

Flying H Youth Ranch 2008 Report of God's Blessings

In 2008, 27 young men and their families were served (an increase of one). Eleven boys graduated from the program compared to eight the previous year, three were withdrawn by their parents, and 12 remained in the program at the end of the year. We averaged 12 boys in the program per month compared to 12 in 2007 (We have a capacity of 16). We now have 11 missionary staff families, and are building the numbers back up. Of the boys that graduated from the program last year, most are doing quite well. One of the things that is helping our graduates do well after they leave the Flying H is that they are staying longer. Almost two years ago we, the on-the-ground leadership of the Ranch, decided to extend the expected length of stay for a resident by redefining the program as being 18 months instead of one year. We still graduate boys at 14 and 16 months if we believe they are ready, but establish up-front the year-and-a-half expectation.

One of the keys to reaching a boy's heart that we can identify is to mentor him and his family. As we have thought through what mentoring really is, we have come to understand that we can be mentoring whenever we spend time with the boys. We are mentoring when we supervise work crew, or teach math, or check chores. After all, we are to:

Place these words on your hearts. Get them deep inside you. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder. Teach them to your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning until you fall into bed at night.
Deuteronomy 11:18-19 MSG

As far as staff in 2008, Chris, Amber, and Autumn Rodriguez joined us in February. (We didn't lose any! Yeah!) We still have one full-time volunteer family, and numerous part-time volunteers. Please pray that God send us His people. Currently, the Huysers are raising support. When they arrive we would be at twelve missionary families, which would increase our capacity to twenty boys.

The following is a synopsis of how we have done financially:

- Total income increased 37% to \$771,640 while expenses increased 3.1% to \$512,949.
 - Missionary support was up 8.7% at \$252,227. (2 missionary families are below 100% support)
 - A gracious widow left us much of her estate, giving us \$182,000, which is being used for capitol projects.
 - The new building for Hope Academy was finished with an \$84,000 grant that will appear in next year's income.
 - Scholarship donations were up 94% at \$18,461.
 - Because general donations were down, total donations were down 2.6% to \$333,787.
 - Tuition by parents increased by 16.1% to \$229,762.
 - Each family in the program paid an average of \$1,596 tuition per month, about the same per boy per month as 2007.

(If any of you would like a complete financial statement, please ask. We very much desire to be absolutely open about how we handle your money.)

- Facility improvements:
 - The new school building was completed and occupied in December, at a cost of \$300,000, which is about half of retail cost. Thank you volunteers!
 - The baseball/football field was completed this past summer.
 - The Huntings have a new kitchen, which cost about \$6,000.
 - We secured a grant of approximately \$30,000 to replace almost all of our wood burning stoves with much more efficient models.

To conclude, I am writing this letter to you because you are our partners, and I believe in openness and accountability. Thank you so much for joining us in this work. We know you pray for us. It shows in the staff and the boys. This is still a "front line" kind of ministry: When we bring in a new resident, he usually brings the enemy with him. We indeed need your prayers.

Many of you are getting this letter because you support one of our missionary families. The people God brings here to minister to these boys and their parents are the tools God uses to engage these family's hearts. Thank you for supporting them and praying for them.

God bless,

Steve Alumbaugh
Administrator

Praises:

- The boys are relatively settled right now, which means we are being pretty consistent as we apply the program.
- I am very thankful for our missionary staff. As I observe our staff in action, it is easy to see the love God has put in them for our residents.
- Bob Hostetler is recovering very well from hip surgery.

Prayer requests:

- The Father-Son Campout is February 13-16. For some boys and their fathers, this is a wonderful, healing time. For others, they are reminded how far they have to go.

Needs:

- We need a new phone system. The one we are using now was donated to us about a decade ago by a business, and was several decades old when we got it. We are finding it hard to maintain service. Projected cost: \$3,500.