

# The Ranch Hand

Volume 44, Number 4

Fall 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.”**

## *75th Anniversary Picnic a Great Success!*

It was a perfect sunny, summer day for a picnic to celebrate our 75th anniversary! The attendance was low but the memories created were great and unforgettable. More than 50 people were in attendance. The afternoon began with a BBQ lunch of grilled burgers and hot dogs, beans, fruit and chips. Father Nicholas Vetter started the program with a prayer and his thoughts about Father Cassidy and Father Fahlander working together on a vision of helping boys and what a journey it must have been. Laura Feldmann, Executive Director, talked about some of the changes and what HOTR is doing now - but how our focus remains the same - helping children. Guests were invited to share their memories or a special moment.



Former and current board members and employees proudly shared their personal experiences. Perhaps the most heart-warming moments was listening to three former residents speak about their time at Home On The Range, openly talking about their pitfalls and challenges they faced when they left us, and then ending by saying things like “thanks to HOTR for saving them and making them the person they are today.” It was a very special day for everyone there.



Father Vetter



Board Member  
Brad Gjermundson

## HOTR Ranch Hand

Official Publication of  
Home On The Range



Fr. Elwood Cassidy, *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. 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 - -



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ON ACCREDITATION OF  
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## 8th Annual Dakota Scramble



Congratulations to  
Horizon Resources  
Cooperative team for  
taking 1st place at the  
8th Annual Dakota  
Scramble Golf  
Tournament.

**A big THANK YOU goes out to the corporate sponsors of the Dakota Scramble! Thank you for your continued support!**



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## Fraternal Order of Eagles visit HOTR



We were honored to  
have the Dakota State  
Aerie President, Ron  
Keller and Dakota  
State Madam Auxiliary  
President, Janine  
Anderson, join us for  
the rodeo and the 75th  
Anniversary picnic!



# 69TH CHAMPIONS RIDE SADDLE BRONC MATCH RODEO

On August 2, nearly 1,900 people attended the Champions Ride Match. The opening act introduced the cowboys competing today, and honored ones that competed in the past but were no longer with us. Four rider-less horses were led into the arena in memory of Bud Longbrake, Bill Smith, Kenny Claybaugh and Ralph Maynard. During the intermission, Glee Nett, Executive Director of Children's Western Wish Foundation presented a special gift to Miss Kyler "Sissy" Papa. She was crowned honorary rodeo princess for the day. After the scores were compiled from the long and short goes, Zac Dallas was declared the 2025 Champion! The Best Bronc Bronze was given to Peak Momentom 655- of Pickett Pro Rodeo.



2025 Champion Zac Dallas  
90 pts on J Bar J's Hell on Hooves



A special thank you to all our  
sponsors who make the **Champions  
Ride Match** a huge success!



Carl E. Rogen Post #29  
Watford City, ND



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### Long Go

Cowboy	Bronc	Score	Place
Zac Dallas	Hell on Hooves	90	1
Isaac Diaz	Peak Momentum	88	2
Logan Hay	Black Coffee	87.5	3
Sage Newman	Stacked Deck	87	4/5
Ryder Wright	In the Lu	87	4/5
Brody Wells	Faded Spark	86	6
Weston Patterson	Disco Inferno	85.5	7/8
Kole Ashbacher	Baby Bugs	85.5	7/8

### Short Go

Cowboy	Bronc	Score	Place
Layton Green	Straight Moonshine	89.5	1
Brody Wells	What 5 Minutes	88	2/3/4
Ryder Wright	Moose	88	2/3/4
Kole Ashbacher	Shady Jacket	88	2/3/4
Statler Wright	JoJo	87.5	5
Logan Hay	Pretty Glamorous	86.5	6/6
Sage Newman	Gronk	86.5	6/6

**Congratulations to our 2025 Champion with 175.5 total points - ZAC DALLAS!**



## Plan Now for Year-end Giving

It may seem like a long way away to file your 2024 tax returns, but now is the time to talk to your family and financial planner about year-end giving to charities like Home On The Range. As a 501c3, your financial donation is tax-deductible (according to your tax filing status). A financial contribution can be a personal check, online donation, or maybe even a distribution from your personal I.R.A. The donation can also be made in memory or honor of a loved one, friend, or special event like birthdays or anniversaries.

Home On The Range Foundation also accepts financial contributions. The principal amount in the Foundation is never used, only the accred interest. There may be special state tax credits for North Dakota residents who contribute \$5,000 or more. Just make your donation payable to Home On The Range Foundation.

Home On The Range kindly accepts and appreciates all donations, memorial and Foundation contributions to provide services and care for children. Plan early, but please always consult your accountant, tax advisor or financial planner for what is best for you and your family.



Scan to donate

## *Spiritual Update* submitted by *Nathan Gentry, Pastoral Assistant*

With a summer full of sunshine, fun activities, youth deciding to follow Jesus, and a few baptisms; we are sad to see it go, but wow are we excited for what fall has to bring! We are kicking off fall with an inspiring guest speaker, sharing about God's redeeming mercy and grace. Not long after, we will be putting on another mini Bible Camp. We are praying that the three days of the Bible Camp will be a God ordained interruption in our kids' schedule to have a ton of fun, be poured into by strong believers, and to experience God's redeeming love at our worship services. Please be in prayer with us that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ would use these upcoming events to plant seeds in these youth that so desperately need Jesus.



*Thank You to West Plains, Inc. of Beach for their generous donation of 250 hours on a tractor and use of baler and swather for haying season! Home On The Range is grateful for the generous support of West Plains, Inc. to help with our farming operation.*



## *Canine Adoption Success Story*

Xena, (whose name was originally Rhea) was reunited with her family and is now back home (her original owner did not know what happened to her after he rehomed her). She is happily enjoying her brother and lots of love! This is what her owner is saying about her adoption:

"Home On The Range has done an amazing job with Rhea/Xena. She likes to go on walks, she listens well, and she hasn't lost the way she likes to cuddle. They took care of her for about a year, building her up, and making sure she was ready for adoption and luckily I was able to get her back. She goes on daily walks with me and Titan and acts as though she never left. I appreciate Home On The Range for taking her in when I didn't know what happened to her, and for them posting her on Facebook so I could have the opportunity to have this little family back together!"



## *Adventure Therapy submitted by Morgan Williams, LCSW*

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 girls 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 working with the girls on teaching hiking safety, teamwork skills, cooking over a fire and will do our capstone camping trip to Medora to float and swim in the Little Missouri River, as well as experience various hikes, which also allows members to work on dog safety and forest preserve rules when it comes to animals and pets. 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!



## *Canine Therapy submitted by Brittany Williams, LCSW*

The Home On The Range canine program partners currently with 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 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 24 dogs find forever homes.



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 help 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 do better in school. Additionally, a resident shared 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."

Thank you for all of your support for our loving canines and the youth we serve at HOTR!



HOTR Ranch Hand  
Home On The Range  
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<https://hotrnd.com/>

## **Upcoming Events**

*Buckin' Broncs Watch Party*  
*Saturday, October 4 6:00pmCT*  
*Eagles Club #2192 - Valley City, ND*

*24th Annual Basket Bash & Auction*  
*Friday, November 21 6:00pmMT*  
*Golden Valley Co. Fairgrounds - Beach*

*Giving Hearts Day*  
*24-hour online fundraising event*  
*Thursday, February 12, 2026*  
*<https://givingheartday.org/>*

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.*