

All The King's Horses Children's Ranch



THE TRAIL RIDER

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God's goodness
hath been great
to thee.
Let never day
nor night
unhallowed pass
but still
remember what
the Lord
hath done.

William Shakespeare

GIVING THANKS

How do I begin to give thanks to the Lord ... and give thanks to you ... for what has been accomplished over the last year? How about I begin with January – when a small army of professionals called *Widow's Mite* zoomed onto the property to build the front porch that has been a source of pleasure and compliments ever since. Then our successful February Fund Raiser. In March the Lord moved upon a soul to cover our insurance premiums! How about in April when the Lord sent our wonderful Admin Assistant, Jena Farmer! In May during early morning devotions on the porch, I asked the Lord for special encouragement; and when I looked up, seven deer stood side by side thirty feet away staring peacefully at me. June invited me to help with VBS and to share this mission work. July was camp: a glorious highlight of the year. August hosted the Dept of Agriculture to inspect the San Pedro River along the property for current or future water erosion problems. Result? No erosion to speak of for a variety of miraculous reasons. September brought a tear to my eye with the sweetness of a dainty entry in the flower dept of the County Fair. October saw Benson's famous rodeo – with proceeds going to The Children's Ranch. November introduced our donated double wide to be set up and usable by month's end. And are we not all thankful for December when your help makes it possible for Christmas to be a special time?

My heart rejoices most around the children. We often have children here for a day. But this past year we have been limited to one bedroom for full-time children. My foster daughter was in it; and temporary respite children now and then. My heart swells to see the three-bedroom double-wide across the driveway being readied for more young people.

Our goal is to have me move into the three-bedroom mobile until permanent full-time missionary house parents are here. I will be in the double wide with at least two children – one in each of the other bedrooms. That will leave the single wide to be used as an office in one bedroom and for potential house parents in the other bedroom. We have discussed partitioning off the office-bedroom leaving the single wide more private for the welcomed couple while they are in training.

This is the perfect opportunity for a couple who love Christ, love one another, love children and love missions. Please join us in prayer for the Lord to bring who it is He has for this position; and for the funds needed to support additional buildings, children and staff. Our Father is beyond wealthy; and it is His desire to further His Kingdom and redeem souls. I am thankful He has found The Children's Ranch faithful into which He can pour His blessings.

Most of all – I am thankful for His O-so-great-a-Salvation! What peaceful joy and contentment there is in working for our Merciful Master. Thank You, Lord! Thank You for Christ. And thank You for those who join with me in loving You, loving one another and loving children. Because of You, we know true Thanksgiving.

P O Box 2063
Benson, AZ 85602
520-586-0267
520-730-9793

hisranch@msn.com
atkhchildrensranch.org

President
Ana Lucore

Vice President
Susan Vaughn

Programs Director
Ruby James

Treasurer
Jim Cox

Secretary
Kathy Stevens

Chaplain
Mark Stevens

Donations
No donation goes for
personal gain.
We are a 501c3
non-profit corporation.
Your gifts receive a
tax-deductible receipt.

THE HOLY-DAYS

A friend of ours in New Jersey wrote with a fresh idea. She plans to send some Christmas cards with a note that a donation was given to The Children's Ranch in lieu of a present to them.



I was flabbergasted. How will their family feel, I wondered? Then I began to muse about the Good Samaritan. Where was he going when he came upon the person-in-need? Could he have been going into town to buy gifts for his family? Did he use money that was to have been spent somewhere else? If so, how did his family react? Were they disappointed 'their' money was used to help a stranger - a Jew, no less - when they could have lavished it upon themselves? All kinds of questions started coming to my mind. (Luke 10:33-35)

Our New Jersey friend became our Good Samaritan. She is going to take dollars earmarked for one purpose and spend them instead toward helping children-in-need ... children not even her's, no less.

So this week the children will be making homemade Christmas cards. We will personalize them to the list of names our Good Samaritan sent us. Afterward we'll bundle them up and ship them off to her to do with as she has expressed.

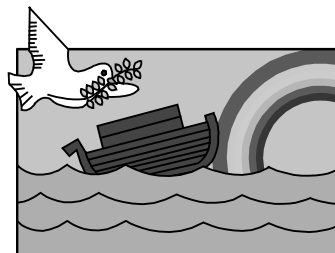
The youngsters are most eager to do this project. We'll be working on this Christmas project even before Thanksgiving arrives. Just one more thing for which to be thankful!

The Waters Shall Not Overflow Thee

The last monsoon hit with a fury. I stood in the mobile and grew wide-eyed as the waters ran deeper and deeper in every direction. The dirt drive became a muddy, rippled river. I held unto the promise in Isaiah 43:2 and thought of others: "Lord, I pray for those in Louisiana."

Afterward while cleaning up, I lifted a quick request to Father for a vehicle that would get us out of here if need be. A four-wheel vehicle like a jeep or something.

The next month friends enquired, "Do you need a four-wheel drive vehicle? We have one to donate." On the property now sits -- ready to use -- a beautiful Nissan Pathfinder. Our cup overflows -- overflows with thanksgiving!



Prayers of Thanksgiving

If you watched the 10-minute video about *The Children's Ranch*, you met Stacey and Stephanie. They are our dear young friends; and have been a part of this work from the very beginning. One day recently they came in and sat down very solemnly.

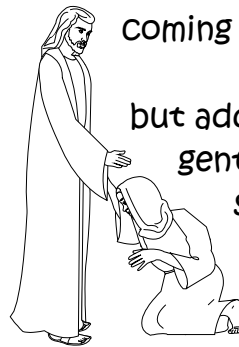
"Our Grandpa's going to have surgery tomorrow. And we would like to pray with you for him. He's going to have a lung removed." So we prayed f'sure.

A few days later – the twins and Rebecca, the other young lady in the video, came over to look over some new clothes. They had a blast looking for things for school. Clothes were strewn from one end of the living room to the other while squeals of joy filled the air. While they were here, I prayed and thanked the Lord for these eaglets.

A few days after that Rebecca and the twins attended church with me because my native-American friends, Rudy & Cindy, were going to share in the evening. During the service, Rebecca asked for prayer. She has a painful spinal problem that also affects her feet. What a joy to watch the twins come up and lay hands on her as the congregation lent themselves to prayer on Rebecca's behalf.

Rudy and Cindy's powerful ministry includes confronting addictions and heaping coals of love and peace on the heads of those who call out to God. One evening I opened the house up FOR 'whosoever will' to come. Rebecca called excitedly, "My mom is coming over!"

After four years of prayer for her dear, Rebecca's mother walked humbly and prayer. My heart burst! Rebecca was – while a look of quiet expectancy and mom who was modestly and very nicely



but addicted, mom, gently into my home for smiling from ear-to-ear hope flowed from her dressed.

Several folks came by that evening including some with severe problems. The evening was electric with the Presence of our Dear Lord touching the lives of those who love Him. But I couldn't get my eyes off Rebecca and her mom. I watched as their lives took on a deeper grasp of love toward God and of forgiveness for one another and for unashamed hope. Lives were being fixed. That's what Jesus does here. The Lord is CEO of The Children's Ranch. He runs The Ranch. He fixes people. My eyes weep with tears of thankfulness to Him Who knows us best, yet loves us most. Thank You, Lord, for the privilege of prayer.

HUMBLER UNDER THE MIGHTY HAND

I was silent in the courtroom during my foster daughter's hearing to determine possible reunification with her mom. I sat alone in the chairs behind the little wall that separated the viewing section from those who were involved in the legalities: the Judge; the bailiff; the State's case worker & the State's attorney; the foster daughter & her attorney; the foster daughter's mom & her attorney; and the court reporter.

Proceedings began with, "*ALL RISE*". Professionals in the room shared testimony -- along with professionals who had sent in testimony -- the counselor; the school, police, etc. Foster parents can tell you how insignificant we "unprofessionals" are at these hearings. We are not even required to attend. But after a child has been in your home and your heart and your life, how can you not go to the event that will decide her immediate future -- and yours? As I mused on the scene, I heard the Judge call my name. I respectfully rose to my feet and heard the Judge say,

"I want it recorded what a tremendous job the foster mom did with this young lady. Miss Lucore, good job."

What an unusual procedure for a judge! My soul sped forward to that day when the Lord, the Judge of us all, will say to those who are faithful, "***Well done, good & faithful steward.***"

Can you imagine? My eyes misted over as the professionals in the courtroom turned to smile at me. My foster daughter with a thumb's up -- with full approval and loving eyes grinning from ear-to-ear. What a scene to hold me until the day I hear the Lord speak to me specifically from His Judgment Throne. And true reunification will take place forever more.