



Ranch Roundup

Summer 2005

Valley Teen Ranch—Building Young Lives

In This Issue

Open House	1
Prom	1
Interns	2
Memorials	2
In God We Trust	3
Needs Lists	3
Connie's Corner	4

2005 18th Annual Open House

Valley Teen Ranch celebrated our 18th Anniversary - Open House on May 1. We dedicated the Bufe Karraker-Clarence Shaw Education Center on that day. The Madera Chamber of Commerce, Karraker family, Shaw Family, donors, friends, Valley Teen Ranch Board members and staff were there to have the official



ribbon cutting for our school. There are 3 classrooms, a bathroom and break room in our 2000 square foot building. This summer the school will be completely wired with a satellite internet

system and computer lab for all our 32 boys, thanks to financial help from the Borba Ranch, North Fresno, East Fresno and Fig Garden Rotary Clubs. The Valley Teen Ranch Library will also be officially opened with over 2000 books and resource volumes, all in the Dewey Decimal System and computerized thanks to donations from the Bertha and John

Garabedian Charitable Foundation, Bank of the Sierra and Union Bank. We are going to begin our Fall Semester on August 15, 2005 with Golden Valley Unified School District as an on site Community Day School. Our 3 classrooms will include Jr. High, Sr. High and Special Education.

There were over 25 Valley Teen Ranch graduates who came back as alumni to share in the day. They came with their girlfriends, wives, children and stories of how Valley Teen Ranch impacted their lives. The oldest was 33 years old and successfully completed our program in the late 1980's. The youngest was 14 and just graduated from the Ranch this past March. They are all doing well, are drug and alcohol free, working, and continuing their education. We are so proud of them! We truly are "Building Young Lives" at Valley Teen Ranch.



Mark Your Calendar

- July 30th In God We Trust
- Oct. 22nd Fashion Show
- Nov. 12th Turkey Trot

Pictures:

- Top: Open House sign
- Right: Graduate with our C.E.O.
- Middle: The Ribbon Cutting
- Bottom left: Prom Night
- Bottom right: OH - 1992 Graduate & family

The Valley Teen Ranch Prom... A Night To Remember!



This was our third year to have a Prom for our High School boys at Valley Teen Ranch thanks to the Leadership Class at Buchanan High School. The Leadership Team provides the facility at Buchanan, complete with decorations, DJ, Photographer (thank you Larson Brothers), food, flowers, tuxedos (thanks to Act I), and most of all the gorgeous ladies all dressed up in their beautiful gowns. The boys have the time of their lives and feel like Kings. There is no fear of rejection and there are no drugs or alcohol at the event. The ladies love their "other prom", too. Our boys are perfect gentlemen and they rarely sit down. This is one memory they will hold on to for the rest of their lives. Thank you Buchanan High School Leadership Team, Larson Brothers, Act I and lovely ladies. Thanks to the parents of the ladies, too!



Interns



Every year Valley Teen Ranch "hosts" 10-20 volunteer Student Interns who are placed with us from California State University, Fresno and Fresno

Pacific University. Most of the students come from the Social Work Departments at these 2 Universities and are with us for 2 semesters. We appreciate the help they provide us in working with our Group Home as well as Foster Care kids and staff. They receive college credit for their wonderful work with us. We often hire these students when they complete their degree, also. At the end of the semester we took a field trip including the Craycroft Center, Children's Hospital of Central California, The Allen-Spees Group Homes, The Valley Teen Ranch Visiting Home and the Valley Teen Ranch Transitional Living Home, followed by lunch at Plaza Ventana. These students are a tremendous asset to our program.

2005 Child Advocacy Award to Mike Horn



This year the Comprehensive Youth Services (CYS) selected Mike Horn, Ranch Coordinator for Valley Teen Ranch as one of their 8 Youth Advocates of the Year. They were honored at a luncheon on May 12 at Pardini's Restaurant. Other recipients included former Valley Teen Ranch house parent, Stephanie Grant, Chief Jerry Dyer, Juvenile Judge Denise Whitehead, Phil Kader, Barbara Foster, Mari Demera and Ed Amundesen. Mike has been an employee of Valley Teen Ranch for the past 14 years. He started out in the maintenance department, then he and his wife were house parents for us and then he became our Ranch Coordinator. Mike has many gifts and abilities and therefore he wears many hats at the Ranch. He oversees the staff, grounds, buildings, vehicle and equipment maintenance and all the kids, too. What a man! He has his Bachelors degree from Fresno State in Criminology, is a Licensed Pastor, is married and has 2 teen age children. We are very proud of Mike as well as the other recipients of this prestigious award. He is truly devoted to our most difficult to deal with teen age delinquent boys.

Memorials 2005

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

Elmer Bier
Madison Faith Defina
Deran Emerzian
Barg Rustigian
Milton Smeltzer
Stella Tesei
Given by
Marion Melikian

In Loving Memory of

Bob Bogenschild
Given by
Ed & Joan Bogenschild

In Loving Memory of

Andy Prisco
Given by
Doug & Sue Jackson

In Loving Memory of

Mrs. Pearl Mae Samuelson
Given by
Margaret Melikian

In Loving Memory of

Doris Amici
Given by
Jeff & Kathy Hilton
Richard & Joellen Warren

In Loving Memory of

Barr Andreasian
Rose Aslanian
Ray Gallup
Miriam M. Silveira
Patricia Jean Thomas
Given by
Horace & Dolores Davidian

In Loving Memory of

Sonny Burch
Given by
Millie Brown
Jeff & Kathy Hilton
Chuck & Jeannine Milner

In Loving Memory of

Ruth Elliott
Given by
Jeff & Kathy Hilton
Chuck & Jeannine Milner

In Loving Memory of

Jason William Rogers
Given by
William & Millie Wade

In Loving Memory of

Wilda E. Jepson
Given by
Susie Martin

In Loving Memory of

James Edward "Jim" Fifield
Given by
Horsrof & Dolores Davidian
Carl & Marlene Evers
Jeff & Kathy Hilton
Marion Melikian
Ron & Muriel Seay

In Loving Memory of

Mary Elizabeth Spencer
Given by
Bill & Susan Millard

In Loving Memory of

Darrell Loyd
Given by
Jeff & Kathy Hilton

In Loving Memory of

Louis Roy
Given by
Leona Lake

In Loving Memory of

Homer "Mel" Wren
Given by
Don & Alice Schafer

In Loving Memory of

J. Douglas MacArthur
Given by
Paul & Karon Chambers

In Loving Memory of

Albert "Al" Rodka
Given by
Lois Rasmussen

In Loving Memory of

Britt McKinney
Given by
Edith McKinney

In Loving Memory of

Doris J. Richesin
Given by
Bob & Marge Ebel

In Loving Memory of

Elmer Cranmer
Given by
Ron & Muriel Saey

In Loving Memory of

Jason William Rogers
Given by
William & Millie Wade

In Loving Memory of

Christopher Ryan Clinger
Given by
Michael & Sharron Adolph

Needs List

- Weight Machine or Free Weights
- Couches / Chairs
- Beach Towels (swimming pool)
- Big Plastic Mixing/Serving Bowls
- Baseball gloves
- Video Rewinder
- Fishing Poles
- Pots & Pans
- Corelle Dishes
- Plastic Kitchen Storage Containers
- Pot Holders
- Dish Towels
- Small Refrigerator
- Window Air Conditioner
- Batteries (all sizes)
- Snacks for Toddlers
- Paper Towels

Honorariums 2005

In Honor of
Gary & Arnell Work
Given by
Harriett Aloojian

In Honor of
Hazel Albini
Given by
Bart & Mona Goldbar

In Honor of
Hilda Clendenan
Ray Clendenan
Chris Clendenan
Given by
Connie Clendenan

In Honor of
Gannon Walter Scheidt
Given by
Bob & Shirley Hansen



A Wonderful Day of Music, Praise and Inspiration



On July 30, 2005, Valley Teen Ranch will be part of the first annual "In God We Trust" Christian Music Festival to be held at Coombs Riverbend Ranch. Featuring Point of Grace and Sandi Patty, this concert will bring the Fresno/Clovis/Madera area communities together, continuing the revival that has been building in our cities. Local talent includes Janice Stain, Bill Thornbury, Enid, and Tha G.I.M. Gates open at 2:00 and the festival begins at 3:00.

The day will also include activities for the entire family. There will be 3 bounce houses a clown, face painting, balloons, magic show and games for the kids from 3 - 7 p.m.

The purpose of the music festival is to:

- Influence the community in a positive and uplifting way;
- Unite area residents through inspirational music messages;
- Benefit local charities and faith based entities; and
- Build upon the effort of local churches, community leaders and Christian organizations to bring spiritual revival to the Central Valley.

The proceeds of the music festival will go to Valley Teen Ranch, One By One Leadership, the Fresno Rescue Mission and Save Mart Cares.

We would appreciate your help.

- We encourage you to purchase tickets to this event – and tell your friends! Tickets are available through Valley Teen Ranch and other non-profits listed above, The Vault Jewelers, Berean Christian Stores, Majesty Bibles, Family Christian Stores, Ticketmaster, and participating churches. Chair seating is \$38 (\$50 at the door); General Admission is \$25 (\$30 at the door) - General Admission is grass seating and you need to bring your own blanket or sand chairs!

For more information, please contact Estella Jones at (559) 437-1144 or e-mail estella.jones@valleyteenranch.org. You may also visit the festival's website at www.igwtmusicfestival.org.

On Site School Program Expansion

Our kids excel in our on site school program because they all have an individualized educational plan, lots of personal support and wonderful technical tools to help them. They also receive elective credits for our equestrian program, ropes course, independent living skills and social skills classes. We are currently working with Madera Community College (State Center Community College District North) to establish a computer lab at the ranch where the boys will learn to repair computer hardware and receive college credit for their class. We want to add wood working, automotive, welding and art to our curriculum if we had teachers for these classes. Are you interested, available and/or know someone who is? The future for our Educational Center looks bright and exciting. The kids are learning much more than just their reading and math.

Connie's Corner

We are celebrating our freedom, summer vacations, family time, camping and backpacking trips and being out of school for a few weeks, too.

I hope you are having a wonderful summer time... "and the livin' is easy," too.

Our kids are doing great. We have had 5 boys successfully complete our program in the month of June. They are all going back to their homes with their families. Some of the comments that they wrote to their Judge and shared at their graduations are as follows:

"Not too long ago I was a very different person. I didn't care about anyone or anything, it was all about me. I got what I wanted and took it all for granted. Then one day I fell flat on my face, got into trouble with the law and ended up in Juvenile Hall and eventually at Valley Teen Ranch. My life has been on pause for the past year and I got to thinking of what I want out of my life. Today I am a caring, respectful, dependable outgoing and grateful guy. Thank you Valley Teen Ranch staff for investing your time and energy into me."

"I have learned many new things these past months at Valley Teen Ranch. I completed all the programs. I thank



you for interviewing me so I would have the chance to add the "tools" the program has put in my "tool box."

"For a while now I have made wrong choices and never really realized the reason why. I never understood why they were wrong. I completely did not realize the things I did were wrong or the extents they would take. You would not believe some of the dumb things I would do or excuses I made for them, but now things are different. Now I wish to move forward and not look back. I want to work, make money and make my family proud of me."

They are very different young men than when they came to us over a year ago. This is why we are all working at Valley Teen Ranch. These graduations are the red letter days for us. We are sad to see them go but happy for the many changes they have made for themselves.

Thank you for your continued support to us at Valley Teen Ranch. Your best gift today will help us as the next young men are admitted to our program and we start the process of change all over again. With your giving we can continue to "Build Young Lives" together.

Onward and Forward,

Connie R. Clendenan, C.E.O.
Valley Teen Ranch



1996 Graduate & family

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 9
FRESNO CA

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.

2610 W. Shaw Avenue #105
Fresno, CA 93711

