



O'CONNELL YOUTH RANCH

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From our Executive Director, Gina Meier-Hummel

Fall has been busy. Many of you may know that the tornado that hit Lawrence in late May hit the Southeast corner of our property including house three. Thank God no one was hurt. The storm caused upwards of \$170,000 in damages. In early August, we moved back, and since then we've worked to get all the young men settled in school.



In addition to recovering from this, we finished painting the milk house, welcomed several new staff members and young men. Now we are working to adjust to changes within the larger child welfare system in Kansas. Many of you know that the system as a whole continues to operate under great strain, and we are working to answer the call for the young men we are privileged to serve.

Thanks to those of you who were able to join us in celebrating Deanie's retirement. I know it was very special for her. If you didn't make it, and you've not been to the ranch in a while, please know you are welcome to come visit. We'd love to show you around.

Finally, as the year draws to a close, we would appreciate you keeping us in mind for year-end giving and of course your ongoing prayers. We eagerly anticipate continued great things at the ranch because of your support.

Merry Christmas and Peace on earth from all of us here at O'Connell Youth Ranch.

Our Success Stories

George, (not his real name) arrived two and half years ago. He was struggling with family relations and his plan was to reintegrate with his family. While at OYR we saw tremendous growth. In particular, he was able to improve his relationships with his mother, brother, and father.

George is one of the lucky youth. He does have a very supportive employer, who is also a family friend, where he maintained employment the whole time at the ranch. George also finished high school and was able to obtain some college credit while at the ranch.

George's parents, case team and OYR staff felt he was ready to leave the ranch for a less restrictive environment. We were able to successfully move him to a kin placement. We are proud of the work done with George and his family and feel blessed to have had the opportunity to help.





LIST OF NEEDS

Socks

Pillows

*Suitcases
or Large
Duffle Bags*

*Games
Movies
Puzzles
Art Supplies*

*Teenage
Appropriate
Books*

*Gift
Cards*

*Extra Long
Twin Sheets
& Comforters*

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.