

# Breakaway Youth Ranch

## Summer Session "Sonshine"



As we braced for the heat of summer at the beginning of June, we also braced ourselves for the wonderful storm of kids that would come pouring in for the three short months that we are open. We weren't sure what to anticipate for numbers as I (Jenny) had spent a significant amount of time this winter letting various organizations in the area know that we are here to help during the summer.

As each new year approaches we make changes to better accommodate our Mentors and the kids who continue to come in increasing numbers. This year one of those changes involves talking about a specific character quality each week. We also implemented an in-arena game or activity for the whole group that provides a platform for our mentors to talk about that week's character quality. What does this look like? Say our character quality for discussion is "Encouragement." When a kid arrives, they get paired up with their mentor and they head off for their 15 minute chore (during which time the mentor introduces, among other things, the character quality of "Encouragement"). After their chore the kid and mentor pick their horse, brush and saddle it, and head into the arena with everyone else (all the while having various and sundry conversations about being encouraging—why, how, etc.). Once everyone is in the arena, we play a game that provokes thought about that particular character quality. On "Encouragement" day we played a timed barrel game where there were winners and losers — so there were opportunities both to shout encouragement to opponents (whether or not they were beating you), and to bring gentle encouragement to those who lost. Depending on each child's experience with the game, there were all kinds of different conversations that could have taken place about encouragement (or discouragement).

Even our very own Amanda and her daughter Kylee have been impacted by this new and improved program. Here is what they have to say:

"Although my kids are at the Youth Ranch most of the time, they rarely get to be a part of the sessions because we are usually serving other kids. This last week, however, my 9 year old daughter was able to be a part of one of the sessions. She was so blessed and it was a joy to hear her so excited about her time with her mentor. As a parent, I was thrilled beyond words to see her confidence grow in that 90 minute session! We had a great discussion later that night about the character quality that was the focus of that week. She adored her mentor and has a new best friend! This is our hope and prayer for every kid that comes out to the Ranch." **Amanda**

"I got to work with Kat. She is very fun to work with! For our chore we watered plants. While we did that, we talked about encouragement and how I can encourage somebody. We picked out a horse and his name was Dusty. He used to be a barrel horse. When we got into the arena, we started to longe him. When he was all longed, I was able to put on the bridle and get on. Then came the fun part—riding! Kat was really fun to work with, she helped me learn to control him and do what I wanted him to do. We also talked about how God encourages us and how I can encourage kids at school, even my brother. I hope I do get to ride again soon and I hope to work with Kat again." **Kylee**

I (Jenny again) have heard several stories like these from other parents, counselors, grandparents, etc. Thank you for making it possible for us to bring Jesus' hope and healing to kids and their families - even our own!

### **Donations have been made to honor these special people:**

**IN MEMORY OF:** Sharon Severance, Juanita Neal, Billie Pearson

**BIRTHDAYS:** Zac Sellier's 16th Birthday

**FOR KINDNESS:** Susan Richardson, Chris & Pamela Pearson, Lois Richardson

## Horse of the Month

Dusty is flashy in color and in all other ways unobtrusive (he doesn't do things to get attention). He reminds me of what a truly humble, selfless, serving person ought to be like. He does his job cheerfully (usually) and patiently. He doesn't try to get attention. He brings hope, encouragement, healing, etc. to every kid he works with. And he does it all so quietly and calmly, that sometimes he gets overlooked in lists, website pages, etc. It was even hard for me to find a picture of him without someone on his back! So here's to Dusty. May we all serve like he does!



## How to help with Race to the Finish Line!

First: we need to put together a large “**Arena help**” **Crew** this year. This job involves setting barrels, opening gates, finding contestants, and whatever else we can do to make the race run smoothly for the O'Donnells. If you can lift a metal barrel, and you have lots of energy, we could use your help! This year we hope to have helpers divided into shifts so that we don't overwork anyone! **Please call** for more info **if you are interested in helping this way.**

Second: you can make, buy, or get a business to donate, items for the **Silent Auction** (this, and the bake sale, are what raise funds for the ranch). Ideas include: Quilts, baskets of goodies, lawn chairs, grills, fine wood-working, etc. These items need to be accompanied with contact information and delivered to BYR before the race. **Please call** for more info **if you can help!**

Third: we will be doing a **Bake Sale** again alongside the silent auction. We need both bakers, to make delicious goodies, and people to man the booth (again, broken into shifts). These people would also answer questions about / watch over the silent auction. **Please call** for more info **if you can help!**



## Mark Your Calendars!



## Three Forks Parade!

- **July 16th**

- Meeting at **9am** near the Three Forks School
- Please let Jenny or Amanda know if you would like to have a kiddo or two on the float (depending on ages, we may require parental accompaniment).
- Wear your favorite BYR shirt or Cowboy Gear!

## Race to the Finish Line

- **Aug. 12—14**

- See details to the left. Please, *please, please* contact Amanda or Jenny if you are at all interested in helping us with this fundraiser!
- This event will be held at the Heart K arena in Livingston. Depending on your level of involvement, you may want to make plans to stay in town.

## Fall Fun Day

-**TBD**



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