



O'CONNELL YOUTH RANCH

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From Our Executive Director, Deanie Hayes

Greetings from O'Connell Youth Ranch (OYR). For many readers, we are an unknown entity and for others we are a 'blast from the past'. Yet there are more who know us as we are today—a residential center for young men in need of guidance, stability, structure, and nurturance, all in a 'family setting'. YES, a family setting.



OYR is settled in on 120 acres on the east side of Lawrence. We have three homes with live-in couples who provide care and teaching through our cognitive behavioral program. Young men come to us from various sources within the state system. They arrive with diverse needs. OYR staff strive to meet their needs and provide services to assist in overcoming the obstacles that brought them to our homes. We involve them in community services such as individual/family therapy; drug and alcohol treatment; public school as well as many community activities.

The heart of our services lie within the strength of our parents, assistants and other staff; their strong values, role modeling, compassion and encouragement provide the young men in our care with a great base for success once they return home to their families, or move out into independent living.

Thank you for letting us share the happenings around the ranch! I pray that you will find our work rewarding.

Our Success Stories

People ask, "How do you know if kids do well when they go home?" Our answer to that is that many times we do not. However, we do have those who return to let us know just how they are doing.

Tony was a young man who was with us for two years. His father and mother were unavailable. He was a very bright young man but struggled in school due to his trauma issues. As he embraced his situation and with help from the OYR parents and staff, he began to improve in school and in his behaviors. He was able to go live with a relative in the 10th grade. It did not work to his advantage so he returned to OYR. From that point he was placed back in school, joined the military and became a computer expert. Today he is working for a large banking corporation and is quite successful.

He came to visit us, showing pictures of his new home, and that he was about to marry. What an exciting time! We were able to reminisce about his struggles and his good times here. He shared how important it was for him to feel loved and cared about especially during his difficult times. It is always rewarding to know that they care enough to come back at some point in their life and say, "thanks". That is the ultimate reward!!!





LIST OF NEEDS

Towels

Toilet Paper

Extra Long Twin Sheets

Copy Paper

Cereal

Large Frying Pans & Stock Pots (stainless steel)

Tickets to Worlds of Fun

Bring donated items to O'Connell Youth Ranch - 1646 North 1320 Road
Please call in advance of delivery so we can ensure someone is there to meet you.

ADDRESS

flip this whole thing for printing

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