

The Ranch Hand

Volume 44, Number 3

Summer 2025

"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."

Celebrating 75 years!

Come join us for our 75th Anniversary Celebration!

Sunday, August 3, 2025

Home On The Range picnic & swing area

11:30 - 12:30pm Free, family-friendly BBQ and picnic

1:00pm Program

Following the program, there will be time for fellowship or hike to the top of Cassedy Hill. Feel free to pay your respects to Father Cassedy and Father Fahnlander, or just take in the beauty of the ranch from above. Free yard games throughout the afternoon for children and those who are young at heart.

Guests will be invited to share a special moment or memory on our story board; A funny story about Home On The Range or a staff, a memory about Father Cassedy or Father Fahnlander, or a special time while at Home On The Range.

Please RSVP at 701-872-3745 or scan the QR code below.



HOTR Ranch Hand

Official Publication of
Home On The Range



Fr. Elwood Cassidy, *Founder*



Fr. Wm. Fahnländer, *Supt. Emeritus*

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

HOTR Board of Directors

Bishop David D. Kagan, Msgr. Gene E. Lindemann, Rev. Nicholas Vetter, Lynn Swanson, Levi Hall, Ron Zachmann, Angel Opdahl, Dirk Smutzler, Brad Gjermundson, Peter Deichert, Jr., Katherine Heger, LoAnn Roshau, Bill Schmid, Martin Peterson, Heidi Anderson, Annette Steffan, Nathan Berseth and Dave Marion.

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:

Association of Children's
Residential & Community Services



- Equal Opportunity Employer -



ACCREDITED COUNCIL
ON ACCREDITATION OF
SERVICES FOR FAMILIES
AND CHILDREN, INC.

Home On The Range receives accreditation

Home On The Range has achieved national accreditation through COA Accreditation. Organizations pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice stands in the field of human services. COA Accreditation evaluated all aspects of HOTR programs, services, management and administration.

COA Accreditation, a service of Social Current, is an objective, independent and reliable validation of an agency's performance. The accreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization's administration, management, and service delivery functions against international standards of best practice. The standards driving accreditation ensure that services are well-coordinated, culturally competent, evidence-based, outcomes-oriented, and provided by a skilled and supported workforce. COA Accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.

Based on their findings, COA Accreditation's volunteer-based Accreditation Commission voted that HOTR had successfully met the criteria for accreditation.

"We are proud to recognize HOTR as an outstanding provider who has met high performance standards and made a commitment to delivering quality services. We wish you the very best in your continuing work with the individuals you serve," stated Jody Levison-Johnson, President & CEO, Social Current.



She continued, "Please extend thanks and congratulations to your board members and staff, who have worked so hard to achieve accreditation. You should all take enormous pride in this accomplishment."

The Loss of Brother Samuel Larson

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Brother Sam Larson. He was an instrumental person in the lives of generations of children served by HOTR, their family members and the staff. Brother Sam worked at Home On The Range for 33 years, and volunteered for many years after. He was a positive influence and impacted innumerable lives through his love for God and His creation.

Birth: February 2, 1933

Profession: March 19, 1950

Death: June 13, 2025

"Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him."

You may read his full obituary at:

<https://www.silhafuneralhomes.com/obituaries/>



LOOKING BACK 75 YEARS

Home On The Range Timeline of Major Projects

1950	First building on HOTR - Father's office, bedrooms, dining room, Chapel, storage; The building was later converted to a business building and staff offices.
1954	4-H Barn
1957	1st rodeo arena. Added bucking chutes to south end in 1991. In 2021, redone the third time with pipe and suckered panels and over the chute seating.
1960	Construction of new boys' dormitory - Eagle Hall - full gymnasium, Chapel, library, bedrooms, bathrooms, recreation rooms.
1968	Schlosser Building/Butcher Shop
1970	Ray Schnell shop building - 1999 remodeled into alternative classroom
1971	New dairy barn and chicken laying building
1982	Brunet Hall - kitchen, dining area, laundry services in basement; remodeled again in 2013 for larger kitchen and smaller dining area.
1990	Fahnlander Hall - staff housing 4-plex converted into two-story girls' dormitory
1992	Clem Casey Hall. As a smaller building, this building has had a number of reformatations. From staff housing to Independent Living in 2004; girls dorm overflow in 2005; Trauma Recovery Unit in 2016, temporary boys' dorm 2022.
2001	New Fahnlander Hall building - dormitory style housing for maximum of 24 girls dining area, staff offices, laundry, telephone and medical rooms, recreation rooms, TV area
2007	Baertsch indoor arena and dog kennels
2009	Eagle Hall bathroom remodel project
2010	New pump house and hook up to southwest water project
2014	Alwin C. Carus Building - library, classroom, employee training room, weight room, offices. 2024 remodeled for four classrooms for Badlands Learning Center.
2018	Eagle Hall South remodel project
2020	Eagle Hall library converted to staff offices
2022	Eagle Hall East Wing remodel project
2025	Administration building basement rooms converted into nurses' office space and medication rooms

Badlands Learning Center

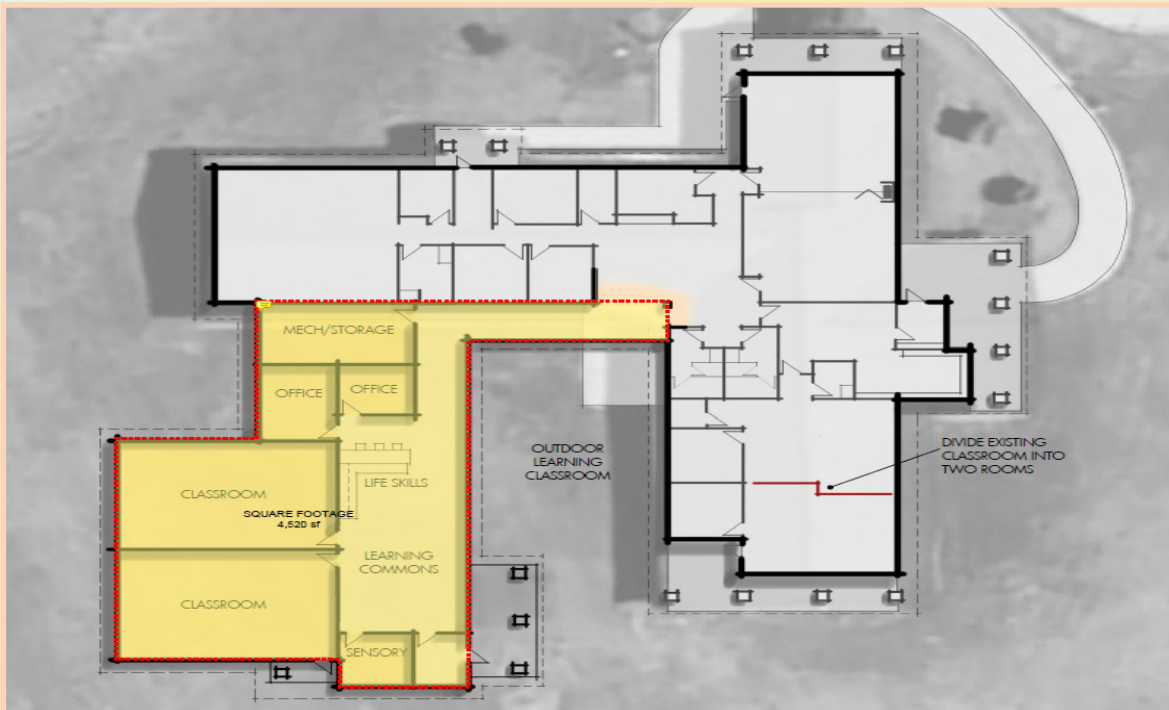
We are proud of our boys and girls and all their accomplishments - large or small. We are extremely proud of our children when they are getting educated and passing their classes. Because of Badlands Learning Center, we see our youth achieve academic success.

This past year has been a learning curve for all of us. Our education staff realized we can be even better with some improvements at Badlands Learning Center, especially with the existing space.

Home On The Range will be adding onto the south side of the building. This addition will include two classrooms, an outdoor living classroom for recreation and group activities, independent living area for skill building practicums and a sensory room for occupational therapy. The plan also includes constructing a permanent wall between the two existing classrooms. Finally, the plan restores the employee training room back to its original space.

The estimated cost of this project is \$3 million. Home On The Range has been fundraising and actively seeking grant funds for the project.

If you are interested in contributing to this project and supporting our youth's education, please send your donation to Home On The Range and note BLC in the memo line. You may also donate online at <https://hotrnd.com/>.



A special thank you to these organizations for their generous contributions to the Badlands Learning Center campaign.

A & G Foundation	\$25,000
Rural Community Grant Fund/Agri Bank/Farm Credit Services	\$40,000
Bequest	\$70,000
Dunn County	\$150,000
McKenzie County	\$500,000

Support for our Aftercare Program

Home On The Range was awarded a generous grant from North Dakota Community Foundation for our aftercare program. Home On The Range has three aftercare specialists. Their primary focus is to help the children (and their families) after the child leaves Home On The Range, to transition into the community. Our staff help the children for up to six months after they have left. The aftercare specialists help the child in the community by connecting them with community services and resources. This includes but is not limited to food banks, churches, social services, school registrations and tours, transportation, independent living and much more. The grant money was used to help our staff with travel and lodging or to purchase necessary items for the child such as phone cards, grocery cards, personal hygiene items, backpacks, coats, etc.

Thank you to North Dakota Community Foundation for investing in our youth and their ongoing care.



Free Information available to write your Will & Estate Planning

Home On The Range Foundation is proud to be working with Catholic Foundation of Western North Dakota with exceptional planned giving opportunities and information.

The information can help you and your family design a plan to fit your needs and requests, and leave a legacy behind to your loved ones and special charities.

The Bismarck Diocese has partnered with FreeWill to guide you through the process of creating a personal Will or re-writing a current Will. Just go to www.freewill.com/bismarckdiocese and it will walk you through the process.

Thank You Bishop David D. Kagan



At the Home On The Range Board of Directors meeting in May, Laura Feldmann, Executive Director presented Most Reverend Bishop David D. Kagan with special gifts of recognition for his years as the President of the Board of Directors.



HOTR is so Blessed!

Home On The Range is blessed to have many loyal supporters and benefactors who give generously to help boys and girls.

At the 2025 North Dakota State Knights of Columbus convention, State Deputy Mike Bannach presented HOTR with a check for more than \$28,000! These were the proceeds from Councils across the State participating in the annual KC Shamrock Project.

The 2025 Dakota State Eagles Convention was a display of their motto "People Helping People." The Dakota State Auxiliary Madam President Cindy Gilge named Home On The Range as her state charity. The auxiliaries and aeries together raised an amazing \$55,000 and presented it to HOTR at the convention.

These two organizations have been donating to HOTR since its inception, and have pledged to continue their support.



HOTR Bible Camp submitted by Nathan Gentry, Pastoral Assistant

For most of us, we can remember a Bible camp, youth retreat, or something of the like that was a ton of fun and impacted us on a spiritual level. The goal of our two-day Bible Camp was for the kids to have a lot of fun, know the love Jesus has for them, be poured into, and have the opportunity to make the decision to follow God. Our hope was that our youth would walk away with that amazing memory.

Home On The Range changed the schedule entirely for two days. We had a morning Chapel and evening Chapel both days with worship and compelling speakers that passionately shared about the love that Jesus has for us and that there is no one that is too far gone. During the afternoon, our youth participated in recreational activities, enjoying the nice weather. Both evenings finished with a campfire where many fun and meaningful conversations were held.

I thank God that all that we desired for the camp came to be! Our youth had many powerful conversations about God and faith with our guest speakers and Pastoral Assistant. I have heard praise reports of our youth that made the decision to follow God for the first time! God is truly doing something wonderful in our youth out here right now. Since the camp, we have had momentum with all of our ministry activities. We have been taking larger groups to attend church, and many are seeking to learn and have conversations on how they can follow God.

Please pray with me, that our youth out here would continue to recognize their need for our Savior Jesus Christ. That the momentum of this camp would continue to carry and lead more of our youth to God. That our youth would know the love of our Father and that God does want them. Pray for the healing of our youth mentally, physically, and spiritually. Pray that our Father will continue to pour His blessings out upon Home On The Range's staff and its youth.

We ask these things in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



69TH CHAMPIONS RIDE SADDLE BRONC MATCH RODEO

69th Annual Home On The Range **CHAMPIONS RIDE** Saddle Bronc Match at the Open A Angus Arena



2024 Champion Brody Cress on
J Bar J's Straight Moonshine 90 pts

AUGUST 2, 2025 ~ 1:00PM (MDT)

Gates open at 11:00 Grand Entry at 12:30

16351 I-94
Sentinel Butte, ND
Interstate 94, Exit #7

~CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE~

Limited bleacher seating but plenty of hillside seating.
Limited handicapped accessible parking.

LIVE CALCUTTA

August 1 at 6:00pm - ND Cowboy Hall of Fame, Medora
AND during August 2 performance

ADVANCE TICKETS

\$20 Adult **\$13** Student



For more info or tickets, call 701-872-3745 or go to:

HOTRND.COM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: <https://hotrnd.com/champions-ride-rodeo/>



HOTR Ranch Hand
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Sentinel Butte, ND 58654
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<https://hotrnd.com/>

Upcoming Events

*Champions Ride Calcutta
Friday, August 1, 2025 at 6:00pm
ND Cowboy Hall of Fame in Medora, ND*

*69th Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match
Saturday, August 2, 2025 at 1:00pm
Open A Angus arena at Home On The Range
Interstate 94, Exit #7*

*75th Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, August 3, 2025
11:30am
Home On The Range picnic area*

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.