



# O'CONNELL YOUTH RANCH

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1646 North 1320 Road  
Lawrence, KS 66046  
**785-842-9356**  
office.oyr@gmail.com

## From Our Executive Director, Deanie Hayes

Our holidays at OYR were the best ever! Our kiddos enjoyed the wonders of the giving hearts of friends in this community. We were blessed with our yearly shopping trip with the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Each youth received money to shop for themselves as well as to shop for gifts for their families!!! Aunt Em's blessed us with a Christmas "shower" of gifts specific to each youth. Plasticon delivered age appropriate gift bags with surprises in them. What blessings we received!!! Our kiddos really struggle at Christmas time and the love and warmth that comes from our friends certainly helps ease their strife! So thanks go to all who made Christmas a 'year to remember'!!!



Life settled back to normal as school resumed in January and it became time to put noses back in the books. Snow played a big part in extra days off from school with time to build tunnels and igloos and snow angels! The boys had a blast. They have worked very hard to keep their grades up and focus on school.

We are now ready for spring warmth and outside fun. Spring break gave the boys a chance to visit the Natural History Museum and go to movies, the library and play video games. The spring weather encouraged games of basketball and baseball and the boys were able to attend the St. Patrick's Day parade.

We always covet the prayers of our friends so keep our guys on your list. This is a very difficult time for them to keep focused on school work and what they need to do to be successful in their program here. It is also a time to prepare them for the changes that may be coming their way. In the weeks/months to come, they may be returning home, going into independent living OR staying right here with our families at OYR. We depend on you, our dearest friends, for caring, loving and supporting us in the work we do with the most precious gifts God can give us: CHILDREN!!!

## Our Success Stories

Many times success comes in the form of 'baby steps'. Throughout this school year, most of our boys have worked hard and have had success at school that will help prepare them for returning home, graduation, and college preparation. It can be difficult for the boys to see through their struggles and focus on educational success. I am proud to say that 80% of our youth are pulling C's and better!! That is a fantastic accomplishment!





# LIST OF NEEDS

*Gift  
Certificates to  
**Epic***

*Movie  
Passes*

*Baseballs &  
Gloves  
Basketballs*

*Gift  
Certificates*

- Freddy's
- King Buffet
- Dairy Queen

*Hooded  
Sweatshirts*

***XL**  
Electric  
Skillets*

*Paper  
Towels &  
Toilet Paper*

**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.

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