

# The Ranch Hand

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**“Under the guidance of the Catholic Church, provide a safe home for all youth who have experienced physical or emotional trauma, where every act is done with love to help them discover the dignity of the human person and learn the skills to manage life’s challenges.”**

## *HOTR appoints new Executive Director*

Home On The Range announced that Laura Feldmann, LCSW, has been appointed the new Executive Director for the COA accredited organization. As an experienced clinician and having served as the Clinical Director, Laura brings to the new position more than fifteen years of social work experience. Laura assumed her responsibilities effective March 15, 2021.

Laura has a Master’s Degree in Social Work and has been the Clinical Director since 2016. Laura is certified in EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association), FIT (Feedback Informed Treatment), a certified trainer for Risking Connections and Restorative Approach and many other evidence-based therapeutic programs. In 2017, Laura studied and became certified in Traumatic Stress Studies.

Laura came to HOTR in December 2006. She began her journey with HOTR as a case manager and then moved into a newly created therapist role. Laura’s focus was working with the kids in the arena, as part of the animal assisted therapy. She received her Certification in Animal Assisted Social Work through the University of Denver in 2010. She then received training in the equine therapy models EAGALA and Natural Lifemanship. She worked diligently in both the equine and canine assisted therapy programs. Laura was instrumental in working collaboratively with HOTR personnel and Erika Berg, a professor from North Dakota State University (NDSU) to compile research based on the Equine Assisted Therapy program. Laura also worked with Amber Bach-Gorman, a Doctoral student at NDSU and completed a qualitative study on the Canine Assisted Therapy program.

“As a member of the HOTR Board and the Executive Director search committee, I couldn’t be happier that Laura Feldmann was chosen as the new Executive Director of HOTR. Her passion for the kids shines through in everything she does. She brings a wealth of knowledge to the position and the entire committee was inspired by her dedication and vision that she brings to HOTR.” *Marlo Nelson, HOTR Board Member*

Laura, her husband Loren, and four girls, currently call Beach, North Dakota home.



## **HOTR Ranch Hand**

Official Publication of  
Home On The Range



Fr. Elwood Cassedy, *Founder*



Fr. Wm. Fahlander, *Supt. Emeritus*

Laura Feldmann, LCSW, *Executive Director*  
Jolene Obrigewitch, *Dev. Director/Editor*  
Vanessa Ueckert, *Dev. Asst./Design*

### **HOTR Board of Directors**

Bishop David D. Kagen, Msgr. Gene E. Lindemann, Rev. Daniel J. Berg, Marlo Nelson, Shane Goettle, Brad Gjermundson, Dixie Wagner, Rick Mellmer, Teresa Dvorak, Brian Lardy, Charles Johnson, Michelle Hardy, Lynn Swanson, Levi Hall, Ron Zachmann, Angel Opdahl, Peter Deichert, Jr., Katherine Heger

### **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, fundraising events, and investments.*

### **Financial Statements Available**

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

### **Member:**

Child Welfare League of America

-- Equal Opportunity Employer --



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SERVICES FOR FAMILIES  
AND CHILDREN, INC.

## ***HOTR appoints new Clinical Director***

Home On The Range is proud to announce that Jodi Ebel, LCAC, has been selected as their new Clinical Director, effective April 1, 2021.

Jodi brings more than 22 years of residential treatment and clinical experience to this position. Jodi has been working with youth, in various positions, and knows first-hand the struggles many of the youth go through. She supervised youth and also various staff, both in the dorm and as a clinician, overseeing clinical staff. Jodi is certified in CBISA (Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse), ART (Aggression Replacement Training), Drug and Alcohol, and TCFBT (Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy). She is also a trainer in Risking Connections - Trauma Informed Care, CPR/First Aid, Suicide Prevention, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention and Restorative Approach and has been trained in EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing).

Jodi started at Home On The Range in 1999, working in the boys' dormitory as a dorm staff. She was responsible for supervising the boys and teaching them social skills. Throughout the years, she advanced to Assistant Charge Counselor and then later to Charge Counselor. Jodi supervised both boys and staff. Jodi was also in charge of the Independent Living Program and did case management. In 2005, with the aid of the Home On The Range's tuition assistance program, Jodi studied and received a Master's of Science degree in Human Services. Jodi later did her internship with Heart River Drug and Alcohol in Dickinson, ND. In 2008, Jodi received her Addiction Counselor license and oversaw various drug and alcohol programs, and addiction and treatment programs for the youth.

Jodi is looking forward to working with Laura Feldmann, the Executive Director and the clinical team, to help sustain HOTR's census by making sure its' therapeutic programming is the best in the State of ND. She will continue developing individualized treatment programs for residents and work to stay on the cutting edge of trauma informed therapeutic programming.

Jodi's professional goal is to enhance working relationships with the communities HOTR serves and partner with other agencies to better serve at-risk youth. Her passion is helping and treating the youth population who are sexually exploited or trafficked. Jodi is looking at adding a basic self-defense course. This would be an 8-week course offered to the girls and would basically be a Level 1 self-defense class.

Jodi states, "I'm excited about this position. I look forward to the new journey with the new leadership and all the challenges, and successes, it will bring."



## *Resident Testimonials*

Recently, several of our residents spoke to a group of ranchers about their life experiences at Home On The Range. Here is what they said:

*"I'm Bella, a 14 year old resident at Home On The Range. I'm gonna tell you a little about why work crew is important and what it means to me. Personally, I'm always wanting and willing to go on workcrew. I find it very interesting and fun, because every day we do something different. Lately we have been working in the barn with the calves since it's calving season. We have been tagging them and moving them in and out of the barn. I've learned lots of different things, like things about cows, tools, machines, and building things as a team and working together. Overall, I've had lots of fun and memorable experiences with staff and peers. I'm basically here for running away, drugs and alcohol."*

*"My name is Briyonna, I'm 16 years old and a resident of Home On The Range. I am at HOTR because of drug abuse and family problems. I've been at HOTR for a while, and the time I've spent there taught me a lot. I never knew how to work with tools or ranch animals. To be honest, I've never lived on a ranch. I'm more of a city girl, but I enjoy it. When I first started working with these guys, I thought I was gonna hate work crew, but turns out it's one of my favorite thing to do. I love feeding the cows and taking care of them. It makes me feel good about myself. It's a responsibility and a job but anyone can handle it. Working as a team was a big thing for me and still is. Because without the girls, I would probably never make it to workcrew."*

*"My name is Kyler. I think that workcrew develops character and gives good work ethics. It develops trust between my supervisor and I and it helps reach any goals I have. I feel great after working hard and busting my butt off at work. When I feed and do it right, I have fun and I feel great about myself and build self confidence. It's also important to me because I learn time management. I get up early and prepare myself before work and school and appointments. I wear the proper work clothes, not my Sunday best. I appreciate this being a thing, because without workcrew and Mr. LaBelle, I wouldn't have learned good work ethic, time management, or responsibilities. My experieces of working on ranch duties and with staff, has given me the confidence to do better with my life."*



### **CANINE THERAPY**

We have two new dogs added to the Canine Program. The two new ones are Dachshunds. One of them is the mother (front - CoCo), and the second one is her baby (Pricilla - 4 or 5 months old). Both were rescued from a reservation.





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## *Upcoming Events*

**4th Annual Dakota Scramble  
Golf Tournament at Bully Pulpit Golf Course**

***Sunday, June 27, 2021***

Contact Josh Helvik at [joshh@hotrnd.com](mailto:joshh@hotrnd.com)  
for more information!

**65th Annual Champions Ride  
Saddle Bronc Match**

***Saturday, August 7, 2021***

***1:00pm MDT***

Live Calcutta & Sponsor Reception on  
Friday, August 6 at ND Cowboy Hall of Fame in  
Medora, ND at 6PM AND Live Calcutta of qualifying  
cowboys during Saturday performance!

Home On The Range is on Facebook and Instagram! Become a fan by searching for “Home On The Range” and “Home on the Range Champions Ride Match” and stay informed of our events and activities.



*Our organization provides a therapeutic ranch environment for boys and girls who are disadvantaged, neglected, problematic, predelinquent and delinquent. Children of all races, creeds, and colors are served at our facility located in Sentinel Butte, North Dakota.*