



Fr. Elwood Cassidy
Founder

The Home On The Range RANCH HAND



Fr. William Fahlander
Supt. Emeritus

Summer 2006 – Vol. 25, No. 1

"To empower at-risk youth and families to experience healing in a Christ-like setting."

Champions Ride Celebrates 50 Years

You don't want to miss this one! Champions Ride will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary when the chute gates swing open on August 6 at the



Jesse Bail, 2004 Champion, HOTR Saddle Bronc Match. (Doll Rodeo Photo)

Home On The Range (HOTR) arena near Sentinel Butte, ND—right where the legendary saddle bronc match began.

Most of you know the story of the colorful history of the premiere saddle bronc match commemorating fifty years on August 6, 2006. Jim and Tom Tescher, top professional bronc riders of the era, felt a saddle bronc-riding match featuring North Dakota

cowboys competing against the top riders in the world would bring spectators from many areas to see the best hands around matched against legendary bucking horses. As predicted, people came from miles to see the show at the natural arena nestled in the hills at HOTR. The rest is history. Proud of its western heritage, HOTR was honored to have Champions Ride inducted into the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2000 as the Special Achievement inductee—only the second event inducted in that category.



Alvin Nelson, 1st Champion, HOTR Saddle Bronc Match & World Champion Saddle Bronc cowboy, both in 1957. 2004 Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame inductee.

The HOTR Rodeo Committee has been hard at work pulling together an event celebrating fifty years of commitment to the children who have



Cowboy lineup before the action begins.

called HOTR "home." Since the children are at the heart of the celebration, the goal of the first Champions Ride event was to raise money for a larger dormitory. The rodeo featured some of the best saddle bronc riders from North Dakota competing against a team representing the world. It also had cow cutting and calf roping to add a bit of variety to the day. The 50th Anniversary Champions Ride will feature the usual saddle bronc riding, but for a twist of nostalgia, the committee has arranged for a calf-roping match between two father/son teams. It has been many years since there has been calf roping at Champions Ride—especially calf roping of this caliber.

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From The Director's Desk

The school year has ended and summer is off to a great start. The children are all very busy with work crews, summer school, groups, horsemanship and other activities.

Recently two of our staff, Bettye Knight and Darrin Nielsen, completed training in Equine Assisted Therapy. This is a great addition to our program. We will be doing individual, group and family therapy using the horses as assistants. Our children are also going to represent the home on horseback in local parades this summer.

As a reminder, our 50th Annual Champions Ride Rodeo is August 6, 2006. I want to thank everyone on the rodeo planning

committee for their hard work and dedication. This rodeo will be a great success and the credit

"We are truly blessed to have so many people willing to give so much to assist us in providing for the children we serve."
Jay Johnson - Executive Director

belongs to this group of dedicated volunteers. I am sure Father Fahlander would be very pleased with how it is all coming together.

I also want to thank all those people who have given their time, money, or in-kind donations such as clothing, recreation equipment, or materials for maintaining the home. We are truly blessed to have so many people willing to

give so much to assist us in providing for the children we serve.

We recently returned from the Dakota State Eagles Convention. I

was overwhelmed by the support they give Home On The Range. This kind of support really goes a long way to help us provide a nurturing environment for the children. I am thankful to be a part of a program with the kind of support we receive from so many people.

Respectfully,
Jay Johnson
Executive Director



Home On The Range is always honored to have the Fraternal Order of Eagles visit us. Grand Worthy President Chris Lainas, Jr. and Grand Madam President Roxann Alley dropped by for a tour of our facility. Jay Johnson, Executive Director, proudly presented the Presidents with a Home On The Range jacket for their continued support.

Teachers & Administration Honored

On April 26, Home On The Range hosted the teacher appreciation dinner to honor the Beach School District teachers and administration's work with our children's education. Home On The Range recognized several school employees who have written federal grants for programs relating to at-risk youth. This money was used to sponsor various trainings for teachers and Home On The Range staff.

Home On The Range and the school use the Character Counts program. The six pillars of this program represent respect, citizenship, trustworthiness, responsibility, caring and fairness. Each child was asked to write a few sentences about their favorite teacher using the six pillars. The

residents then read the comments. Some of the students also read special poems about teachers and education.

It was an enjoyable evening and we're hoping to plan another Teacher Appreciation Dinner next year.



Home On The Range hosted a Teacher Appreciation Dinner for administration and teaching staff of the Beach School District. The above five staff were honored for their outstanding efforts for grant funding and overseeing the after school and study hall program. Pictured are (l to r): Larry Helvik, Sue Marman, Linda Rogers, Mary Ann Schillo, Leann Benes and Karla Zimdars.



Summer School

For the second year in a row, Home On The Range is grateful to the Beach School District for the opportunity to send our children to summer school. This summer, 30 of our children will be enrolled in math, speech, or physical education classes. This helps our students who may need credits to complete a school year or term and helps get them back on track for the fall school year.

Honoring Family and Friends

Honor a family member, friend or special occasion by making a memorial or honorarium gift to Home On The Range. Please let us know the name of the Memorial or Honorarium. We will gladly notify the next of kin and family if you provide their name and address. All names and donor(s) will appear on the quarterly memorial listing on our website, www.gohotr.org, and in our annual Commemorative Gift Issue.

Lending a Helping Hand



A new flag is always a patriotic moment and a sign of the new spring season. Home On The Range receives flags donated by various American Legion Clubs and veterans.

Boys & Girls Help Guide Tours
Throughout the summer and weekends, many guests and visitors stop at Home On The Range—because they are faithful supporters or because they saw our sign on the interstate and curiosity got the best of them. For whatever reason, we need help during the busy season, and boys and girls are hired and trained as tour guides. The boys and girls become knowledgeable about the history of Home On The Range and its benefactors, as well as the many activities and programs offered at Home On The Range. The children’s personal stories and experiences make the tour an unforgettable event. If you are traveling east or west on Interstate 94, we invite you to stop at Exit #7 for a personal and guided tour. Buses and large groups are welcome, but please give us a little advance notice by contacting us at 701-872-3745 or hotrnd@midstate.net.



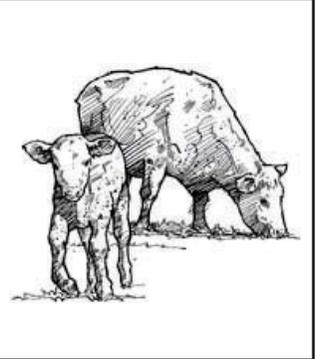
Tree Planting - A Day of Work, An Evening of Relaxation



On a beautiful afternoon, a group of boys and some of our staff planted over 600 trees to create a live snow fence. When the job was finished, the work crew was treated to a BBQ steak and chicken dinner.

BRANDING Calves

In May, boys and girls experienced the "cowboy" event of branding and working calves. Many jumped right in and helped where they could. This was the first time some boys and girls helped with branding or saw how it was done.



Attention Quilters

Home On The Range proudly accepts hand-made quilts for our boys and girls. The children take the quilts with them when they leave. Twin size quilts work best.



Thanks to the Eagles Memorial Foundation, during the 2005-06 school year, 18 of our children were able to attend college or trade school. Thanks to all the Eagles for their generous and continued support.



The boys put together 72 picnic tables. This project was initiated between TEK Industries and Scott Harris, a Home On The Range employee. The tables were transferred to Cottonwood Campground in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Brother Sam Celebrates 30 Years of Working With Children

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22

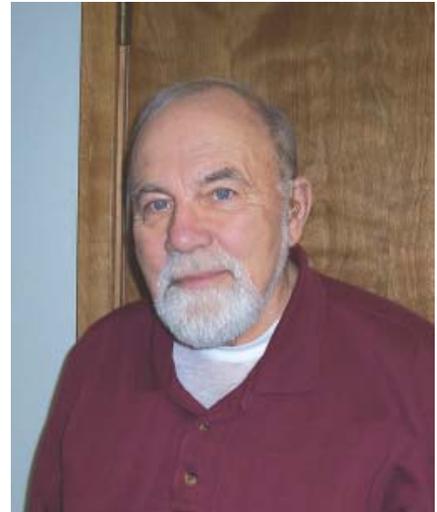
This bible verse truly describes Salvatorian Brother Samuel Larson, who celebrated his 30th anniversary of working with children at Home On The Range (HOTR). This active, vibrant man has seen a lot of things and many changes over the years and remains dedicated to do all he can.

In 1975 Brother Sam visited HOTR and completed his interview with Father William Fahnlander. At that time, there were 3 counselors and 48 boys at HOTR. Brother Sam spent

some time with Father Fahnlander and met some of the other staff. He was told he was a “God-send” and knew in his heart he was meant to work at HOTR.

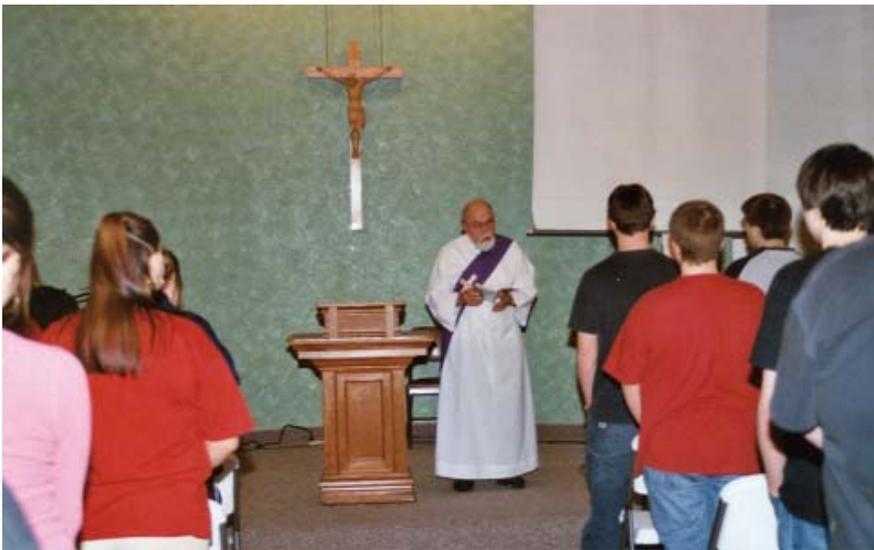
After working as a counselor for just two weeks, Brother Sam was put in charge of the entire south wing of the boys’ dorm. This meant he would be responsible for 20 boys. It was more than a full-time job; he worked 24 hours a day, 6 days a week. Brother Sam not only worked out of his office, but he also lived and slept there. When asked how he supervised the boys at night when they were sleeping, he winked and said, “I slept with one eye open and one eye shut.”

In 1979 HOTR started sending the residents to SEARCH. This was a



beginning trend for the spiritual department. Brother Sam recalls a specific time when a young man was asked to go to SEARCH for the first time. The boy had a history of being a heavy marijuana user and would outwardly tell people that there was no better high. “Doug” had been involved in the spiritual program, but didn’t seem to commit himself to believe in a higher power. After attending the weekend SEARCH, Doug sought out Brother Sam and confessed, “You were right, Bro... spirituality is the highest high.”

Brother Sam has seen many spiritual transformations over the years – some inspired by him and his STEP group. Based on the 12 steps of AA, Brother Sam instills the importance of a higher power. With his own spiritual strength and commitment, Brother Sam teaches kids about spirituality and feeds their need for knowledge about God and Christianity. It has become a group that children ask for. One time Brother Sam had a rather rambunctious group of boys, cancelled the STEP group, and sent the boys back to their rooms. One young man wouldn’t leave, and stood in the hallway and sobbed. He pleaded with Brother Sam to



When Father Cassedy founded Home On The Range, one major component of his program was spirituality. Now, 56 years later, this is still true. Brother Samuel Larson personally leads services for both the staff and children. During Holy Week, Brother Sam led the Ash Wednesday service. It was a very solemn and spiritual moment as many boys, girls, and staff were blessed with a cross of ashes on their forehead. For some of the children, this was the first time in their lives to receive this special blessing.

(Brother Sam / from page 6)

continue the STEP group because it was the only time he got to learn about spirituality. This inspired Brother Sam to continue his class and work harder at helping kids.

The HOTR spiritual department now has two youth ministers that minister to the children through bible study, praise night, private consultations and Christian music. Brother Sam says he



Brother Sam blesses Vidette Schillo with a cross of ashes at the Ash Wednesday service.

has time to do other things with the kids he couldn't do before. The child

care staff actively participate in the activities and Church, and they encourage the kids to also become involved. It is Brother Sam's hope that the spiritual department can maintain its strength and momentum, because that in itself will substantiate the future of HOTR and its children.

Brother Sam has become well known for his beautiful, hand-made cards for birthdays, encouragement or in sympathy. Many friends, employees and children have been blessed with his creative cards. Brother Sam makes sure that each child at HOTR receives not only a card, but also a small gift. It is common to see him help clean up after a banquet or help move chairs and tables for presentations by guest speakers. He always has new ideas on how to re-use different pieces of equipment or furniture, and recycles

aluminum cans and cardboard to conserve the environment while simultaneously saving the recycling

"I have worked with Brother Sam for over 22 years, and he has always radiated a love for the kids and passion for his work."
Diane Szudera
Business Administration Director

proceeds to help purchase new statues for the HOTR Holy Family Chapel.

Diane Szudera, HOTR co-worker, said, "I have worked with Brother Sam for over 22 years and he has always radiated a love for the kids and passion for his work. He is a model of Christianity that many of us aspire to achieve." It is Brother Sam's positive attitude, belief and dedication to his work, sense of humor, and outlook on life that makes him a role model to the HOTR children and staff, friends, family and anyone that meets him.

Resident Specialist of the Month

Home On The Range has 85 full-time employees, of which 47 work directly with the children in the dorms. Their primary responsibility is to form relationships with the children and teach them the social skills curriculum. This can be a tough and stressful job, and Home On The Range established a new program to honor these hard-working and dedicated staff. "Residential Specialist of the Month" originated this last March. Employees are nominated by their peers, and the winner receives a Home On The Range shirt embroidered with "Employee of the Month" and their name and date engraved on a special plaque.



Shamrock Project

For 43 years, the North Dakota Knights of Columbus have been helping Home On The Range with their Shamrock project. During St. Patrick's Day, councils across the state promote the green chenille Shamrock pins and ask for a free-will gift. This year, many councils participated and raised more than \$12,500. The monies supplement the programs and activities for the boys and girls. Home On The Range is grateful to all the Knights, their families and friends, and everyone who contributed to the annual Shamrock fundraiser.



Spring Events



Signs of Spring are new baby calves and a new colt. Home On The Range has 60 head of Gelbvieh cattle, 14 horses, 2 new colts and 3 bum calves. Both boys and girls help with the feeding and care of the animals.



(Champions Ride / from page 1)

As in past years, efforts have been made to bring in the top professional bronc riders. This year's purse is \$20,000, and the champion saddle bronc rider will also receive the traditional 30 X 30 rifle and a beautiful hand-tooled trophy bronc saddle made by Trent Taylor of Sidney, Montana. But even the best saddle bronc riders need good stock to look their best. The contractors for this year's Match include Franklin Rodeo Stock, Bonnyville, Alberta; Brookman Rodeo Company, Wolf Point, Montana; Burch Rodeo Company, Rozet, Wyoming and Gold Buckle Rodeo Company, Fairburn, Georgia. You will recognize many of these horses from the NFR and other televised rodeo events. Home On The Range is very grateful for the outstanding participation and dedication of our contractors and the professional saddle bronc riders. It is their support that has earned Champions Ride its great reputation.

A Cowboy Reunion is scheduled that includes past contestants and former champions. They will be introduced and on hand for autographs prior to the start of the rodeo. Home On The Range is proud of the fact that, through

2005, every PRCA World Champion Saddle Bronc Rider has ridden at Champions Ride except one—a tradition it hopes to continue.

(Champions Ride / page 9)

Home On The Range is seeking donations for the Silent Auction, which will be held during Champions Ride. Popular items include nearly anything with a western flair. Handmade quilts, bits, spurs, leatherwork and artwork have been popular items in the past. We would truly appreciate your contribution.

For more information contact the Development Office at (701) 872-3745.

(Champions Ride / from page 8)



Andrew Knudson is shown putting some last touches on one of his western paintings in his Plains Perspective Studio/Gallery in Towner, North Dakota. He is known for his great attention to detail and authenticity. HOTR feels very fortunate to have Knudson as the artist of its commemorative print for Champions Ride's Anniversary. Be sure to stop and meet him on rodeo day! To see some examples of his work, visit his website at www.plainsperspective.com.

Andrew Knudson of Towner has done a commemorative painting from which a series of signed and numbered prints will be made and sold. He plans to be on hand rodeo day to help promote this limited edition keepsake.

The ever-popular Silent Auction will be running during the Match as well, and don't forget to check out the souvenir booth for a special memento of the 50th Annual Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match. There will be many one-of-a-kind collectibles you won't want to miss out on!

It's been fifty years in the making, so you don't want to miss this Champions Ride Match, Sunday, August 6, 2006. Pre-rodeo activities begin at 11:30 AM MDT with the chute gates swinging at 1:00 PM. Be there as the legend lives on—Champions Ride—Fifty years of Champions; Fifty years of history; Fifty years of making a difference.

For More Information: Contact Home On The Range at (701) 872-3745 or e-mail seconds8@ndsupernet.com.

More Spring Events

On April 19, we were surprised with a spring blizzard. The children were busy feeding cattle, shoveling snow and sledding. A few calves got extremely cold and had to be brought inside. Boys took turns drying off the calves and feeding them warm milk.



Spirituality Offers Security and Healing

by Peggy Helvik

Home On The Range (HOTR) is proud of its Spiritual Department. When HOTR was



We are proud to announce the official and new signage for our chapel. We invite you to see our beautiful chapel and visit with the staff of our spiritual department.

established 56 years ago, its very foundation was spiritual and it remains the same today.

Home On The Range's Spiritual Department is available to each of the residents that come here. We realize that they have come from different

backgrounds, many of which include the abuse of drugs and alcohol. We provide a secure environment that enables our residents to step out of their life situations to experience the true joy and happiness of being connected to the source of life – Jesus Christ.

When residents first arrive at HOTR they are interviewed in the Chapel to determine their spiritual background. At this time they are asked to pick the church that they will be attending weekly. If parents have a church preference for their child, that is honored.

Once these young people begin to experience God's love for them, they are better able to let go of what has held them captive in the past. When the desires of their flesh are selfish, they live in opposition to the

desires of the Spirit of God within them. If they learn to live by the Spirit, they will not seek the sinful gratification of their desires.

We teach them about the gifts of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23, which are:

- Love replaces hatred and unforgiveness.
- Joy replaces hopelessness.
- Peace replaces fear and anxiety.
- Patience replaces impatience.
- Kindness replaces rudeness.
- Faithfulness replaces a lack of loyalty.
- Gentleness replaces harshness.
- Self-control replaces a lack of discipline.

All of these "Gifts of the Holy Spirit" help our young people to work on the issues that brought them here. We try to teach the residents involved in the Spiritual Program that true happiness comes when they embrace the teachings of Christ and live them out daily in their lives. Being a Christian doesn't imply living a life of pious misery without fun, excitement or enjoyment, but it does involve being able to experience life to the fullest. Jesus said in John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."

The following is a faith statement written by a young man that was confirmed while at HOTR.

(Spirituality / page 11)

Home On The Range is blessed with many friends who have a special talent and love for ministering to our children. They volunteer many hours and have very special messages and inspirational stories to share. (Pictured are two volunteers from the Break Forth Bible Church, Dickinson, ND)



Spring Banquet Success

On Friday, May 5, Home On The Range (HOTR) hosted their annual awards banquet and celebrated the students' accomplishments and achievements. The recipients received a laminated certificate and a special award in the areas of work, education, spirituality, therapy or recreation.

In honor of HOTR's founder, Father Elwood Cassedy, The Father Cassedy Award was given as part of the spiritual program. "Ericka" was the recipient for showing spiritual growth, being involved in praise night and cleansing stream retreat, and for being a spiritual role model to the other girls. "Ericka" said, "I am very

"success is using the gifts God has given us"

Sister Thomas Welder
President of University of Mary

active within the spiritual department. I always went to church, but just kind of did it because my family did. It really didn't mean much. Then one of the girls asked me to go to praise night because it was fun. I did go, and then I got involved with the bible study and cleansing stream. One of the staff really influenced my faith and me. She talked about sowing and reaping, and it really started making sense."

Four teenagers received the Outstanding Achievement Award. It was presented to students who demonstrated their capabilities to use all the programs offered to help them to improve their lives. During their time spent at HOTR, they learned to be open and honest, to grow within themselves, and to make better choices. Other awards given were for the outstanding Ranch Hand, the Frances Dietz Nurse Award, and the Resident Living Award.

The keynote speaker of the evening was Sister Thomas Welder, President of University of Mary. She shared a very special message with the children and guests. The main theme was how each person can be successful. She said the four components to personal success are 1) believe in yourself; 2) set goals; 3) keep hope; and 4) treat others right. Sister Thomas said, "success is using the gifts God has given us," which

emphasizes the fact that each one of us has a unique gift or talent, and when we ourselves are successful, we can help others become successful.

The evening was a great celebration of all the boys and girls at HOTR who work hard to change their lives. Over 150 honored guests joined the staff and residents at the annual banquet including HOTR Board President, Most Reverend Bishop Paul Zipfel. It was a joyful evening of celebrating the children and recognizing those who support the work done at the home.



Sister Thomas Welder

(Spirituality / from page 10)

The young man that wrote this was successfully discharged from HOTR about one month ago. He is just one of many who have benefited from the Spiritual Program that HOTR has to offer.

My Faith Statement

Confirmation led me to believe there is another God besides drugs and alcohol. I have learned the ways of Jesus and how much He has really been there for me. When I was under the influence of drugs and alcohol, no one else mattered but my friends. I didn't want to believe what anybody said about God or where I was going with my life.

Today I am here before you to show that the power of God works in mysterious ways. God has changed my life dramatically from the self-centered person that I was to a more caring and respectful person.

I know that I have a lot to learn yet, but I am on the right track now. God has taught me that there is more to living than I thought there was. It is so good to know that my future is secure in Jesus.

Please Join Us
for the
50th Annual Champions Ride



Sunday, August 6, 2006
1:00 PM (MDT)
Advanced tickets are available.
Call HOTR at (701) 872-3745

OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS



Home On The Range would like to thank its many loyal sponsors and dedicated fans. Champions Ride could not be a success without you! Your support is greatly appreciated.

The **RANCH HAND**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
HOME ON THE RANGE

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Financial Support

HOTR does not receive direct financial support from the Bismarck Catholic Diocese. Care rates charged for services cover approximately 75% of the actual cost. The remainder must be raised through gifts, grants, our agricultural operation, fund-raising events, and investments.

Financial Statement Available

A copy of the most recent Home On The Range financial statement is available to persons or organizations upon request. Please contact our business office at (701) 872-3745.

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OF SERVICES FOR FAMILIES
AND CHILDREN, INC.



Home On The Range

provides a therapeutic ranch environment for 79 boys and girls who are disadvantaged, neglected, problematic, pre-delinquent and delinquent. Children of all races, creeds and colors are served at our facility located at Home On The Range, Sentinel Butte, North Dakota.

The **RANCH HAND**

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