



# Christian Encounter NEWSLETTER

DIRECTOR'S VIEW

## The year in review

As we approach the end of 2022, I'd like to recount again some of the incredible things God has done on our behalf. As I reflect on the year, many big projects and tangible achievements come to mind, but the deepest victories happened in hearts and minds and are hard to include on a list like this. These are the moments when a hurting heart decides to receive the love being offered, when a life-dominating lie is finally exposed to the truth and banished, and when someone chooses to forgive an old transgression. As you read this list, celebrate with me both the items included below and the long list of invisible decisions that are at the heart of it all!

graduating from high school and presented him with his diploma.

### February

We closed the purchase of a local house that was sold to the Ranch at a discounted



price (pictured below). It has met a critical need for staff housing this year and will soon become the Girls' House for students finishing the program at the Ranch. Speaking of the girls, 15 young women braved unusually cold and icy weather on the annual igloo trip. Due to a tremendous team effort, they built three igloos despite difficult building conditions.

### March

The Ranch Family celebrated a baptism and enjoyed a day of cross-country skiing together. Reports vary about which was colder! Then, during the break between school quarters, we set academic

pursuits aside to dedicate a week to a series of sessions on the theme "Deeper," pursuing closer relationship with the Lord as individuals and as a church family.

### April

A local church group blessed the Ranch Family by preparing an Easter gift basket

Next year is our Rescue Run 5K's 10th anniversary! Mark your calendars for April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.

for each of our students. The weather was perfect for our annual Rescue Run, and it was a great joy to invite guests on property for a beautiful trail run and to experience the Ranch community.

### May

May brought an increase in opportunities to communicate about the Ranch which continued through the summer, including invitations to churches, community events, and radio stations such as K-Love, Air1, KFBK, and KNCO. Meanwhile, generous community members continued to invest in building out the Angels' Meadow venue, including installing a shed and refrigeration at the outdoor kitchen...



### June

...just in time for extensive summer use, including our high school graduation, local church and college retreats, a large summer camp program of Child Evangelism Fellowship, and our annual Family Camp. In the midst of all this, we celebrated staff member Austin Sather's wedding to former intern Lindsay Strawser!

(cont. on pg. 2)



### January

We started the year off right with a beautiful wedding on January 1, celebrating staff member Salena Berger's marriage to Josh Unitt. Two weeks later the intern team grew to ten members, making for a large and talented team willing to invest daily in the lives of the students. A few days later we celebrated a student

# Year (cont. from pg. 1)

Also, in the first month of a summer that would see record-setting heat, an exciting technology was introduced at the Ranch: air conditioning! A first batch of ultra-efficient mini-split HVAC units were installed in strategic areas.

## July

Two days before the 40th Agony Ride, baby Hosanna, born to Jensen and Elizabeth Near, joined the Ranch family. Jensen then raced from the hospital to the Sierra Valley to ride in the Agony, which set all-time records for number of riders (113) and number of dollars given directly to the student scholarship fund (\$377K pledged).



through beautiful forests. These 15 days created a profound spiritual impact and catalyzed much growth.

## August

A week after we heard our insurance provider was dropping our coverage along



with all other properties in high fire-risk zones, our utility company agreed to remove 288 hazardous trees on property for free. Soon after, a generous donor gave tuition sponsorship funds to cover a student's expenses for the entire year. The Lord provides in many different ways.

## September

After being unable to facilitate the Wilderness Trip in 2021 due to forest closures for fire reasons, we enjoyed a successful return to the mountains. Two groups of participants experienced rock-climbing, swimming in alpine lakes, and hiking



Lord showed He is not constrained by circumstances. Between the upcoming ADU, the two sides of the duplex, and the house purchase in February, we anticipate adding a total of four housing units in a little over a year, all of which meet critical ministry needs. We have much to celebrate!

But even if none of these things had happened, that would not change the fact

that we have a good God who is doing good works in young lives at the Ranch. Seasons come and go, and circumstances change, but God is good yesterday, today, and forever. And for this, we are most grateful of all.

*Nate Boyd, Executive Director*

## October

For decades students have created beautiful and expressive works of art at the Ranch, and many have discovered the Lord has brought healing to them through this. To encourage this, we installed an Art Studio (pictured bottom right), which will double as a meeting room for discipleship sessions. Then, in some of the biggest news of the year, we received permission from the County to add another housing unit to the Ranch as an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). Our Use Permit had not allowed us to add a new house since 1989. This is an answer to prayer and will meet a need we've had for many years.

Additionally, numerous volunteers helped with the ongoing duplex remodel job, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. Due to donated materials and labor, the duplex is projected to meet its budget, which was set in mid-2020 before inflation ramped up!

In a tough housing market, the





# PROTECT THE MISSION, GIVE A GIFT

## TUITION SPONSORSHIP

To give directly to a student in need, give to the Jim Parker Student Scholarship Fund.

### ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GIVE

#### Gifts of financial securities

Giving appreciated stocks and mutual funds allows you to take advantage of applicable tax incentives, including avoiding capital gains taxes. To find out more, talk to your investment or tax advisor.

#### Other non-cash gifts

Jewelry, vehicles, and real estate

#### IRA rollover

If you are over 70½, you may roll over up to \$100,000 to Christian Encounter from your IRA without paying any federal income tax on the gift.

This is also a way you can satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year. Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to the Ranch.

To learn more about how you can impact our mission at CER, contact Nate at 530-268-0877 or email [nate@christianencounter.org](mailto:nate@christianencounter.org).



Scan here  
to give





## Help grow our on-site community

To give to this upcoming new residence (building site pictured below), designate gift as "ADU." This new addition will be neighboring four other homes, including the newly remodeled duplex (pictured left), strengthening the fellowship of the community.



Christian Encounter Ranch  
PO Box 1022  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

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*Year in review highlights inside  
Plus some exciting news!*

*Christian Encounter 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 Ray & Marjorie Brown,  
given by:  
Justin & Lynda Taylor*

*In memory of Ken & Barbara LaBone,  
given by:  
Scott LaBone*

*In memory of Tony Prowense, given by:  
Vikki Carr*

*In memory of Lt. J Gary Stevens, CHP,  
given by:  
Marlene Stevens*

## HONORARIUMS

*In honor of Shawna Majerus, given by:  
Michael Majerus*



When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates 0.5% of your purchase price to the charity of your choice. Simply select Christian Encounter as your charity.

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.