



# Christian Encounter Ranch NEWSLETTER

## DIRECTOR'S VIEW

### Foundations

“Young leaders tend to overestimate what they can accomplish in five years, and underestimate what they can accomplish in ten.” I was told this shortly after the Board appointed me to be Executive Director five years ago on Oct. 7, 2017. Perhaps this is because it’s difficult to see how much foundational work is needed, including establishing core components like culture, values, and mission.

We all know foundations are important; we rarely understand ahead of time how much work it takes to create a good foundation. For example, the bigger and more complex the building, the more work the foundation takes.

At the Ranch we’ve seen this in real time as we’ve rebuilt the duplex. Designing, planning, calculating, and lengthy consultations with the County Building Department finally turned to site prep, excavation, forming, gravel, and rebar. Only then could we pour concrete for the foundation. But once the foundation was done, walls went up quickly.

Five years does mark a good interval to zoom out and consider the big picture. We’ve had some difficult seasons over these five years, but I’m excited about how much has been done. This was possible because so much of the foundation



was already established. As I wrote in my first Director’s View five years ago: “The four [previous Ranch directors] are humble, servant-hearted, sacrificial leaders, and they’ve built these values into the heritage of the Ranch. This is a beautiful thing, and unfortunately it is rare in our world.” A lot can be built on a foundation like that.

We have accomplished a great deal in five years, and there are many plans in the works. “We” includes staff, interns, volunteers, prayer partners, donors, Agony riders and sagers, and more.

Unfortunately, foundations never seem to be perfect. Problems always appear down the road, whether with a house, an

organization, or our personal life foundations.

If I were an interior designer examining a house to renovate and re-style, I would try to identify all the flaws of the house and figure out how to conceal them. But the real master designers don’t just conceal; somehow they incorporate those imperfections into a new creation. The result is unique, partly due to those very imperfections.

Thanks be to God, this is what He is doing constantly. He is the redeemer. May He do this with the Ranch ministry, with our lives, and with every young person who comes here.

*Nate Boyd, Executive Director*

## Duplex remodel update

We are currently working on installing cabinets and trim. The target completion date is Dec. 1st. We are so thankful for the volunteers who are making this possible!





# WILDERNESS TRIP 2022

I believe Wilderness is designed to bring people to a place of self-awareness and raw vulnerability that enables one to seek God in true honesty. On this trip God revealed to me something that shook how I viewed my past and that opened a door of freedom for the future. God showed me how my fear of failure was preventing me from trusting in His sovereignty. -David

I learned that fear and anxiety can *feel* paralyzing, but *they really aren't* paralyzing...In the future when I am scared I will be able to put one foot in front of the other and continue to persevere. -Ireland



I was not only encouraged by others' words and actions, but I also learned it's okay to be honest about the hard things you're going through, because in the end, you're not alone...When I prayed for God to take away my anxiety, He did for the time needed. All in all, I learned that anxiety may be a huge factor sometimes, but there is a way through it. -Levi



God is most clear in the uncomfortable: the suffering, the hard questions, the staring down a 45-foot jump into unknown water. I've spent enough of my life in the safety zone, and I've realized that it's not truly living. I want to fully embrace the story that God is writing for me; the good, the bad, and the ugly. Wilderness gave me all of those moments. Freezing cold NID water at 6am, watching the sun rise from the top of English Mountain, stumbling through a mineshaft while shouting out lyrics to whatever songs came into our heads, staring up at the moon and stars, jumping off rocks, cliffs, and dams, looking west over the mountains. These moments – all of them – are invaluable to me. Not just for the thrill, but because they showed me more of my Father. - Alec



I think along with learning the importance of communication comes learning humility. Communicating our needs and asking for things can be tough but I think it is necessary for growth. -James



Before we ran the 5k, Suzanne read to us from Hebrews 12, which speaks about setting aside everything that weighs us down or ensnares us, and running with endurance the race set before us, always keeping Jesus as the center of our focus. That last run for me symbolized how the pace I set in my life needs not to be one of speed or great form, but one that sees only Jesus and runs enduringly to Him. -Danika



I had to learn that I don't stop loving others even if I am depleted or tired. Jesus never stopped loving others, even when He suffered ridicule, torture, and isolation. When did I start thinking I could stop loving others just because it became hard? Love looks like carrying two backpacks. Love looks like carrying a teammate up a hill even when my feet feel like they are going to fall off. Love looks like encouraging a teammate even when the last thing I want to do is speak to another human being. -Hannah



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***Business office position opening!***  
*See backpage for details*

*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.*



## MEMORIALS

*In memory of Bill Heyenbruch, given by:*  
Marilyn Heyenbruch

*In memory of Jim Parker, given by:*  
Grace Fujii

*In memory of Donald L. Rosenkrans, given by:*  
Mary Allison Rosenkrans

## HONORARIUMS

*In honor of Bob Bayly, given by:*  
Doug & Terri King

*In honor of Paxton Fitzpatrick, given by:*  
John Jones

*In honor of Zack Loop, given by:*  
First Christian Church El Centro

NOW HIRING

## Business office manager position opening

Do you love Jesus, care about at-risk youth, and value financial stewardship? We are looking for a high-integrity, high-skills individual to run our business office and manage the resources God had given us. Come use your accounting and business management skills to expand the Kingdom of God through a unique ministry!

If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Nate Boyd at 530-268-0877 or [nate@christianencounter.org](mailto:nate@christianencounter.org).

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