



O'CONNELL YOUTH RANCH

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From our Executive Director, Gina Meier-Hummel

Hello from OYR. We hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe.

Summer 2020 has brought both joys and some growth opportunities for the young men at the ranch. It's been a trying time for the young men here not to be able to connect with their loved ones, therapist or case managers face to face. Some have started visiting now, but for a while we were limited to zoom visits and that was very difficult.



We also weren't prepared technology wise to have all the remote learning going on and quickly had to upgrade systems, but we navigated our way through that. Thank You to Douglas County Foundation Crisis Funds for your assistance.

With the young men staying largely on the ranch this summer we have had to get creative about our learning and growth initiatives. Our farm animals have grown. We now have 7 pigs, 4 horses -soon to be 8, 2 goats -soon to be 3, and chickens for the youth to care for. It is awesome to see the young men bottle feeding goats, or cuddling baby pigs.

We also have been playing outside a lot, walking and riding on new trails we have built and working in the garden. In terms of cooling off we've had to get creative. We had Wakarusa Township Fire Department come spray the young men, and created homemade slip and slides.

In terms of success we have had several. We had a young man pass all his classes being schooled on the ranch when in prior years he really struggled in the public school system. And we now have a young man employed at the ranch working alongside our ranch hand learning how to care for animals, and the land. This is a young man who came from a pretty rough background and he has just flourished. He is a changed young man, a model Kansan.

In these turbulent times we are ever thankful for your continued support. We would love new and gently used books. Or if you have the financial means, we really need to restock our store shelves with new items the boys may earn or purchase as a reward for their hard work.

We ask for your prayers and well wishes for continued covering of health over the ranch. We certainly are sending the same to all of you.

Sending love from all of us here,

The staff and young men at OYR





LIST OF NEEDS

*Attractive
Pots and
Potting
Materials*

*Basket-
balls*

*Walmart
or Sonic
Gift Cards*

*Twin Size
Comforters
-Boy Themes*

*Sturdy Bedside
Tables and
Dressers*

*New
Bed
Pillows*

*Picnic Table
and Lawn
Chairs*

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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