

*Scenes from 2023  
Champions Ride Match Rodeo*



*HOTR Rodeo Committee*

Photos courtesy of Alaina Stangle Photography

68th Annual Home On The Range  
**CHAMPIONS RIDE**  
**Saddle Bronc Match**  
at the Open A Angus Arena



2023 Champion Kolby Wanchuk on  
Muddy Creek's Buggy 90.5 pts

Benefitting the boys & girls at Fr. Cassedy's ranch  
**AUGUST 3, 2024 ~ 1:00PM (MDT)**  
Home On The Range near Sentinel Butte, ND  
Exit #7 on Interstate 94



**WWW.HOTRND.COM**





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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 reach the dignity of the human person and learn the skills to manage life's challenges."*

Welcome to the 68th Annual Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match. Thank you for coming and we hope you enjoy the day because it is going to be exciting! We are pleased to have with us guests from R&J Bus Tours of Minnesota. They have been faithful supporters since 2012. Also, with us today is North Dakota's rodeo royalty, Grady Johnson who is performing live for us, and of course many top P.R.C.A. cowboys and broncs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors and advertisers that help make this event possible. You can read more about the sponsors and advertisers in our commemorative program book. Also, special thanks to our rodeo committee who have been working on this event for the past year. They work hard to make sure each year is better than the previous year.

A special thank you to all the volunteers and staff who are willing to help out today. There are many people who are donating their time to work in the concessions, helping direct traffic and parking, bringing their team and wagon for special guests, or working in the arena. We would not be able to put on an event of this magnitude without them, and their time is greatly appreciated.

We would like to thank P.R.C.A and the Cowboy Channel for live-streaming our event. Thank you to Shawn Metchewais and Consolidated Communications for providing the equipment and manpower. We are honored that the Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match will be featured on the Cowboy Channel. Check their schedule for many featured P.R.C.A. rodeos.

We are privileged to have Glee Nett, Executive Director of Children's Western Wish Foundation with us today. Glee will be recognizing an individual with a special gift presentation. You can read more about their mission and presentations at [www.CWWF.org](http://www.CWWF.org).

Also, during intermission, make sure to get your friends and family together to participate in our short-go Calcutta. The cowboys with the highest twelve scores will be competing in the short-go round. You bid on the chance that they will win, or place, and then you too, win. We pay out 80% and six places, so you have a 50/50 chance of winning some money back. The rest of the monies are given to Home On The Range.

We hope you enjoy your day with us, and realize that the Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match is more than just a rodeo. This event helps raise money to support the programs and services for the children we serve. You can read about our programs and our children's testimonials in this program book. We are proud to be approaching our 75th anniversary of helping children and families.

Happy Trails and we hope to see you next year on August 2, 2025.

*Laura Feldmann*

Laura Feldmann, LCSW

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our rodeo committee  
for making our  
68<sup>th</sup> Champions Ride  
a huge success!

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68<sup>th</sup> Annual Champions  
Ride Match

Schedule of Events

1:00 pm    Presentation of colors and sponsor flags

National Anthem - Lily Johnson  
Canadian Anthem - Connie Gjermundson

Cowboy Prayer (Father Nicholas Vetter)

Alvin Nelson Long-Go  
Saddle Bronc Riding - 1st Go, 1st Sect.  
Saddle Bronc Riding - 1st Go, 2nd Sect.

Saddle Bronc Riding - 2nd Go, 1st Sect.  
Saddle Bronc Riding - 2nd Go, 2nd Sect.

Intermission

Cowboy Calcutta

Cowboys draw stock

Stock Bios

Jim and Tom Tescher Championship Round

Awards Presentation

PRCA Photography Notice

Livestreaming of any kind, whether through Facebook Live, Periscope or any software sharing similar purposes, is **PROHIBITED**. The PRCA is the sole distributor of any and all rodeo content, and violation will be subject to review and possible legal action.

Only PRCA card/permit-holding photographers and credential media photographers may shoot photos on the rodeo grounds using a professional lens. Fans may take photos from the stands, but only with cell phones and small cameras that have **no extended lens**. Those caught using cameras with a lens attached, will be expelled from the rodeo grounds.

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## Champions Ride Past Saddle Bronc Winners

1957	Alvin Nelson, Grassy Butte, ND	1990	Dan Mortensen, Billings, MT
1958	George Menkenmaier, Burn, OR	1991	Ty Murray, Stephenville, TX
1959	Duane Howard, Minnewaukan, ND	1992	Paul Peterson, Edmund, OK
1960	Marty Wood, Bowness, Alberta, Canada	1993	Brad Gjermundson, Marshall, ND
1961	Benny Reynolds, Melrose, MT	1994	Craig Latham, Goodwell, OK
	& Pete Fredericks, Halliday, ND	1995	Rod Hay, Wildwood, Alberta, Canada
1962	Shawn Davis, Whitehall, MT	1996	Dan Mortensen, Manhattan, MT
1963	Jim Tescher, Sentinel Butte, ND	1997	Rod Hay, Wildwood, Alberta, Canada
1964	Shawn Davis, Whitehall, MT	1998	Jeremy Crane, Bismarck, ND
1965	Jim Tescher, Sentinel Butte, ND	1999	Rod Hay, Wildwood, Alberta, Canada
1966	Jim Tescher, Sentinel Butte, ND		& Glen O'Neill, Water Valley, Alberta, Canada
1967	Hugh Chambliss, Albuquerque, NM	2000	Glen O'Neill, Water Valley, Alberta, Canada
1968	Bill Smith, Cody, WY	2001	Todd Hipsag, Firth, NE
1969	Larry Mahan, Salem, OR	2002	Tom Reeves, Stephenville, TX
1970	Ralph Maynard, Eagle Butte, SD	2003	Dan Mortensen, Dillon, MT
1971	Jim Tescher, Sentinel Butte, ND	2004	Jesse Bail, Camp Crook, SD
1972	Bill Pauley, Miles City, MT	2005	Jeremy Crane, Baldwin, ND
1973	Hugh Chambliss, Albuquerque, NM	2006	Cody Wright, Milford, UT
1974	Wally Badgett, Kinsey, MT	2007	JJ Elshere, Quinn, SD
1975	Bill Pauley, Miles City, MT	2008	Cody Wright, Milford, UT
1976	John McBeth, Burden, KS	2009	James Irish, Lewistown, MT
1977	J.C. Bonine, Hysham, MT	2010	Wade Sundell, Bayholm, IA
1978	Bill Pauley, Miles City, MT	2011	Cody Wright, Milford, UT
1979	Bud Pauley, Miles City, MT	2012	Chuck Schmidt, Keldron, SD
1980	Bud Pauley, Miles City, MT	2013	Josh Reynolds, Ekalaka, MT
1981	Rockie Kukla, Killdeer, ND	2014	Cole Elshere, Faith, SD
1982	Butch Small, Dubois, ID	2015	Wade Sundell, Colman, OK
1983	Chuck Fratzke, Watford City, ND	2016	Zeke Thurston, Big Valley, AB
1984	Rockie Kukla, Killdeer, ND	2017	Allen Boore, Axtell, UT
1985	Harry Rose Jr., Clovis, CA	2018	Allen Boore, Axtell, UT
1986	Lewis Feild, Elk Ridge, UT	2019	Wade Sundell, Colman, UT
1987	Marty Jandreau, Kinnebeck, SD	2020	Zeke Thurston, Big Valley, AB
	& Tom Reeves, Eagle Butte, SD	2021	Brody Cress, Hillsdale, WY
1988	Brad Gjermundson, Marshall, ND	2022	Zeke Thurston, Big Valley, AB
1989	Robert Etbauer, Goodwell, OK	2023	Kolby Wanchuk, Sherwood Park, AB

## CALCUTTA RULES

We have a Calcutta after the first go round. For those of you not familiar with a Calcutta, it's a live auction of the cowboy's qualifying for the final go round. The payout is 80% and 20% to Champions Ride and it **pays 6 places**. Individuals, groups or businesses can bid on their favorite cowboy and cheer him to be champion, with a chance to win back some money! Bidders will need to pay the secretary at the west-side canopy by the trophy saddle, before the short go round can begin. One social security number is required. If a group is bidding, let us know by coming to the fence or telling a spotter! Payout checks will be dispersed after the rodeo at the HOTR Administration building.



# Welcome to the Home On The Range Annual Champions Ride



Sentinel Butte Ranch  
www.hotrnd.com

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE CHAMPIONS RIDE!  
WE WELCOME YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS  
REGARDING THIS EVENT.

\*\*\*\*\*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended the Champions Ride before?

\_\_\_\_ Yes, How Many Times? \_\_\_\_ No

How did you hear about the Match?

\_\_\_\_ Radio Station \_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_  
Station? Which paper?

\_\_\_\_ Posters \_\_\_\_ HOTR Ranch Hand \_\_\_\_ ND Tour Guide

\_\_\_\_ Facebook \_\_\_\_ Other

What did you like most about the Champions Ride?

RATINGS	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Announcers				
Concessions				
Parking				
Stock				
Cowboys				

We welcome your comments regarding the Champions Ride!

What suggestions could you make regarding the future years of  
Champions Ride?

## Champions Ride Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pause, mindful of the many blessings You bestow upon us at Home On The Range, and among our friends gathered here today. We ask that You be with us at the Champions Ride 68<sup>th</sup> year, and we pray that You will guide us in the arena of life. We don't ask for special favors; we don't ask to draw around a chute-fightin' horse, not to break a barrier, or to never be faced with challenges in our day-to-day lives. We do ask, Lord, for safety of the animals and competitors in the arena and for safe travels following today's event.

Help us, Lord, to live our lives in such a manner, that when we make that last inevitable ride to the country up there, where the grass grows lush, green and stirrup high, and the water runs cool, clear and deep, that You, as our Last Judge, will tell us that our entry fees are paid. Amen.



Barney Sheridan is from the small town of Arlee in Western Montana. A resident for over 30 years, Barney is an announcer with the PRCA, announcing many ProRodeos throughout the year from Washington to Arizona, Idaho, Wyoming, the Dakotas and of course Montana. This year he will work at more than 20 events and more than 50 performances. Barney says "I Love the fact that you have to travel a long way to see most professional sports, But in ProRodeo... we bring the best in the world, right to your backyard! Barney's wife Tara, daughter Nicolle, and son Cody are all members of the PRCA. Tara and Nicolle are both PRCA Music Directors, and his son Cody Sheridan is a Professional Tie Down Roper. "We all get together for a nice dinner in April, and stay in touch throughout the summer season. Everybody going different directions... gets a little crazy at times".

Barney has announced the Turquoise Circuit Finals in Arizona, has received the Western Heritage Award from The University of Montana, and in January 2017 was honored to receive the Western Heritage Award from The Montana ProRodeo Hall And Wall Of Fame. This is Barney's 7th year of announcing at the Champions Ride Match.

# West Plains Inc. is a proud supporter of Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match and Home On The Range



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to help with our farming  
operation.*



## Bovine Embryo Transfer Program

Since 2008, Home On The Range has been participating in the embryo transfer program. Home On The Range has entered into a contract with Open A Ranch (Jim Arthaud) and Heart River Ranch (Annette Steffan). The staff and children bring the cows in, implant the CIDR (a progesterone impregnated devise), inject a shot of GnRH (gonadotropin hormone), and then remove the CIDR and finally, the embryologist transfers the frozen embryo into the cow's uterus. The children are a little apprehensive at first, never really being around cattle and such a procedure. But once they get comfortable and know what their job is, the children take responsibility and help put on ear tags and even learn how to palpate the cow later to see if she is pregnant. It's a great program for Home On The Range and teaching children about cattle reproduction.



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**Sale:** Wednesday, February 5, 2025  
Begger's Diamond V Ranch's Big Sky Genetic Source Bull Sale Offering 180 all black-hided bulls, Black Simmental, Sim-Angus and Angus Bulls, every one polled, most homozygous black, 70 are 18 month-old fall-born, and 110 big stout early spring-born.

Bill and Darlene Begger  
406-796-2326 Wibaux, MT  
darbegger@gmail.com

John and Alicia Begger  
406-956-0151

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## LASSLE RANCH SIMMENTALS

**Sale:** Thursday, February 13, 2025  
Annual Bull Sale  
Selling 125 Simmental and Sim-Angus Bulls.

Clay and Marianne Lassle  
406-486-5584 Glendive, MT  
lrsbeef@midrivers.com

Ryan and Sarah Thomson  
406-694-3722

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NL

## NELSON LIVESTOCK COMPANY

**Sale:** Monday, February 10, 2025  
Nelson Livestock Company's Production Sale  
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Tom and Renee Nelson: 406-588-3371 Wibaux, MT  
nlcsim@midrivers.com  
Brent Nelson: 406-978-2697  
Taylen Nelson: 406-853-3620

*These bulls are ranch-raised in the same environments that they are bred to work in. Where performance is bred on and not fed on. Yes, they will calve easy, wean heavy, and be in demand by the cowmen and women that feed the world. Feeders love them, packers pay premiums for them, and the consumer enjoys the great eating experience they produce.*

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Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2024 Giving Hearts Day. Home On The Range raised over \$65,000 in online donations! We appreciate your support and hope you will participate in Giving Hearts Day 2025, which will be Thursday, February 13, 2025.

Watch our website and Facebook page for details.



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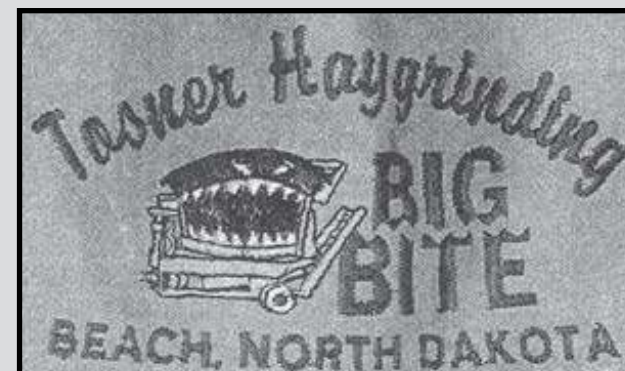


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## "Starfish Award"



In honor of our staff who are dedicated to helping our children, we have started the "Starfish Award." Our staff have a challenging job. They form relationships with the children and teach them appropriate behaviors and skills which will help them later in life. After a child graduates from our program, they will be asked which staff made the biggest impression on them. That staff will receive a Starfish Award, which in essence says, "I made a difference in this child's life."

## A Child's prayer

Give me clean hands, clean words,  
clean thoughts.  
Help me stand for the hard right against  
the easy wrong.  
Save me from the habits that harm.  
Teach me to work as hard and play as fair in  
Thy sight alone as if the world saw.  
Forgive me when I am unkind and  
help me to forgive those who are  
unkind to me.  
Keep me ready to help others at some cost  
to myself.  
Send me chances to do a little good  
every day.  
And so grow more like Christ.

## Home On The Range

A corporation under the auspices of the Bismarck Catholic Diocese of western North Dakota, Home On The Range is a licensed residential child care facility. We provide an around-the-clock therapeutic environment for neglected, disadvantaged, unruly, problematic, and delinquent youth. Many residents are victims of abuse, harbor feelings of anger, have had problems in school, or face drug and alcohol addictions. "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."

Our program offers a caring, safe, and loving environment where youth of all race, creed, religion, and national origin may learn and experience self-worth. Through individually designed treatment plans, residents develop responsible living skills, acknowledging the importance of God, all human beings and His creations.

Home On The Range cares for a total of 36 children at Sentinel Butte, North Dakota. Home On The Range accepts children from states across the nation.

Services to children and families, leadership in the child care field, and the conviction to making a healthier and stronger world, characterize the Home On The Range philosophy. This philosophy is built on a foundation of Christian values and brings healing to families.



## Home On The Range Is Putting Kids Back in the Saddle

Are you a John Wayne fan? He's had many notable quotes, and one that may be familiar to many of you is: "Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway." This may also accurately describe the attitude of many of our boys and girls.

Home On The Range is licensed to care for boys and girls, ages 12-18. The children have experienced trauma that many people can't even imagine. They may have been traumatized by events that happened to them (verbal, physical or sexual abuse); witnessed situations that happened around them (domestic violence or family members being removed from the home); or maybe they are suffering from environments because it happened and shouldn't have (neglect, lack of food, shelter, supervision, or the sense of feeling safe and cared for).



While the children are at Home On The Range, they can attend school or work on the G.E.D. certificate, participate in spiritual programs, or recreational and work activities. There are many therapeutic groups the boys and girls can choose from, or be assigned to, to help them heal. The groups also teach the children ways to cope and deal with life's challenges, how to form positive relationships with peers and adults, and give them new life skills to help them feel safe, and become successful in the communities.

One of our successful therapeutic groups is our equine assisted program. There are many groups under this umbrella, including EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association), Rhythmic Riding, mule driving and therapeutic riding. Each group has different activities and goals. The children can be on the ground working with their horses, or riding a horse in the indoor arena keeping up to the beat of music. There is nothing staged or practiced. But there is healing, a realization of where they may need help, and lots of emotions.



Sometimes there is so much pain, sadness or frustration, the child may not want to move forward. But with the staff's empathy, understanding, patience and encouragement, the child can face the challenge and learn how to cope, even overcome it. This experience can carry over into other relationships the child has and other groups. It is rewarding to see the look on the child's face and body when they feel happy and confident, knowing they have accomplished something.

It is a process and our goal is to give the child confidence, new-found skillsets, and a foundation to build positive relationships to get them back in the saddle.





# Adventure Therapy Program

Adventure Therapy is an experiential therapy approach where members are able to work through their trauma based challenges through outdoor and healthy living activities. It is an effective tool for overcoming a wide range of mental health challenges including (but not limited to): PTSD, substance abuse, anxiety, depression, eating disorders, and traumatic life experiences.

This year we went to Medora and tubed on the Little Missouri River. We tubed first day to our camping site, camped, then tubed the second day to an end point. The boys learned how to maintain safety, work through obstacles along the river, and take items needed to travel with only tubes. Throughout group, we hiked, made camp fires, and learned how to cook over a fire. We are worknig with the girls in teaching canoeing, cooking over a fire and will do our capstone camping trip in Medora. We have also incorporated taking the canine dog with us during hikes as well!

We'd like to thank all of Home On The Range's supporters for their contributions this last year to the Adventure Therapy Program. Your generosity and future support makes Adventure Therapy possible and gives the youth in our care the best opportunities to work through their trauma in new, challenging, and exciting ways!



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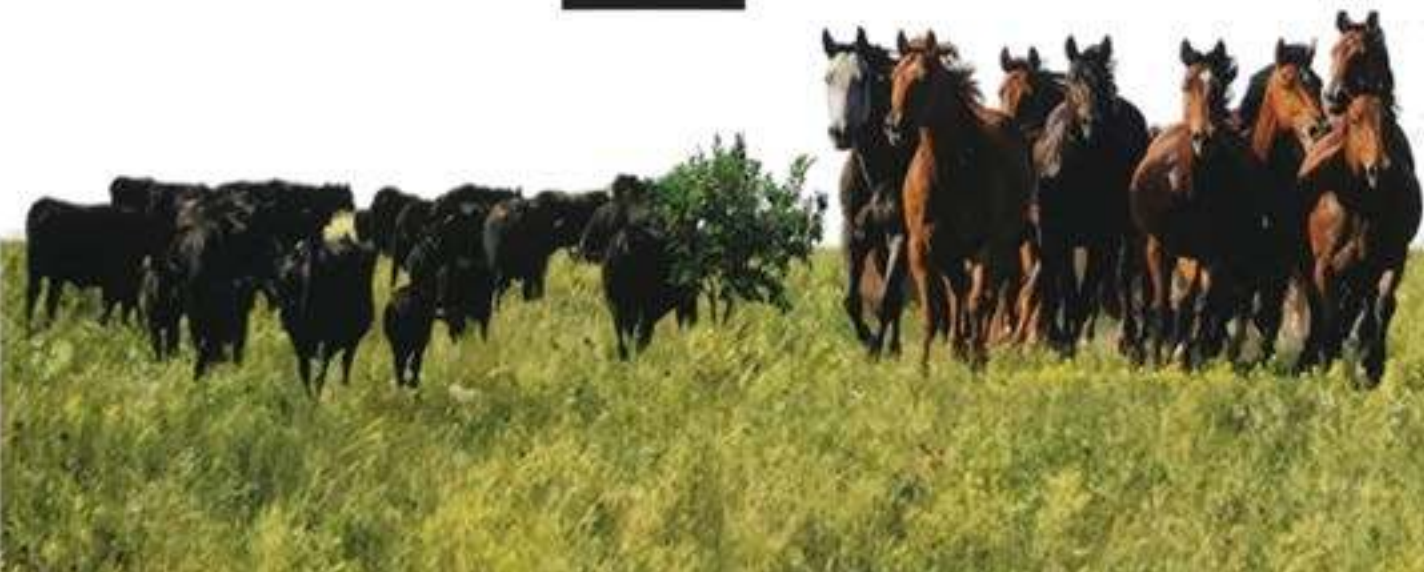
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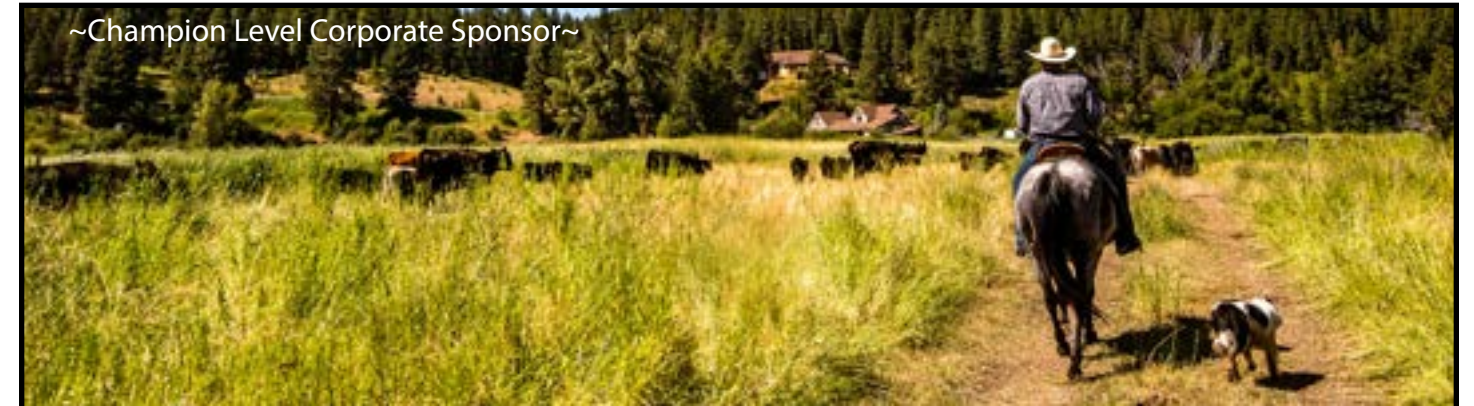
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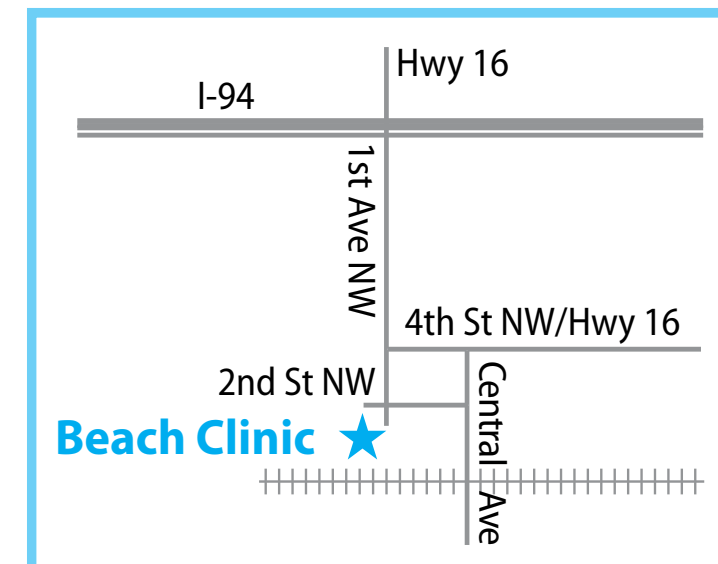
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\*Text is taken directly from their written testimonials. Grammar and spelling hasn't been corrected or changed. Due to confidentiality reasons, their names have been changed.

"Hi my name is Charlie. I'm 14 I lived in Jacksonville, FL for 9 years, then I moved to Williston, ND. I have 10 siblings. I started smoking weed when I was 9. I started vaping when I was 7. I've been vaping and smoking ever since. When I was growing up I didn't have my parents around a lot. My dad was a alcoholic for a while. My mom was gone most of the time doing stuff. My dad was always working to make money for us, so me and my siblings kind of had free rain for a while so we really did what we wanted to. Then during the beginning of the summer of 2021 my mom left us and left my dad. They were married for 20+ years so it was hard for my dad and all of us older siblings new what was going on so we told the younger kids lies to protect them, but I was so busy focusing on everybody else I didn't take time for me, so I started to blame my dad for my mom leaving us then I started to smoke, drink and vape more. I started to sneak out with my friends and my ex. I started car hopping. I started stealing food from stores to help my family survive. I stole guns to sell for money. I went around doing stuff I shouldn't have. I started skipping school. When I did go, I would vape and smoke weed in the bathroom. I would get in fights at school too and my siblings saw the things I was doing, so they started to follow in my foot steps. They all look up to me and I didn't realize that. My dad kept telling me that all summer and I didn't listen. I went to the YAC and I kept running away from there so I got sent to YCC for a few days. They did that to scare me so I went back to the YAC. Then on November 14 I came to Home On The Range. Since I've been here I've learned how to read a clock on the wall. I learned how to change oil and I've learned some coping skills. I've learned how to calm my stress down by thinking about the people I love and getting in fights won't help me get out of here, so that has helped me through a lot. Home On The Range has also taught me that I'll have to work with people I might not like or get along with, so they have prepaired me for a job outside of here. So these are the things they have taught me. So far I am happy to be at Home On The Range."

"Hi my name is George. I'm from Minnesapolis, MN. I lived there till I was 12 years old. My mom moved my siblings and I to Jamestown, ND. When we got there I started getting into trouble. When I turned 13 I got sent to the youth correctional center in Mandan. I was there for 2 months and after that I got sent to DBGR in Bismarck. When I left I was 15 and went into foster care. I didn't get along with my foster family and was there for about three months because I started getting into trouble with selling weed and I had a problem with alcohol. I got caught and got sent to YCC again. I was at YCC for a year and 11 months. I left when I turned 17 and went to another foster family. They were in Devils Lake. When I got there I got off to a bad start. I started skipping classes and I had a nicotine addiction and I started smoking weed again and I started drinking again. I got told that I will end up getting sent away again if I keep failing to follow my community placement agreement so I got a job at Dairy Queen and tried to stay in classes but it wasn't enough and I got sent to Home On The Range. While I've been here though I've learned how to change oil on cars. I help with feeding the cows. I'm doing my GED. Once I'm finished with my GED I'm going to start working full time on the work crew and my IL worker has helped me with a lot of stuff like teaching me how to pay taxes. I've signed up for the selective services and he helped me get an apartment set up for me in Devils Lake for when I get out. Home On The Range has helped me more in the 2 months that I've been here than YCC helped me in the year and 11 months. It's taught me how to be more mature and responsible and how to succeed in life."

## ALVIN NELSON Changed Saddle Bronc Riding FOREVER!!!



Just who is this Alvin Nelson? The inimitable George Williams – 2008 Rodeo Hall of Fame honoree in Oklahoma City's **National Cowboy Hall of Fame** – is unequivocally the richest source of deeply educated (as in "rode, walked and competed more miles in deep arena dirt") and trustworthy information on everything having to do with rodeo. Listen to these written/published commentaries of George's from 1957, referring to Alvin Nelson as "Ole":

"Starting in '57, January, at Odessa, TX, where the horses really bucked, when the draw went on the wall, and 'Ole' had *Pretty Boy*, I told them of Alvin Nelson, 'Boys, be sure and don't miss this one. It's likely to be the greatest bronc ride you ever saw.' He marked 208, a record I believe 'til yet. 'That summer at Casper, WY, he rode a new horse called *Goodbye Now* that brought 'em from the kitchen. Doyle Cobbler, who flanked him, turned to me and asked, 'What would you have marked his ride?' My jaw hanging slack, I said, 'I was so busy watching that horse buck, I couldn't tell you if he spurred him once.' It was the rankest horse I ever saw anyone make the whistle on. A big stout, fast, ducking, bad headed horse that spun a couple

of rounds and kicked right square out to the side. I didn't see how the saddle stayed on. Jo Weeks of Abilene, TX exclaimed, "That was the best bronc ride I ever saw!"

"Ole' gave them all a hardware bath and you couldn't buck him off. He rode Jake, considered just about unrideable at that time, three times! In Dickinson, ND, Alvin rode a terribly dirty horse that caused Bill Linderman to exclaim, "I'm glad I saw that. That's the most I ever saw anybody spur a horse that was that hard to ride." (George Williams) Not long after hanging the 1957 World Champion Bronc Rider buckle on his belt, Alvin was drafted to the Army. In 1960, barely home from military service, he nearly won the title again! The National Finals Rodeo (NFR) had been born while Alvin was across the pond, wearing Army green. He found it much to his liking – competing there five times, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1964, and 1966 –winning his event average in both 1961 and 1962; plus the Dallas NFR All Around Title in 1961. Yes, you read that right - while Alvin's forte was decidedly bronc riding, he rode barebacks and bulls with a similar flair. His style and control awarded him plenty of winning scores in both.

Alvin's win at New York's legendary Madison Square Garden the fall of 1957 set an all-time record for the most money won at a single bronc riding event... a record that held for an unbelievable 23 years! The North Dakota ranch cowboy's brilliant discovery and pioneer development of "quarter binds" for stirrups on his saddle was a game-changing miracle, revolutionizing bronc riding forever. In retrospect Alvin pondered, "I shouldn't have told my friends - the other saddle bronc riders - about it!" He need not have worried. The bronc riding wizardry Alvin Nelson accomplished in that saddle has yet to be equaled! A couple years ago Kaye and some video experts in North Dakota created a compilation of still photos Alvin had bought from rodeo photographers across his years of competition. Set to music, that video is the epitome of bronc riding perfection...an ethereal dance that should stream on a wall twelve feet tall as moving backdrop to every stage where the Russian Royal Ballet performs - *to enhance their dance!*

When Alvin got tapped off it was excellence, perfection! This slight-built North Dakota ranch cowboy magically transposed the bone-jarring athletic gyrations of bred-to-buck broncs into the flawless supernatural dance of a *centaur!* During his unbelievably lengthy, amazing sports career, Alvin rode saddle broncs professionally from 1957 through 1973...plus making some very memorable, winning bull and bareback conquests. Across that 17-year span he won and placed at all of America's biggest rodeos! Far from ready to leave the arena, Alvin continued team roping into the 1990s, a legacy now perpetuated by his son Louis. A song sung by Bette Midler on a 1990 film soundtrack garnered high musical honors. The world loves, and will never stop singing "*Wind Beneath My Wings*." To me it epitomizes the story of a blonde, beautiful ranch girl wearing a 1957 Miss Rodeo North Dakota crown on her stylish hat at the Cow Palace rodeo in California when Casey Tibbs casually asked her if she'd met Alvin Nelson. Kaye answered, "No, but I would like to." Casey gathered up the shy ranch cowboy and made the introduction that began one of the West's great, decades-long love stories...and that was the moment the wonderful warm wind that never left him first caressed Alvin Nelson's bronc riding wings!

(Written by Rhonda Sterns)



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Planned giving and grants involve gifts for the betterment of life. Benefits range from helping others, to reducing taxes for you. Consult your attorney to determine the best option for you. The following have established such a gift to Home On The Range from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

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## A history of serving troubled youth since 1950

... "Home, home on the range..." This old folk song still rings true today. For 36 boys and girls, Home On The Range is a home to them while they receive the care they need.

Children are referred to Home On The Range for many different reasons. They may have been victims of abuse, have drug or alcohol addictions, not be attending school on a regular basis, or have inappropriate behavior. Home On The Range has adopted our version of Trauma Informed Care (TIC) - "Relational Habilitation Model." This is an approach to engage people with histories of trauma that recognizes the presence of trauma symptoms and acknowledges the role that trauma has played in their lives. TIC is remembering nothing that the kid does is as important as what happened to him/her. TIC focuses on where the kid is in his/her development, not where we think someone that age should be.

Other important components of our program include work programs and recreation. Every boy and girl is assigned to a work crew and given a task. It could be mowing, fencing, cleaning, kitchen work, or working with the forest service or a business in town. When they complete the job, they are given an allowance to spend or put in their savings account. Recreation is vital to

happiness and good health. The kids participate in many activities, including fishing, basketball, horseshoes, swimming, camping, horseback riding, movies, softball, hiking, golf, and crafts.

Our program wouldn't be complete without education - both scholastically and spiritually, which are equally important. A healthy mind makes a healthy body. The residents go to school in nearby Beach. When they need extra help with their schoolwork or assignments, they can attend an evening study hall and receive help from the teaching staff. Our spiritual program is a strong part of our program. In fact, our mission statement says it all - "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." By giving the children spiritual guidance and development, they accept God into their lives and learn to forgive and go on with their lives in a more positive direction.

"...where seldom is heard, a discouraging word, and the skies are not cloudy all day." There is no such thing as a bad child, just bad behavior. At Home On The Range, we encourage the children to change their behavior and find the good within themselves.



## HOME ON THE RANGE DRUG & ALCOHOL PROGRAM

Our drug and alcohol program is a combination of abstinence based, non-abstinence based, support group, and education. The platform is a 12-week program with youth who are working on making changes and being able to continue in the support group for as long as they want.

Components of the drug and alcohol program are:

- ~ Stages of Change
- ~ Harm Reduction vs. Abstinence
- ~Goals
- ~Pharmacology
- ~Cues, Triggers, Coping Skills
- ~Sex Education
- ~ Family History
- ~ Legal Issues/Responsibility
- ~ Co-occurring Disorders
- ~ Strength /Family Support/Connection
- ~ Long Term Plans/Commitment to Change
- ~ Independent Living
- ~ Cultural Differences
- ~ Relapse Prevention

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## 2023 Rodeo Results

Place	Name	Score of Long Go
1	Kolby Wanchuk	90.5
2	Damian Brennan	88
3/4	Chase Brooks	87.5
3/4	Wyatt Casper	87.5
5/6/7	Zeke Thurston	87
5/6/7	Sage Newman	87
5/6/7	Lefty Marvel Holman	87
8	Brody Cress	86.5

Place	Name	Score of Short Go
1	Brody Cress	91.5
2	Kolby Wanchuk	91
3/4	Sage Newman	90.5
3/4	Damian Brennan	90.5
5/6/6	Layton Green	88.5
5/6/6	Logan Cook	88.5
5/6/6	Lefty Marvel Holman	88.5

Congratulations to our  
2023 Champion  
Kolby Wanchuk with  
181.5 total points!

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# Honoring Loved Ones

Home On The Range is grateful to all its benefactors and friends who support the programs and services which help neglected and disadvantaged children. A wonderful way to help Home On The Range and honor loved ones is with memorial gifts. A gift may be given in memory of or in honor of a loved one or special friend. It can commemorate a special occasion or holiday or be a memorial in lieu of flowers following a death. We will gladly acknowledge the family of your gift. The honoree's name(s) is listed in our annual commemorative issue of the Ranch Hand. Please feel free to contact the Development Office or use the coupon below.

This is a \_\_\_\_\_ memorial or \_\_\_\_\_ honorarium in the name of:

Please send an acknowledgment of this gift to:

(Be sure to include a complete mailing address.)

Thank you!

The residents take a very active role in taking care of the animals at Home On The Range. They feed bum calves, horses, and grain to the cattle.



# Thank you to Alaina Stangle 2023 Champions Ride Photographer!



[www.alainastanglephoto.com](http://www.alainastanglephoto.com)

# SHAMROCK PROJECT

Since 1965, the North Dakota Knights of Columbus have been helping Home On The Range through their Shamrock Project. During March, in honor of St. Patrick's Day, councils across the state promote the well-known green chenille Shamrock pins and ask for a free-will donation. This year, many councils participated and over **\$44,000** was raised! Home On The Range is grateful to the Knights, and all who contributed to the annual Shamrock fundraiser!

# 2024 Miscellaneous Sponsors

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# Holidays



The children get excited about holidays such as Halloween and Christmas.



For Halloween, the kids carved pumpkins and put them on display.

During the Christmas season, the kids do seasonal activities. Most of the children were able to go home to their families

for Christmas. For the few that were here over the holidays, Santa came on Christmas morning and handed out Christmas gifts. The children and staff enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner of turkey and the trimmings.

Once all the kids return from break, we have a New Year's Day party. The kids play lots of different games and win prizes such as liters of pop, games, movies, toys, blankets, footballs, etc. Our children really enjoy this and have a great time!



## 2023 Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Champion Kolby Wanchuk



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## Home On The Range Canine Therapy Program



The Home On The Range Canine Program partners currently with Fargo rescue shelters along with neighboring foster homes to assist both dogs and children. The canine program is an 8-week experiential program, teaming residents with dogs to assist residents in building coping skills, self-control, patience, responsibility, and relationship skills. Each week focuses on a different treatment skill such as compassion, communication or team work. Members of the canine program assess each dog, identify problem behaviors where each dog needs help and then develops a treatment plan for each dog. Residents in the canine program learn to identify the needs of their canine partners. They also learn responsibility by taking care of the dogs daily, ensuring that the dogs are fed, watered, exercised, learning the needed skills and living in a safe and clean kennel area. Through their treatment plans, the dogs learn loose leash walking, and they learn basic commands such as sit, down, and stay. They also learn how to focus on their handler, along with place and crate training. The dogs learn to overcome fear while residents work with them through agility obstacle courses. Additionally, the dogs learn to trust and bond with their handler. Over the course of the last couple of years, residents in the canine program have helped **23** dogs find forever homes. We currently are working with rescue dogs and local shelters and were also able to work with K9Crew leader, Joe Fluge's retired explosive detection dog, Shia. Residents worked on active searches with Shia around campus which was built on helping residents continue to develop their skills mentioned above and also gave them an opportunity to not only work on training dogs to prepare them for adoption, but experience working with a highly trained working detection dog.

Graduates from the canine program state that they learn trust while working with the dogs, they love dogs, and learn that dogs want relationships with them. Graduates of the canine program state that the dogs helped them learn patience. One resident states that he gets stressed easily and that working with the dogs helps him work on controlling his anger. Another resident stated that a session that focused on communication skills was useful for him because "I need to learn how to communicate nice sometimes." A second resident observed that the session on communication helped him to do better in school. Additionally, a resident stated that this group taught her that others can love her because the dogs can love her and that "there will always be a bump in the road and that there is fun and happiness in the world." Finally, a recent youth stated that working with the dogs "keeps me sane."

If you have any questions, please contact Brittany Williams at 701-872-3745, ext. 7120. **THANK YOU for all of your support for our loving canines and the youth we serve at HOTR!**





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*"Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from Him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court." Psalm 127: 3-5*



**Good Luck Cowboys!**

Father Nicholas Vetter, HOTR Chaplain and Board of Directors Secretary/Treasurer  
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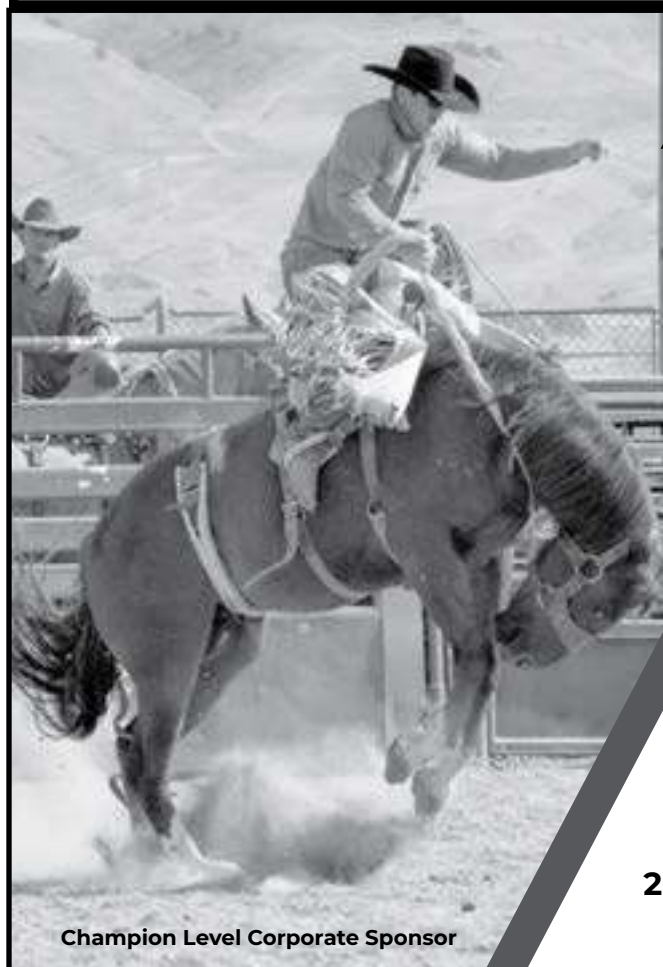


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## Horseback riding

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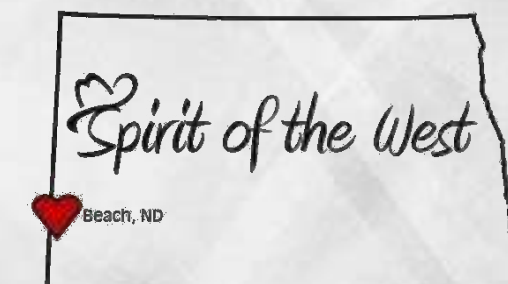
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Spirit of the West is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, formed in 2002, through strategic planning for Beach and the surrounding area. Spirit of the West was created to promote and sustain the Home On The Range rodeo, give local businesses and organizations an opportunity to prosper, and encourage people to visit our area.



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Businesses (C corporations, S corporations, estates, limited liability companies, trusts and financial institutions) that pay state income tax may receive a 49% credit up to a maximum credit of \$10,000 for contributions to a qualified ND endowment. Even better, the unused portion of that tax credit can be carried forward for three years.

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See ND Century Code 57-38-01.21 and 57-35.3 for details.

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### **Badlands Learning Center**

Since July 1, 2024, five students have completed the EmpowerU courses. One received a certificate in Building Maintenance Technologies and another received a semester credit in Language Arts 9.

## THANK YOU



**for providing the crane  
and American Flag for  
today's performance!**





## CANINE ASSISTED THERAPY

Xena is still looking for her forever home! She was found near the Montana state line. She appears to be roughly 4-5 years old. She is up to date with her shots and is spayed. The kids at HOTR are working on crate and place training, the treadmill, healing and loose leash walking, sit, and down. She appears nervous with new people and environments, so takes a little time to warm up. Once she does, all she wants is attention!

She is available for adoption.

A youth that has worked weekly with Xena and the K9 program would like everyone to know this:

“The HOTR K9 program has not just changed my life, it has showed me what I am good at and what I am meant to do in life and what makes me not want to do drugs and be an angry kid. I have been at HOTR for 8 months now. See I am not going to say I am a different person, but I do have a different mindset and I could not have done it by myself. I will say I am so happy. See this place showed me no matter what I have been through or what I have done, I can have a different life other than fighting, running away, and doing drugs at 14. When I helped a dog in the K9 program find a home and learned how to train dogs something switched my mind. My whole life I have wanted to be an architect but since that day I never want to stop training

dogs and finding dogs homes. No one is going to change that all thanks to the amazing people who helped me chase my dreams, so again thank you HOTR K9.”



If you are interested, please contact Brittany Williams at 701-872-3745, ext. 7120 or by email at [brittanyw@hotrnd.com](mailto:brittanyw@hotrnd.com).



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## Programming for youth who have experienced sexual exploitation or trafficking

Home On The Range is licensed to care for 36 children, boys and girls ages 12-19 years old. We offer many therapeutic and evidence-based programs to help the children. One of our niche programming is providing specialty programming for the commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC). According to the Home On The Range admission records from October 1, 2018 through October 1, 2022, **83%** of the females admitted were assessed as CSEC.

HOTR collaborates with other nonprofit agencies and service providers to help the CSEC population. We partner with Youthworks, the ND Human Trafficking Navigator, and Rachel Thomas, founder of Ending The Game, to mentor and guide our youth through the treatment and post-treatment process. We have gained statewide attention for this programming. We provide several groups that are evidenced based, or promising practices in working with these youth including groups like Girls Circle, My Life My Choice, and Ending The Game. We also work with the youth doing experiential work with horses and dogs to work out their relationship issues that they may have experienced. We address their trauma affected brains by doing bottom up programming. This refers to programming that aims to improve youths' abilities to regulate and develop more control over internal operations including heart rate, breathing, and speech rate. By doing this, the youth is better able to regulate their flight, fight and/or flee responses.

For example, we conduct a Rhythmic Riding group that involves the youth riding bareback in a circle to music. Between songs, a brief meditation, relaxation exercise or guided meditation is conducted. The music begins again, and the youth walk their horses in a circle in the opposite direction. The youth are told they have only one job - to make the rhythm of the music, match the rhythm of their body, match the rhythm of their horses. As youth progress in this program, they typically display improvements of stress tolerance, internal regulation and ability to relax, that are evident to the naked eye. The key then, becomes transitioning this skill to staff and adults, peers and other settings outside of the arena.

### Some of the other groups include:

- Ending the Game with an equine component
- Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse
- Social Emotional Learning
- Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS) by our trained nurse
- Self Defense
- Trauma Informed Yoga



## *Badlands Learning Center*

Home On The Range (HOTR) is pleased to announce we will soon have a non-public school on our campus called Badlands Learning Center. HOTR made the announcement after receiving written approval from North Dakota Department of Public Instruction/Center for Distance Education (NDDPI/CDE) and being awarded a \$300,000 grant from Dunn County.

The classrooms and school will be located in the Carus Building. There will be four classrooms and the school will be open year-round. HOTR has recently hired a special education teacher. We are currently in the process of hiring learning coach supervisors and learning coaches.

The application and proposal was submitted to CDE to help HOTR residents receive academic credits for their classes. The average length of stay for a HOTR resident is four months. Because of this short-term placement, the residents weren't in school long enough to complete classes and receive full credit(s). In the 2022-23 school year, only 38% of the HOTR youth in school received earned credits.

The youth attending Badlands Learning Center will partner with the Center for Distance Education. The student's classes will be online and lead by a certified teacher from a remote location. When the resident leaves HOTR, he/she will be a student of the CDE and will be able to complete their course anytime from his/her home, a library, or home school district. The classes and credits will transfer with the youth. The CDE keeps track of the grades and transcripts. The youth can take the classes at his/her own pace.

Badlands Learning Center will be open year-round and the schedule will be determined by the administration and staff, and won't necessarily follow the regular public school schedule.

HOTR will have a small class beginning in June and be in full operation in August.



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Jim Tescher 1966



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Bill Smith 1968



Larry Mahan 1969



Ralph Maynard 1970



Jim Tescher 1971



Bill Pauley 1972



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Wally Badgett 1974



Bill Pauley 1975



John McBeth 1976



JC Bonine 1977



Bill Pauley 1978



Bud Pauley 1979



Bud Pauley 1980



Rockie Kukla 1981



Butch Small 1982



Chuck Fratzke 1983



Rockie Kukla 1984



Harry Rose 1985



Lewis Feild 1986



Marty Jandreau 1987  
Tom Reeves 1987



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Rod Hay 1997



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Glenn O'Neill 2000



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Wade Sundell 2010



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