



# O'CONNELL YOUTH RANCH

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Lawrence, KS 66046

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## From our Executive Director, Gina Meier-Hummel

Wow, so much has changed since December. First, I hope this finds you and your families healthy. Please know we are in continuous prayer for our community, our country and all Kansas families as we face the pandemic.



Even though the holidays are hard for the young men here, the tremendous support and outpouring from many community organizations and individuals was heartening. Our young men each were treated to shopping excursions, multiple meals, a couple of celebrations and individual and house gifts. Thank you so much to all who provided.

Since the holidays we have hired several new staff members and seen some of our young men move on to less restrictive or more permanent situations which is always our hope for the young men we serve. Of course, it is hard for our staff when the young men do move on, but we celebrate with them and hope in some small way we provided a safe haven and some skills that help them in their future.

Over spring break, before the pandemic, our young men enjoyed some traveling. The boys in house 2 went camping and hiking in Arkansas, and the boys in house 3 went to Nebraska for a day trip to the zoo. The boys in house 1 went on several day trips and outings and a good time was had by all.

Now, of course, the young men we serve are adjusting to a new normal where we will be schooling them and staying on the ranch for the most part until authorities tell us otherwise. The good news is that when you have 125 acres, endless projects and young men who like the outdoors, there is plenty to do. In addition to the formal education materials we will be doing as the district instructs, we are working on pathways, the barn readying for more animals and will be planting vegetables here soon. Much of this is possible because of a generous grant from the Douglas County Community Foundation.

In terms of needs, we are not asking for new items at this time, recognizing many are hurting in our community, but we could use: gently used Lego's, model car sets with all the pieces, journals, sketch books or other art supplies, puzzles with all of the pieces, bikes for older boys that are in good working order, workbooks or educational materials, and sports equipment.

Thank you in advance for your continued prayers and support.

Our best,

The staff and young men at OYR





# LIST OF NEEDS

*Lego's,  
Puzzles*

*Sports  
Equipment*

*Journals,  
Sketch Books,  
Art Supplies*

*Gently Used  
is as  
appreciated  
as new!*

*Bikes  
for older boys*

*Model  
Car Sets*

*Workbooks,  
Educational  
Materials*

**Bring donated items to O'Connell Youth Ranch - 1646 North 1320 Road**  
Please call in advance of delivery so we can ensure someone is there to meet you.

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P.O. Box 3589  
Lawrence, KS 66046-0589