



O'CONNELL YOUTH RANCH

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From our Executive Director, Gina Meier-Hummel

Happy summer! The young men at O'Connell Youth Ranch have finished out the school year, most of which was done remotely, and now seem to be excited about summer.

They will be busy with a trip to the Art Institute, holding exercise club sessions, taking care of the garden, continuing to beautify the grounds of the ranch, riding horses, and swimming. Those who want can participate in a bible study and in life skills programming. We have a couple of young men who have jobs, some are doing Drivers Ed and a couple are doing football workouts.



Outside of this, we have several different trips planned. The boys and staff from one house are going to South Dakota camping and all the boys and staff are planning a day trip to Worlds of Fun.

The staff is busy working on accreditation which will allow us to give a higher level of care and which offers many therapeutic components. The accreditation people have been here looking at policies and practices. They gave us additional components to improve on while they evaluate us. It will be weeks before we know if we passed the "test" but we are very hopeful. This accreditation will allow us to add to our continuum of care so that we can take care of more children and their families long term.

Our volunteer extraordinaire Susan Andersen is pictured on the cover of the June edition of the Kaw Valley Senior Monthly. As our board president John Rathbun said "I think if you look up the word volunteer in the dictionary you will certainly find a picture of Susan Andersen! The OYR is very blessed to have a volunteer/mentor/educator like Susan!" She has helped beautiful our ranch and helped the boys with their garden projects both with labor and guidance.

If you find yourself wanting to give, we'd gladly accept new underwear, swimsuits, and socks, even gently used flip flops, shorts, or T-shirts. We will also take books, art supplies, art kits, kites or models-things that will keep the young men busy. (These can be gently used.) Finally, if you have extra funds, we'd love to take the young men to a Royals game.

We appreciate all the support we get from so many friends. We pray you and your family have a blessed and safe summer.

Our Success Stories

We have several young men leaving us who have been with us for a while. One young man is moving to an Independent Living facility as he exits care. He has lived at the ranch for almost two years so we're sad to see him go, but excited for his future. We also have a young man who has been here three years and is moving to a foster/adoptive home situation. This young man is one of our youngest residents and is a pure joy. We're excited for his future.



Kaw Valley Senior Monthly FREE!
 June 2021 Serving Active Seniors in Northeast Kansas since 2001 Vol. 20, No. 12

INSIDE

Susan Andersen: Fostering life skills through gardening.
 See story on page three

Senior profile

At 85, Topoka's Esther Luttrell has launched Mojave Beach Productions. The Mojave Beach Players consists of volunteer actors and writers who produce audio programs for people of all ages - page 7

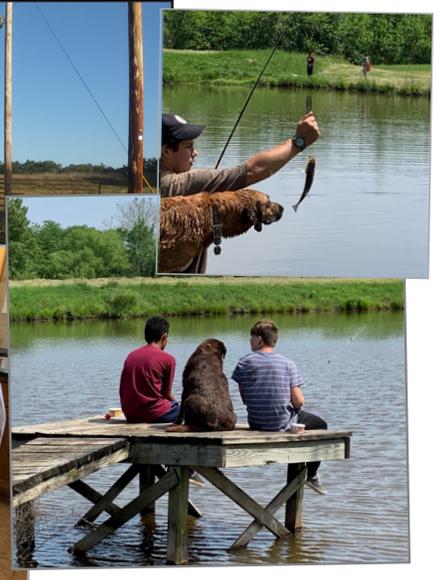
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LIST OF NEEDS

Books

Kites

Art Supplies

\$5 Gift Cards to Sonic

Swim Suits

Shorts

Flip Flops

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.

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