



Christian Encounter Ranch NEWSLETTER

DIRECTOR'S VIEW

Girls' transition house to reopen

My first job when I joined the Ranch staff in 2010 was to open a guys' transitional ministry house. When young men graduated from the student program at the Ranch, they could come to the ministry house as a next life step. Living in the house was a wonderful experience, blending fellowship, fun, hard work, and discipleship. Through it all, iron sharpened iron daily. Not only was house life rich; we were also plugged into the Ranch community and able to draw on its tremendous resources, including pastors, counselors, mentors, and teachers who were all available to the guys in the house.

The ministry houses (the Girls' House had started back in 1999) balanced independence with protection, and opportunity with accountability. If the Ranch is a greenhouse, a ministry house is a garden. The young trees are still carefully tended, and now they're putting down deeper roots and bearing fruit.

The houses provided Ranch students with a visible, accessible next step. When



home is unsafe and options after the Ranch program are limited, the houses fill the void and present an attainable goal. Young people could continue to develop health and strength in a known, safe community, and maintain continuity of counseling and discipleship.

Sadly, due to ministry-wide financial challenges, the painful decision was made to close the houses in 2014. This was a great loss.

Then, at our November 2021 Board of Directors meeting, we began to discuss the idea of reopening a girls' house.

We decided our dream was to be able to re-launch in late summer or fall of 2022, as the timing would likely work well for the Ranch family. We discussed the significant challenges of the housing market, which include low inventory and high prices for both sales and rentals. Then we prayed. *(cont. on pg. 3)*

INTERN INTRODUCTIONS



Carissa Miller joined the intern team last fall after graduating from Ozark Christian College in Joplin, MO. Originally from Salina, KS, Carissa found a second home in CA when she landed at Christian Encounter. "I feel like I am well supported here. The Ranch cares about my personhood and is committed to my spiritual development, as well as my



mental health."

Julia Brown, from Merced, CA, arrived early November. Julia had participated in previous Agony rides as a sagger before coming to intern. At the Ranch, Julia has seen a special picture of the church body working together and each individual being valued and honored.

Jacqui Nunez returned to the Ranch



to complete a second year of internship almost a year after her initial stint. Jacqui made frequent visits in the interim months, continuing to build on relationships with students and interns. Jacqui recognizes the Ranch as a safe place for all its residents and in returning to help uphold that safety says, "The Ranch was always home."

Events Calendar

Rescue Run 5k

April 23rd, 9:30am

Spring Serve Day

May 14th, 9am - 1pm

Year-end Celebration & Graduation

June 4th, 10:30am

Family Camp

July 1st - 4th

40th annual Agony Ride

July 29th - 30th

Sign up today: agonyride.org



LOOKING BACK: CELEBRATING AGONY'S 40th ANNIVERSARY

The first Agony Ride: from Death Valley to Mt. Whitney

The Agony Ride began in 1982 as an invitational bicycle ride and hike put together by a group of friends associated with a sister wilderness ministry, Summit Expeditions. Bob Walsh, a CER staff member



at that time and former staff member with Summit, received an invitation.

The ride was set up to start in Badwater, Death Valley, go over Towne's Pass, over Panamint Pass, through the small town of Lone Pine, and

up to the Whitney Portals. Riders would then leave their bicycles and proceed on foot to the top of Mt. Whitney. The goal was to make it from the lowest point in the continental U.S. to the highest in 24 hours. When Bob received his invitation, he thought if he was going to put out that much effort perhaps he could get folks to sponsor him to raise funds for Discovery



Expeditions, at that time a part of CER. The organizers gave him permission to do so and to bring some other riders from D.E. along. That year six riders raised \$2,868.

POSITION OPENING

Now Hiring: Food Service & Hospitality Manager

Position open in April

If you know anyone with a background in Food Service and a heart for at-risk youth, please help spread the word!

Responsibilities include: Managing commercial kitchen, catering events (10-125 people), menu planning within a budget, purchasing food/supplies, teaching cooking skills and nutrition.

Personal qualifications include: Commitment to Christ, desire and willingness to work with struggling young people, flexibility to work in a variety of settings, possession of Food Service Manager's certificate (or willingness to acquire it). Experience in leadership, cooking for large numbers and training in nutritional principles are desired.

For more information, contact Nate Boyd at 530-268-0877 or nate@christianencounter.org.



STAFF FAREWELL



In April, Food Service Manager Kathleen McNama will be finishing two years of excellent service at Christian Encounter. According to Kat, the job combined "making people happy with food" alongside teaching and training the residents, making it an "ideal position for my gifting."

"An unexpected blessing was being able to work so closely with people...I always want to be a part of the Ranch. It just becomes a part of you."

A natural networker, Kat invited many in the community to join in the work happening at Christian Encounter.

As Kat joins her husband Glenn in retirement, she plans to remain active volunteering locally.

House (cont. from pg. 1)

Three days later, I shared our dream with the Ranch family and also described the hurdles we faced.

Seven days later, I got a text out of the blue from a former intern who generously offered to sell his house (located a few minutes from the Ranch) for \$95,000 below the realtor's list price.

Now, not only do we have an opportunity for housing; this time around, we can own the house, which means the entire model of transitional housing has a new level of long-term sustainability and economic resilience.

There's more to this story, though. If God had provided housing next summer or fall, I'd have been thrilled. Why now?

We've been facing another need too: we have a critical staff housing shortage,



be completed. Now a family slated for the duplex has a space that fits their needs in the meantime. "Coincidentally," our projection for the duplex completion lines up with our dream timetable for opening a girls' house.

But there's still more! We had been brainstorming for weeks what to do in the first half of 2022, as it looks like we may run out of beds in the girls' dorms. The little apartment vacated by the staff family will work perfectly as overflow dorm space. The puzzle fits beautifully.

Whether or not we see it, God's provision is always multi-layered. This time we get to see several of those layers. It's hard for our limited minds to understand, but God knows everything that's happening. He has all the power necessary to do what's needed, and He loves us completely. Rejoice with us in what He's doing!

Nate Boyd, Executive Director

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particularly between now and next summer, when the duplex remodel will likely

To give to the purchase and furnishing of the Girls' House:

Text "GIVE" to 530-268-0877 or go to christianencounter.org

Material Needs List

Consumable goods

- Ultimate Frisbees
- High-quality soft-touch volleyballs
- Soccer balls (size 5)
- Energy bars
- Hot chocolate packets
- Apple cider packets
- 12 oz Disposable coffee/hot cups with lids
- 12-16 oz Disposable cold cups
- Heavy duty paper plates 8" & 10"
- Paper napkins (every day style)
- Heavy duty foil
- Gallon & quart sized zip-lock food storage bags
- Potholders
- Aprons
- Lumber (2x4s, 4x4s, plywood)
- Work gloves

Featured needs

- Tractor
- Long bed truck with extended cab



Girls' weekend

The girls planned a weekend of festivities while the boys were out snow camping. Photos from one team's photo scavenger hunt are pictured here.



Christian Encounter Ranch
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Christian Encounter Ranch is a non-profit, non-denominational, residential community helping 15- to 24-year-olds by providing love, spiritual guidance, high school education, counseling, and 24-hour supervision. Internships are offered to young adults 21 years and older. We are a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, and all gifts are tax deductible.



To view our recap video from the 50th anniversary weekend by FreeStyle Production, visit youtube.com/cemranch.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Jason Ciobanasiu, given by:
Jonathan Ciobanasiu

In memory of Jerry Clayton, given by:
Roy & Debbie Clayton

In memory of Dan Douglass, given by:
Deb Iwema
Wyndham & Ruth Whynot
Carol Douglass

In memory of Marion Harris:
Steve & Leslie Harris

In memory of Ral Klundby, given by:
Ann Bullard

In memory of Jim Parker, given by:
Ben & Christina Foster
Jack & Carolyn Shook

In memory of Bill Peterson, given by:
Sylvia Shelton

In memory of Shannon Phibbs, given by:
David and Robin Kwast

In memory of Dick Schaumann, given by:
Rick Schaumann

HONORARIUMS

In honor of Rollin Haas, given by:
Donnell Green

In honor of Crystal Hillman, given by:
Meah Kent

In honor of Autumn Webster Layman, given by:
Jim and Becky Webster



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