

All The King's Horses Children's Ranch



THE TRAIL RIDER

Feb. 05

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A MISSING CHILD

My 12-year old friend stayed with us on and off over the past five years. While we are obtaining insurance (see article page 2), she is staying with an older sister who is unable to fully care for her. The older sister paid us a visit last month weeping about her inability to care for my friend. *"I love my little sister", she wept, "but I know she needs more than we can afford. I'm not very good for her"*. I saw the truth of what she said. The evidence of a life full of wrong choices was evident on the older sister.

While waiting for insurance, The Lord has made a wonderful contact for us right in the same location of my young friend. David & Marie Arnold have four young children still at home. They are willing to incorporate this 12-year old girl into their Sunday routine; and pick her up on Wednesdays for youth group!

The first Sunday we tried this Marie called. *"She wasn't there, Ana."* Marie sounded worried. But this is not unusual. Families in need are often unable to keep their word. *"Thanks for calling, Marie. I will stop by their place this afternoon and see what's up."* It takes extra long to look in on those you love when they do not have a phone. Can't just pick up the telephone and dial them up.

I drove to their home Sunday afternoon. No one around. The home looked very unkept. I prayed and decided to check the following day. Monday morning found me calling the school. Since I have power-of-attorney in my little friend's life, the school was eager to know they had the legal go-ahead to share with me. The principal got on the line, *"She is not in school today, Ana. I am very worried about her. She is writing suicide essays in English. We've called the Child Protection Agency, but they can't help."*

I called around for prayer – my church; my mom's; my friends. I prayed immediately and cried. Wept and prayed. A knot formed in my gut even as I refused to worry.

The school is right. CPS can not help in these situations. If a child is not beaten or sexually molested or intentionally starved, the authorities have no legal right to remove the child from the family. So even though all signs indicate a very real negligence or potential harmful situation, nothing can be done State-wise. This is where The Children's Ranch comes in. We can take children who are in great need of structured, disciplined lives with involved, loving, stable, responsible, proven adults.

As I wept and prayed, I called my friends, Officer Douglas and Investigator Steve. My young 12-year old friend was found at 11:00 a.m. She was okay and taken to school.

Thank you for your prayers and your dollars and your genuine interest in preparing this place for children like my 12-year old friend. Surely, by the grace of God, she should be with us by the end of March.

The heart is the happiest when it beats for others.

From God's Little Instruction Book

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:13

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MIRACULOUS PROVISION

My young 12-yr old friend would be with us even this moment if we had the required liability insurance in place. How is she to understand? What does insurance mean to a young woman? But the fact remains, homeland missions requires liability insurance. Not a problem faced in third-world nations. But the Children's Ranch is in America; and now, with its own property, there is something for which we can be sued. For example, if a child is hurt on this property and a relative saw a chance for a law suit, as of this minute we stand without any insurance protection. (In the past years, we rented. The landlord carried the liability.)



Our precious insurance man is working on it. (See his great web page at www.landmarklink.com) This week we should have a quote. The initial payment will be around \$150.00/month and may go to \$18,000 a year by the time we're running at full capacity. I went to the Lord about it. *"Father, please raise up someone who will cover this monthly insurance premium."*



Then a miracle took place. Last Saturday morning I opened the e-mail.

On the screen were words from a woman near Seattle. In part she said, *"Hello, Children's Ranch. The Lord has urged me to tithe \$187.00 a month to your work. This will begin immediately. This will not stop. Thank you for letting me help."* I couldn't believe my eyes. Was this an advertisement that had somehow gotten through my junk-mail protection? But no. The sender wrote the name of a mutual friend who also wrote and told me to expect this amazing gift.

With tears of joy to the Lord for His provision, I answered this miraculous report with saying, *"We are the thankful ones!"* I began to share with this dear sister-never-met about my 12-year old friend and the general need of liability and of how I asked the Lord to raise up someone to cover the monthly premium. I don't know who was more excited! Her or me! And sure to her word, the first check arrived in the mail just a couple days after her first introduction.

Now – is that the Lord or what? Is that a miracle or what? When the insurance quote comes in, the provision is here to meet it. Get packing my dear young friend. You will be our first honored child at The Children's Ranch.

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LAUGHTER DOETH THE HEART GOOD LIKE MEDICINE

Last weekend we had two young men ages twelve and thirteen. They showed up in time to get caught up in the fun Fundraiser. What a time. When we first arrived, they asked to go outside. "No. Please stay put. Be where I can look up at anytime and see you." I asked seriously. By night's end, they never moved out of sight. Their sides hurt from laughing and their stomachs full from eating and their eyes were tired from laughing tears. Lord only knows how their hearts began to heal that night. (Continued page 3)

(Laughter continued)

Fifty-some folks showed up Friday night to the event we themed TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME. Everyone came very casual - like going to a baseball game. We had hotdogs and peanuts and cracker jacks. We were able, by God's grace, to find Cracker Jacks in the box. It was an investment well worth it. I let folks know they might want to throw their Cracker Jack box in a cupboard and leave it for the great grandchildren. It will be a rarity in years to come as Cracker Jacks are sold by the bag now.

We began with singing the National Anthem; then an invocation followed by the pastor announcing "PLAY BALL!"



The General Manager of Tucson Sidewinders, Rick Parr, came with his family. What a motivational coach he is! He spoke on the necessity of Success only truly found in Jesus. He presented me a gift! I was so humbled. When Rick handed a baseball cap to each of my two charges, I saw a gleam of thankfulness in their eyes.

Rick brought signed baseballs by pro players. Each ball was in a transparent case and came with a letter of the player's stats. A silent auction at each table gave the high bidder rights to take one home.

Then came comedian, Normand Marini. Normand performs at Gaslight Dinner Theatre monthly in Tucson. Be sure to see him if, that is, you can get tickets! He is a sleight-of-hand artist too. His tricks were mixed with hilarity. At first both the boys had this I-Dare-You-To-Make-Me-Laugh look. But within minutes the whole audience was bent over in peals of uproarious laughter. Even Normand laughed! When he urged one of the boys to be his assistant, I knew the Lord was up to His doings.



Afterward our accountant, Jim Cox, made the announcement. Our challenge to meet \$8,000 was met by donations and pledges in the amount of \$8,043.00!



Everyone applauded! Then we mingled. It was a very great night. So much fun - in spite of the heaviness of the topic of children-at-risk.

The two boys were in awe. The fun, food, money, the atmosphere of the whole evening was special. Folks hung around and mingled for hours. The boys talked about the evening all weekend. "Remember when he?" Then they'd laugh. Their laughter sounded like music to my ears and I could see the Lord smile on these two special young men - with a weekend He prepared just for them.

Our Fundraisers get better every year. We are even now working on next year's event. So if possible, please keep the Friday before Valentines open next year: Friday, Feb 10th, 2006. Can we see you there? I hope so - unless of course Jesus returns!

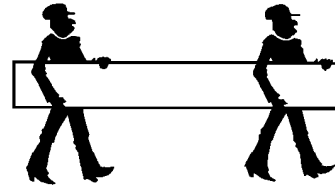
TREASURER'S REPORT



The Children's Ranch is beginning its evolution from an idea to reality. During the past year we have purchased The Ranch site, moved Ana onto the Property and begun the first stages of preparing the property to be home to many of God's children for a long time to come.

Fiscally speaking, the Ranch is on solid ground to maintain the status quo. Our monthly budget to meet service obligation, property maintenance, insurance, utilities, office and basic living expenses is \$3,000. We have sufficient funds in cash and saving to cover basic costs for one year, which is the only fiscally prudent way to proceed on this most important project.

However, our mission is not to survive the next year – it is to build The Ranch into a permanent facility that will provide a nurturing home environment for this current generation of children in need and many more to come. Our timetable to accomplish the mission is NOW, because the need for our facility is desperate and the kids need it now.



The basic planning is nearly complete. The execution of the plan will happen on our Lord's schedule, based on the resources He provides through each of us.

Current projects and estimated costs to complete are listed below. We are on a "pay as you go" budget; hence, no monies will be expended until we have resources available to complete the specific project.

Relocate & refurbish the double-wide home (in process)	\$ 9,000
Fencing & outbuildings (in process)	9,000
Rehab the well to maximize output of quality water	12,000
Septic system overhaul or replacement	3,000
Land surveys & soil studies	5,000
Creation of master plan computer model	4,000
Permits, fee, etc	1,000
Fundraising travel & office expenses	12,500
Total current projects in process	\$ 55,000
BUILD FIRST HOME w/volunteers and some donated materials	\$ 50,000

Well, folks, I've just shared with you the size of the hill we are climbing to make our dream a reality. The first home will actually be sized based on commitments received.

Through the grace of Our Lord this is not only possible -
it is inevitable!

Look at what He has given us already:

- The Property
- The resources to provide a presence on the Property
- Operating costs for the organization for one year
- A mentor organization that provides invaluable service in all areas, Sunshine Acres. (Personal note – if you have the slightest hesitation about the viability of The Children's Ranch, please visit Sunshine Acres. You will see two things – kids happy and productive to the extreme and an organization that ensures the work of the founders will continue. Sunshine Acres requires only that we build the "sticks & bricks" – they will furnish all our buildings from their substantial inventory of furniture & fixtures.
- Don & Sue Zentmeyer, who have done so much to lead our organization from idea to reality through their tireless efforts on the property physically and by compiling an excellent video that will allow us to share our vision with others who are in a position to participate. They are truly two angels sent directly by our Lord to help bring dream to reality.



The work has just begun. In keeping the baseball theme of our latest fundraiser, I conclude with a couple of "Yogisms" from my favorite baseball philosopher:



- *"Plan ahead – if you don't know where you're going, you'll end up somewhere else."*
- *"Give cash – its almost as good as money"!*
- Finally from my own golf background,
"Ninety percent of putts hit short, don't go in."

God bless each of you who support our efforts. Thanks to you, we can today actually begin to plan the building of our first facility that will care for our children. To what higher use could we possibly put our spiritual, financial, emotional and physical resources? Please think and pray about that.

God bless and keep each of you.

James F. Cox
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AT THE MOVIES

THOSE OF YOU WITHOUT E-MAIL NEED TO KNOW:

**A 10-minute video about The children's Ranch
will be released the end of March.**

**May we send you a video?
Let me know if we should send you DVD or VHS.**

NEWS FROM THE MONEY MAN

Jim Cox, CPA, is our board member, accountant and treasurer.

He asked to insert some news into this newsletter.

I hope you enjoyed his financial update.

Thank you, Jim, for a great job. Well done!

You're a blessing to this work.



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