



Christian Encounter NEWSLETTER

DIRECTOR'S VIEW

The year in review

This is the fifth time I've written an annual recap for the newsletter, giving an overview of some of the ministry that occurred in 2024. Many of these highlights are things we do every year. Those events aren't new, but the people involved are new, and the work God is doing is new. Each year, He is doing the work of making new creations at the Ranch. There is much to celebrate!

January

We started off the year by taking the young men into the mountains to build igloos (*pictured*). This annual trip never fails to make an impact, both on individuals and on the group as a whole.

Shortly after, we celebrated the high school graduation of a couple of students who completed their course work in January (*pictured below*).

At the end of the month, the county inspector signed off on our newest residence, and Executive Assistant Salena Unitt and her husband, Josh, moved in. Ever since we applied for our current Use Permit in 1989, we haven't been able to add residences on property without going



through major, expensive processes with the county. The state's new provisions for ADUs, however, enabled this project.

February

A few weeks later, the young women went on their igloo trip. Weather and snowpack conditions were quite difficult, but that only highlighted the strength and growth in leadership among the interns and senior students.

On February 6, we celebrated the arrival of Josie Jean, who was born to Maintenance Director Austin Sather and his wife Lindsay, both of whom were former interns.

March

For the second time, a group of students from Patrick Henry College in VA visited to do service projects and invest in the students. Then, on Easter Sunday, we celebrated another high school graduate at the end of third quarter.

April

On a chilly but clear day, the whole Ranch Family stepped away from the daily routines of school and chores to go cross country skiing, thanks to a massive discount from Royal Gorge Cross Country Ski Resort. This was a first for many of the students and interns.

May

We held our first Agony Kickoff Ride on the American River Trail in Sacramento as a way for people to train together,

connect riders, and encourage them to sign up for the Agony Ride.

June

The month began with another high school graduation celebration at the end of the school year. In a first in Ranch

history, an alum delivered the graduation address, giving a personal charge informed by her time at the Ranch.

Then, on June 29th, the Ranch family grew again as Wyatt Arthur was born to Director of Student Life Jensen Near and his wife, Elizabeth.



Sophie with intern Rachel at the June graduation.

July

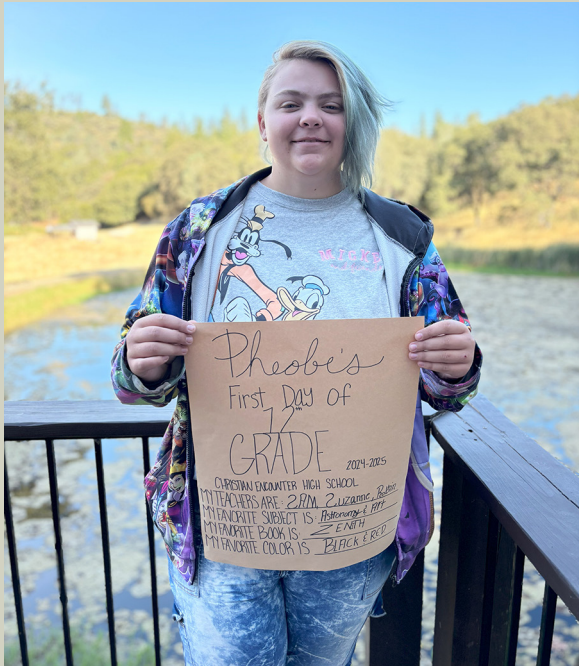
Our annual Family Camp was filled to capacity and was another great time of fellowship, fun, and families ministering to each other. Retired college professor and former Ranch intern Fritz Moga was the speaker. (*cont. on pg. 2*)



PROTECT THE MISSION, GIVE A GIFT

TUITION SPONSORSHIP

To give directly to a student in need, give to the Jim Parker Student Scholarship Fund. Your dollars translate into transformed lives.



Because we're committed to operating as a church, we don't take government funding. Because we're committed to money not being an obstacle to healing, 100% of students receive scholarship money, up to a full-ride. This is only possible because of our generous community of supporters.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GIVE

A gift in your will

Whether designating a specific amount or leaving a percentage of your estate, your legacy gift will provide for the mission of Christian Encounter into the future. You can also designate the Ranch as a beneficiary on your life insurance policies, retirement plans, and annuities.

Non-cash gifts

You can make a significant impact by giving stocks, real estate, jewelry, personal property, etc. For more info, please contact Nate at nate@christianencounter.org or 530-268-0877.

Year (cont. from pg. 1)

At the end of the month we hosted the 42nd Agony Ride. As always, it was an intense and impactful weekend of selfless, sacrificial service together. We had 59 first time riders and 139 riders total,



We are hoping to expand our high school building. Read more on back page.

both records. The total fundraising record was shattered, with this year's projected number at \$476K. The individual fundraising record was raised to \$40,891 by Jensen Near. This generosity from our community of supporters is powerful and moving.

August

During a heat wave we installed several ultra energy-efficient mini-split air conditioners, including a set for the main lodge living room space, which is also where we have church services.

At the end of August, the camp season began to slow. This year 18 groups used Angels' Meadow, including churches, college ministries, family camps, youth retreats, and more. We share these facilities at no charge, and it's a joy to hear stories of how the Lord worked in each group. Thanks to volunteers, a variety



Students at Downey Lake on the wilderness trip in September.

of upgrades were made to the Meadow facilities.

September

We sent everyone out into Tahoe National Forest to rock climb, swim in alpine lakes, and hike through beautiful forests. These 15 days always create an ideal growth environment. One result of this: senior student JJ was baptized in French Lake. (cont. on back pg)

Guys' transition house opportunity: help us raise \$45K

By Nate Boyd, Executive Director

After I finished my internship in 2010, my first role on staff was opening a transition and discipleship house for young men who completed the Ranch program. We rented a house a few miles from the Ranch and set up the "Guys' House."

I lived there for almost three years. A lot happened during that time! Fun, challenge, growing pains, and fellowship throughout. We went on a lot of road trips together to stand as groomsmen as House members got married.

The first resident at the House was Sean. Because of the work training he received at the Ranch, he immediately got a job at Starbucks. He saved up and bought a car, plugged into a young adult group at a local church, crashed the car during a storm, saw his role at work grow, got another car, and fell in love with a girl. Through it all, he had the support and guidance of the Ranch community.

Fourteen years later, he's married to that girl and they have two kids. He's serving in leadership at his church and co-owns a mechanic shop that specializes in Sprinter vans.

He said, "I know for a fact I wouldn't be where I am today—in my career, but



most importantly in my marriage and my walk with God—if I hadn't gone to the Guys' House." He adds that he realized while living there, "This is what godly men act like when no one's watching them."

He also spoke of the balance of structure and freedom: "You're still away from

home to us for far below market value, and we were able to relaunch the Girls' House. This incredible generosity meant we could operate without the added burden of monthly rent payments, which means it has a high degree of financial sustainability.

Now, a former staff member has offered to sell us his house for half its value. The house is valued at \$450K, but it's being offered to us at \$225K. Our goal is to raise the down payment this month, and relaunch the Guys' House once the building becomes available in March.

We went on a lot of road trips together to stand as groomsmen as House members got married.

the old, deadly patterns you knew before. And now you get to figure out your own way of implementing what you learned at the Ranch into your daily life. You can internalize it for yourself." He said he wishes everyone could have the opportunity to go to the House.

It gives current students a visible, attainable path forward after the Ranch—a vision for their future they can grab onto, which helps them discern goals and pursue them.

Despite the great benefits, the Guys' House didn't last. Those were difficult years for the ministry financially, and in 2014 both the Guys' House and Girls'

House had to be closed.

In early 2023, a former intern sold his



L to R: Students Jacob, Harley, Adam, and intern Angel all hope to move in to the house.

Will you help us raise the \$45K down payment, giving these boys an attainable path forward when they finish the program?

THE HOUSE IN NUMBERS



1560 sq. ft.



3.87 acres



4 bed



2 bath



2 miles from CER



50% discount

Bed and toilet by fauzin idea, Car by Krishna, Hand giving heart by StoneHub, Home by Vinchi Chyla, Tree by Colourcreatype. All from Noun Project.

Christian Encounter Ranch
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Christian Encounter is a non-profit, non-denominational, residential community helping 16- 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 Jerry Clayton, given by:
Roy & Debbie Clayton*

*In memory of Thom Smith, given by:
Gene & Robbin Adams*

*In memory of Jamie Sneed, given by:
Gene & Robbin Adams*

*In memory of George & Shirley
Wallace, given by:
Curtis & Roxanne Hartwig*

HONORARIUMS

*In honor of Ken and Barbara LaBone,
given by:
Scott LaBone*

*In honor of Marlene Stevens, given
by:
Laurie Scattini
Jeannie Keneley*

Year (cont. from pg. 2)

October

With a growing number of little kids running around the Ranch these days, we hosted a parenting seminar for the young families in the Ranch community.

A group with LINC (Love in Nevada County) was the latest team to come help us remove ladder fuels from the woods around campus. Several local churches and teams of volunteers helped us with this effort this year.

And a bit of exciting news - we received initial approval from the Nevada County Planning Department to expand our high school building by 400 sq. ft. This would increase the size of the computer lab and science classroom as well as add to teacher offices. Building plans are currently being finalized. Please pray no obstacles appear and the project can go through to completion.

Celebrate with us as we give thanks for all the Lord has done this year! May the Lord continue His work of giving new life to many young people at Christian Encounter.

Nate Boyd, Executive Director