

Valley Teen Ranch — Building Young Lives

Christmas at Valley Teen Ranch

Pictures are Worth a Thousand Words



▲ December 19 was the end of our fall semester of school and therefore we celebrated our students' academic accomplishments. 8 boys received Perfect Attendance Certificates. 8 boys received Honor Roll Certificates for having a 3.5 GPA and above, including 2 who earned a 4.0! They also went to the snow & the ocean during Christmas vacation.

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▲ All our foster families, their children, foster children, & adopted children.



▲ Where's Santa baby?



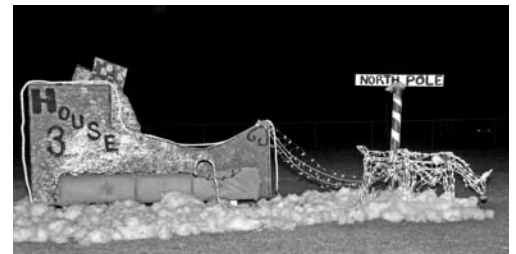
▲ All our staff & boys at the Ranch. One Big Heart!



▲ The Front Yard at House Two



▲ The whole cast of the Nativity scene



▲ House Three's version of the North Pole



▲ House One

Upcoming Events

- * March TBA
Annual Staff Retreat
- * March 26, 2009
FFA Appreciation Dinner
- * April 6-13, 2009
Easter Vacation
- * April 18, 2009
Northwest Church Primetimers' BBQ @ VTR
- * April 25, 2009
VTR Prom
- * May 21, 2009
FFA /Adoption Picnic
- * June 5, 2009
VTR High School Graduation
- * June 15-July 31, 2009
VTR Summer School
- * August 13, 2009
Fall Semester Begins
- * October TBA
Fall Fashion Show Luncheon

Needs List

- * Pot Holders
- * Dish Towels
- * Corelle Dinnerware: plates & bowls
- * Flatware: forks & spoons only
- * Batteries: AAA, C, D
- * Vacuum Cleaners: heavy duty or commercial
- * Yard Tools: rakes, shovels, brooms, hula hoes
- * Desk Chairs (on wheels)
- * Movies on DVD: Rated G-PG
- * Games & Toys: ages 5-12
- * Interior Latex Paint
- * Televisions: 32" or larger



Thank You . . .

Thanks to Planet Hair Salon in River Park. The boys received special haircuts for their Thanksgiving and Christmas home visits. "When you look better, you feel better!"

VTR Boys Volunteer in Our Community



In October, the boys from House One volunteered to help with a clean up project at Storyland. Manuel was working on attaining his Alpha level and decided it would be wonderful to help clean up a park that is valued by so many children. Many of the boys had never seen a park with this kind of theme. They were very excited to learn about Storyland's history and the deeper meaning of community service. They worked very hard at cleaning the dead brush off the train tracks. They cleared fallen tree branches that were blocking the maze, used a whole roll of trash bags picking up leaves, helped paint a fence, and cleaned up some vagrant areas. It was a lot of work and the boys were in good spirits to come back again. They are really excited about helping to keep Storyland alive for future generations. The next clean-up will be this spring. We hope it will be a continued tradition.



All the boys at Valley Teen Ranch provided their muscle with Tree Fresno to plant over a 100 trees at Dry Creek Park in Clovis. Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group also joined us for the community service beautification project.



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
Louise Hite Adams
Given by
Barbara Lake
Mary Niskamura

In Loving Memory of
Harold Tamura
Paul Andersen
Margaret Krikorian
James Kazarian
Paul Melikian
Given by
Marion Melikian

In Loving Memory of
Matthew Boyajian
Given by
Ken & Linda Boyajian
Gregory & Kay Boyajian

In Loving Memory of
Tom Moore
Given by
Ken & Adele Hopper

In Loving Memory of
Jenny Macy
Given by
Guy & Carole Johnston

In Loving Memory of
Charles Barber
Given by
Jack & Joy Clark
Ernest & Phyllis Chastain

In Loving Memory of
Marcie Rogers
Given by
Millie Wade

In Loving Memory of
Art Polard
Given by
Janet Shaw
Teresa Siebert

In Loving Memory of
Leo Hochderffer
Given by
Wayne & Joyce Trutna

In Loving Memory of
Robin Gossett
Given by
Margaret McCarroll

In Loving Memory of
Dr. William H. Wade
Given by
Mildred Wade

In Loving Memory of
Nita Meisner
Jackie Sharp
Alan Hunter
Given by
Leona Lake

In Loving Memory of
Margaret Avakian Gutierrez
Given by
Bill & Susan Millard

In Loving Memory of
Mary Lou Lauchner
Michael Costa
Virginia Gonsalves
Given by
Carl & Marlene Evers

In Loving Memory of
Edith McKinney
Given by
Carol Ann, Melinda, Nancy Lynn, Beth, & Families
William & Myrna Westcott
June McKinney
Lillian McKinney
Mike Urrutia
Georgette Andreis

In Loving Memory of
Joan Moore
Given by
Sam & Sara Siroonian

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

In Loving Memory of
Gordon Lemky
Given by
Jack & Joy Clark

In Loving Memory of
Jeff Dockstader
Given by
Pam Pipkin

In Loving Memory of
Marguerite Shaw
Given by
Doris Trutna

In Loving Memory of
Jack Knight
Given by
Randi Maroukian

Honorariums

In Honor of
Margaret's 80th Birthday
Given by
Trudy Lindau

In Honor of
Bill McKinney
Fred Anderson
Jerry Venturi
Irene Magos
Given by
Gary & Gale Pirtle

In Honor of
Dr. Gian Gonzaga
Given by
Phil Setrakian

In Honor of
Doug & Cher Cardwell
Marge Cook
Given by
David & Ashley Wills

Annual Report

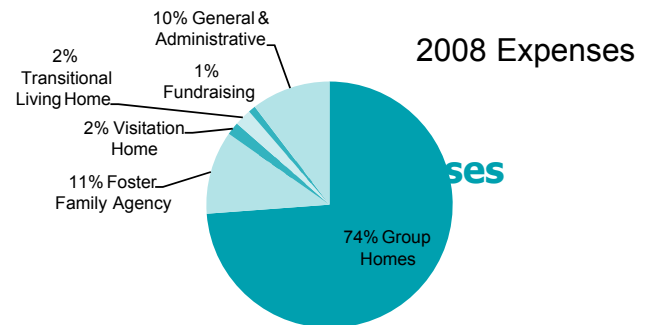
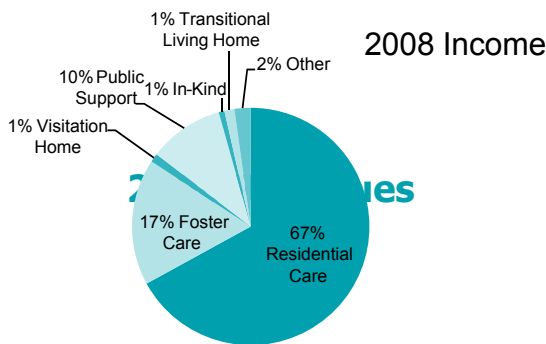


In 2008 we worked with over 175 children and youth in all of our programs, which includes three Therapeutic Residential Group Homes, Therapeutic Foster Care, Adoption, Transitional Living, and a Bonding Home. We have 50 full-time and 10 part-time employees, 8 board members, a budget of \$2.7 Million, 40 volunteers, 18 foster parents, and an incredible army of prayer warriors. Together we are staying focused on our mission: ***“To assist vulnerable young people and their families in rebuilding their lives through caring relationships and opportunities to grow mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually by living in a safe and healthy home.”*** We continue to see growth and development in our kids as they make positive changes in their lives every day. I hear from VTR Alumni every week. They are working, going to school, being parents, and making good choices.

Every day I read something from the Bible, something from the newspaper, and something from my computer. Today’s Bible verse is I Samuel 12:24, “But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart, consider what great things He has done for you.” That’s a promise, a challenge, a blessing, and a command that I can stand on! The headlines in the newspaper include \$790 Billion Economic stimulus bill, tax payers cover octuplet and mom costs, Favre retires ... again, A-Rod or A-Fraud, government cuts services and raises taxes, we need rain ... someone lied, someone cheated, someone died, etc. That is temporary, depressing, and totally out of my control. Where do I go for peace, contentment, purpose, and fulfillment? Not to the media, the government, my horoscope, Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition, or Botox, that’s for sure! I believe following, trusting, and obeying God; the Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace is the ONLY way to go. I wonder about many uncertainties in the days and months ahead but I choose to believe that God will continue to provide the resources we need to continue our work. I just have to be faithful, serve Him with my heart, and thank Him for His answers to our prayers.

As you can see from the pie charts and statistics below, we are using our resources wisely, helping more kids, and accomplishing our purpose. When we do that there is great fulfillment, hope, and blessings. We are encouraged even though we don’t know how the future will look. We do know WHO holds the future for us.

Thanks for your continued support. We need it more now than ever before.



This year we had the following children and youth outcomes in our agency:

2008 Totals

Group Home Admissions	55
Group Home Graduates	19
Foster Family Agency Admissions	13
Adoptions	8
Total Admissions	68

21 Year Totals

Group Home Admissions	875
Group Home Graduates	246
Foster Family Agency Admissions	441
Adoptions	72
Total Admissions	1316

Our accomplishments include:

- Boys’ Academics Improved by 75%
- Increased Counties Placing by 8
- All 4 State Licenses are Excellent
- Met our Budget and had a Clean Audit
- 35% Successful Completion at the Group Home

Goals for the future:

- More HS Graduations, Honor Roll , & College Admits
- Recruit & Train More Foster & Adoption Parents
- Expand Vocational Training Program at the Ranch
- Expand Donor Base by 100
- Continue Development of Organic Farming Project
- Write More Grants to Foundations

Adoptions and Foster Care at Valley Teen Ranch

Between December 23, 2008 and January 25, 2009, we were able to experience three different types of adoptions/births within our agency. Jim and Kristy Ray (Foster Parents with us) were able to adopt two brothers ages 2 & 8, who they have had as foster children in their home for the past year and a half. What a thrill for us all to be in the judges chambers for the finalization. Matt & Denise DeFina (Foster/Adopt Parents with us) were able to finalize their adoption of Gracie on her actual birthday. She was referred to us from San Bernadino County. Then we were able to be present for the birth of our little Garcia baby girl, who was given up to us for adoption by her birth mother. Her adoption finalization will be later this year by the happiest adoptive couple in Tulare County. They have been involved with us as Fost/ Adopt parents for about 2 years.

We are currently looking for more families interested in becoming Foster Parents and/or Adoptive Parents. The process is somewhat time consuming and we don't know when we will be given referrals, but we need to be prepared and when God's timing happens we will be ready.

Please call our office at 437-1144 for more information and we will set up an orientation for you. There are many needy children and youth out there that need a warm and friendly family to live with.



▲ Kristy, Hayden, Ethan, & Jim Ray, & Judge Schwartzbart

Matt, Denise, & Gracie De-Fina, & their families Steve & Patty Grigsby, June Abla, & Chuck & Sherri DeFina



Andy & Raquel Garcia, baby girl, & Ashley Phelan, VTR Social Worker



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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