeannie
Barker

Bill & Aggie VanDeelen
Bob & Linda Duncan
Pat Campbell
Rotraud Marikina
Robert & Barbara
Myers
Douglas & May
Stevens

Marlene Thrasher
Guy & Carole Johnston
Edward Chynoweth
Stuart & Anita
Sorenson
Shirley Cunningham
Bob & Jennifer
Mazmanian

Bill & Susan Millard
Tanya Peterson
Jennie Goulart
Richard & Julie Borman
Jeanette Alburn

Irene Harris
Ron & Muriel Seay
Mike & Marlene
McNally
Paul & Starr Madsen
Jim & Nancy Westgate
Connie Clendenan
Milt & Vera Richardson
William H Donner
Foundation
Marguerite Myers
Arnold & Marilyn Merrell
Brad & Amanda Cherry

In Loving Memory of
Jay Costa
Given by
Carl & Marlene Evers
Clarence Costa Family

In Loving Memory of
Marvin Horne
Marcus Howard
Given by
Wayne & Doris Trutna

In Loving Memory of
Virginia Hamlett
Given by
Paul & Starr Madsen
Connie Clendenan
Sharon Lawson
Bobby Lopez
Sue Sullivan

In Loving Memory of
Harold & Helen Keith
Given by
Shirley Keith

In Loving Memory of
Bob Herron
Given by

Jack & Joy Clark
Robert & Barbara
Myers
Rotraud Maroukian
Beverly Daniels
Ron & Muriel Seay
David & Betty Hatch
Paul & Starr Madsen
ESA / Love Inc
Eleanor Ullrich
Connie Clendenan
Beverly Brown

In Loving Memory of
Mrs. Lou Miller
Charlie Mays
Vernon Radoicich
Given by
Gary & Gale Pirtle

In Loving Memory of
Robert Donny
Given by
Margaret Melikian

In Loving Memory of
Jerry Monson
Given by
William & Corene
Bopp
Herbert & Rebecca
Liles
Jacqueline Gere

In Loving Memory of
Millie Brown
Given by
Jeff & Kathy Hilton
Bill & Shirley
Schlichting

In Loving Memory of
Ray Olson
Given by
Bob & Marge
Paulsen

In Loving Memory of
Aghoub Sarkis
Mary Melikian
Balmat
Edward Shirin
Kirk Setrakian
Leo Kolligian
Herb Andrade
Anne Sobajian
Given by
Marion Melikian

In Loving Memory of
Ed Daniels
Given by
Guy Johnston

Honorariums

In Honor of
Debbie Kludjian's
50th Birthday
Given by
Betty Marderosian
Vickie Coughlin
Art & Gladys Amerian

In Honor of
Gordon & Jeannie
Barker's
50th Anniversary
Given by
Bob & Barbara
Myers

Connie's Corner



For those of you who know me well, you know I am a wild sports fan, especially football and basketball. I subscribe to *Sports Illustrated* and watch *ESPN Sports Center* as my bedtime story. My favorite times of the year are the NBA Playoffs ... 40 games in 40 nights and football season starting in late August through the Super Bowl and the Pro Bowl. Plus, this is an Olympic year ... Big Bonus! On my "Bucket List" is attending the Super Bowl and a NBA All-Star game. Watching our CSUF "UnderDogs to WonderDogs" games was incredible too. All the championship teams this year have had two overwhelming ingredients: Team Work and Defense. You would think the rest of the coaches would pay attention to that and incorporate those winning characteristics into their team's DNA. The teams who didn't make it to the playoffs were lacking any resemblance of a "team effort." And we all know that offense is not what wins games...it's a solid defense.

We are incorporating those into our program with the kids, as well as our staff at Valley Teen Ranch. We are able to teach them about teamwork on our ropes course. They learn by doing. It is experiential learning. It involves development of a basic element of trust in your teammates. There are fun "games" or elements that utilize a gradual approach to building trust in one another and becoming a trustworthy person. Considering that our kids and staff come to us from a variety of backgrounds, life experiences, and many failed trusting relationships, we have our work cut out for us. We start the process at the initial interview, either to become an employee or become a resident of the ranch. Our words and actions must add up, on a daily basis. We start the relationships by sharing food, quality time, space, and responsibilities. We also have a predictable, documented and posted schedule, as well as established policies and procedures. There is structure, rewards, training, open and honest communication, and logical consequences when poor choices are made. We have a team "play book" that everyone is responsible for knowing and complying with. We also utilize heavy doses of "amazing grace" in our relationship building process. Establishment of trust is earned over a period of time and it can be lost in a nanosecond. When the boys question me about something, before I answer, I ask them if they trust me with the answer. I let them know I want to earn their trust and demonstrate to them how a trustworthy person behaves.

We are training them to defend their honor, their accomplishments, their goals, dreams, and aspirations. They defend those qualities by telling the truth ... all the time! Many of our kids are master "story tellers" and that is a difficult habit to break. We have to show them the benefits of truth telling in tangible rewards. They will have more friends, they won't have to work so hard at remembering what lie they told yesterday, they will feel better about themselves, others will pick them to be on their team and actually enjoy being around them. There are also copies of the 10 Commandments placed on our walls and there is one that says, "Thou shall not lie!" We take the opportunity to have "teachable moments" with the kids about our value of integrity.

So we have our team, our coaches, our game plan, and we're in it to win it! We celebrate our champions everyday. You most likely won't see us on *ESPN*, but we are training our "athletes" like they were Olympians. We are going for the gold with each child in our care. We want their victories to be world-setting records. They will finish school, tell the truth ... everyday, work hard, be responsible, respectful, and trustworthy. Those are medal winners in our book! We have no losers on our team!

Your gift this month will help us as we get ready to send our kids back to school, with new clothes, shoes, and more awards for their accomplishments in the form of gift certificates.

Thank you for being on our team, too. You make a difference in our game plan. Keep praying and giving. Go for the gold ... go USA and VTR!

Stay in the game,

Connie

Connie R. Clendenan, CEO





▲ Linda Duncan, Diana Schuler, Glenna Morris, Connie Clendenan, Mary Dougherty, Marlene Evers, Carol Johnston, Roberta Rowe, (not pictured: Debbie Reuland)

Valley Teen Ranch Angels Guild Presents Our 7th Annual Fall Fashion Show & Luncheon

Save the date: October 18, 2008 at TorNino's, 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person. Table sponsorships are \$350, \$500, and \$1000. We will have a live and silent auction, including a dessert auction and home-made quilt raffle.

We are accepting sign-ups for your Blue Ribbon, prize winning dessert to be donated for our dessert auction. Call the office at: 437-1144 and ask for Marlene for tickets, auction items, and dessert donations.

Seating is limited, so call now!

Jacob's Garden Update ...

The *Madera Tribune* ran an article on June 10 about our organic garden project. We made the front page with a photo of us. We were "outstanding in our own field!" As a result of the article, the owner of "The Big Tomato" in Denver, Colorado sent us an e-mail and wants to donate some of his hydroponic growing supplies to us. He invited us to attend the 2008 San Francisco Indoor Gardening Expo, and is going to come to the ranch to visit before leaving California.

The Advertising Director of the Expo donated vendor space for us to have a Valley Teen Ranch booth. There will be 1500-2000 delegates attending the Expo for us to meet, network with, learn from, and ask for donations.

We are still in the grant writing, seeking donors, and foundations to ask, phase of the project. The costs include: \$50,000 to level the land, \$50,000 for a new well and pump, \$30,000 for our first greenhouse, \$10,000 for fruit trees and drip irrigation.

There is still lots of work to do before our we have our salad buffet! Any and all help is welcome.

NOTE: We would like everyone who wants to receive this newsletter to do so. However, if for some reason you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please notify us at (559) 437-1144.

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