

January Newsletter



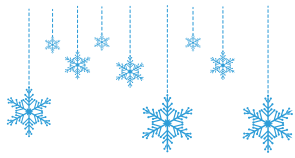
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THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, THE CHRISTMAS PARTY WAS A BLAST!

The kids and tutors have been working hard this whole school year and to start off the holidays, we had a fun Christmas party with crafts, cookie decorating, games, gifts, and songs. All of this couldn't have happened without your generosity, whether it is in time, (all of our volunteers- we love you ❤️) or donations (big hugs to all our donors 🤗 - we love you , too)! Your caring is bringing smiles to kids faces besides the happy smiles of being able to read.

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Building caring, capable, and confident kids

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We love
YOU!

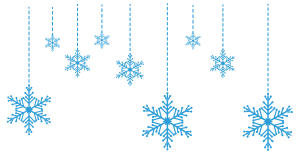


Cookie decorating can be messy but oh, so, sweet! And the kids were so creative! They can really pile on the sprinkles.

Volunteers, staff, and kids were bonding over games. I wonder who won?



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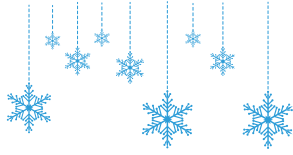


The volunteers are amazing and they really love the kids! That relationship between tutor and student is so important and really helps these kids thrive.

Playing a fun game with magnets.



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"I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING..."

"I don't understand!" "I can't remember anything the teacher says!" "I hate to read!"
When we hear children expressing these sad statements, the Kids Ranch staff is so thankful that we are more than a summer day camp.

Camp is barely over when the interventions begin. Parent conferences are scheduled, results from the camper's self-esteem evaluations are shared, and action plans are developed.

Throughout the year, Teresa Parker, our Mental Health Coordinator, meets with children and parents to begin the process of removing learning barriers, boosting self-esteem, and promoting "Can-Do" attitudes. Effective parenting techniques are also taught and reinforced.

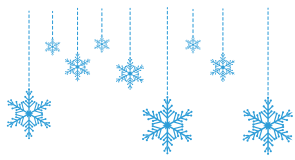
Students who struggle with reading are also identified at Summer Camp. During the school year, these children are matched with trained volunteer tutors who meet twice weekly with their individual student. Kids Ranch teaches a highly successful, brain-based, multi-sensory phonics technique that helps children who learn differently.

Our dedicated staff and parents soon notice their students are learning to read, and self-confidence is soaring! Children thrive when they are taught by caring volunteers using a technique that matches the way they learn best.

**Kids Ranch has a wealth of resources for
children and parents and this is all
thanks to you and your caring support!**

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WE NEED SOME HELP!

Are you handy with woodworking tools, table saws, hammer and nails, staple gun, etc...?

**We need people to help us build
40 sound absorbing, acoustic panels.
(It sounds more difficult than it really is.) 😊**

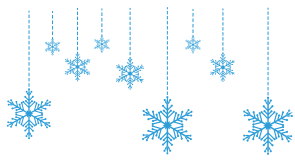
Every summer we have the same problem, the noise inside the great room at the ranch is too loud. It is especially difficult for kids with ADHD or Autism to focus. The sound bounces around inside the room and can really make it difficult to hear or think. We are a rowdy bunch, but even small noises can be a problem. 🥰

Basically, we will be building rectangular wood frames, covering the fronts with fabric so they look nice and placing sound proofing insulation batts inside. Then they will be hung on the ceiling by someone who knows what they are doing (which is not us 🤷).



**We have the plans, we will get the supplies,
we just need the helping hands.**

**Call, text or email Kristie if you can help or you
know someone who can!**



“Our Home Is So Much Calmer”

A Mom with New Parenting Techniques

A single mother of 3 special-needs-children ages 6, 8, and 12 came to Kids Ranch for help with parenting. Her children had all received literacy and mental health services from Kids Ranch in the past.

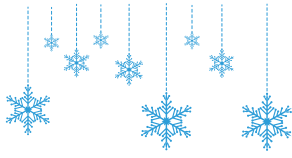
The mom said she had difficulty managing the children’s behavior, i.e., they didn’t listen to her, would not comply with her wishes, were argumentative, and at times had temper tantrums. The staff offered the mother parent effectiveness training to help her better manage the children’s behavior, resolve power struggles and reduce difficult conflicts with the children.

Some of the things the staff taught the mom were: the importance of consistency in discipline, giving the mom step-by-step information on how to communicate expectations and consequences, how to use effective praise, how to shape desired behaviors, and the difference in requests vs. commands.

The mom worked hard to incorporate the new techniques into her parenting of the children. After one week, she came back and said to the staff member who was training her, “I feel I am learning to communicate much better with my kids. I follow these techniques that we rehearsed, and I see the kids responding in a much different way than before. Our home is much calmer, and I even feel healthier and have more confidence in myself!”

When a mom returns to the Ranch with such a positive report, everyone gives the mom lots of praise, and we celebrate the success with her!

In the words of Paul Harvey...and now, the rest of the story...(next page)



THE REST OF THE STORY FROM TERESA:

The mom I am working with had her 3 children taken away by the courts because of neglect and her inability to manage their special needs and at times, inappropriate behaviors. The mom explained to me during our first meeting that this feeling of being overwhelmed and unable to handle the children happened after the woman's husband died by suicide.

When I first met with her, the Mom told me that she had no idea how she was going to get them back, in spite of the fact that 4 or 5 agencies are working with her and the children individually. (Overload on both ends).

Her case manager brought the mother and the children to Kids Ranch to see if we could help in some way. It was decided that the most significant impact the Kids Ranch staff could make in this situation was for me to give Mom some critically needed parent effectiveness training.

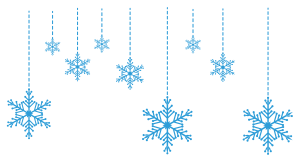
At this time, the mom has had 3 meetings with me. After each meeting, I type up explicit notes for the court on our training goal and her progress. This is sent to the case manager and disseminated to other agencies.

I am so proud of this mom! Each time she comes for her training, she shows me how she put a technique that she learned into practice, and what the outcome was for her and the children. She is working very hard.

Continued on the next page...



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The court just reviewed her case, noting the effort and progress she is making.

The same day as her most recent court hearing the Mom came out to the ranch to meet with me. She smiled so big and gave me the biggest hug thanking me.

She said that during the morning court, after the judge heard the updated reports on her progress, the judge changed the entire direction of her case- from one of potentially adopting out her 3 children, to the goal of reunification and placement back with mom. (When this happens she will continue to have mentor support from Child Protective Services.)

It is such amazing news! Reason to celebrate this courageous mom who just didn't know how to manage her 3 children after the suicide death of her husband.

**And now you know...
the rest of the story.**

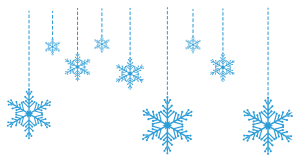
**You are the ones that make this all
possible! Your donations save
children and families!**

Thank You!

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VOLUNTEER CORNER



Volunteers , you are amazing!

Your work with the kids is making such big changes in their lives. They couldn't progress without you and Kids Ranch couldn't do this without you!



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Lifesavers needed!

Do you want to bring a child the gift of reading?

Do you like to spend time outdoors or making crafts with children?

Do you want to change a life?

You can become someone's lifesaver!

[Click here to
volunteer!](#)



Just a short note to say how much we love our volunteers and donors! Kids Ranch needs you and you always come through! **You keep changing lives and we thank you for it!!**

Love,

Kristie Gander-Executive Director