

The Ranch Hand

Annual Memorial Edition
Volume 45, Number 1 ~ Winter 2025-2026

“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.”

Home On The Range Meet & Greets

One of our goals this year was to reach out to more legislators. We want to inform them about who we are, what we do, who our children are and where they come from, our successes, and challenges. We have been scheduling “Meet and Greets” in various cities across North Dakota. Legislators, key state officials, business executives and board members are invited. Guests enjoy a meal and a presentation by Laura Feldmann, Executive Director. There is plenty of time after the presentation for questions and visiting. So far, our group has traveled to Medora, Fargo and Bismarck. We have received a lot of support and success from these events. We are considering hosting events at other cities in the near future.



Laura Feldmann, E.D., Jim Arthaud and Governor Kelly Armstrong



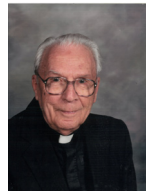
Contributions to Home On The Range In Honor or In Memory of an individual, help ensure that the facility can continue to provide the very best care possible. We notify the honoree, or next of kin, regarding the gift with an appropriate card, as well as sending the donor a receipt or card. The **honorariums and memorials** for this listing were received between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Please note the honoree/memorial is listed in bold, with the donor(s) listed below the name. Memorials and honorariums are welcome throughout the year. Just complete the printable donation form located on our website, www.hotrnd.com under "Donate Now" or the back page of this newsletter and mail the form to Home On The Range.

HOTR Ranch Hand

Official Publication of
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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, fund-raising events, and investments.

Financial Statement 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.

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HOTR's Youth Minister Retires

We'd like to introduce our Youth Minister, Peggy Helvik. After working for us for 24 years, she announced her retirement and is embarking on a new journey. Here's her story.

"I'm from Wibaux, Montana. I've been married to my husband, Larry Helvik, for 55 years. We have been blessed with four grown children and 11 grandchildren."

"I started working at HOTR in 2001, after receiving a call from John Orluck asking if I would be interested in the Youth Minister position. Because I only wanted a part time position, he was able to get Linda Marman and I to work together to fill the Youth Minister position. We did this for over 6 years and then she moved on to Bible College and I worked alone in the position."

"I have always been in the Youth Minister position, but the job requirements changed throughout the years. In the beginning, I was responsible for working with the residents to put on Christmas and Easter programs. We were able to share them both in town and on campus with the residents. I did this in addition to bible studies and a program called Cleansing Stream. Linda Marman and I enjoyed every aspect of our job together and I was sad to see her leave when she did."

"So much has changed since I first started at HOTR. There were 77 residents when I began working, with an average stay of over a year and now we are licensed for around 26, with an average stay of 3-6 months. We went from residents going to school in Beach to a very successful on-campus classroom, with a GED program as well. The residents have been through so much trauma. We have gone to a "trauma informed" model of caring for the residents. I am very proud of HOTR for the many changes they have made through the years to better meet the needs of our residents."

"My most rewarding memory is when Linda Marman and I had the Cleansing Stream Program going. We had over 40 students involved and at the end of a 12-week program, we had a group of ministers come in and do a retreat with them. It was a very healing time for the residents."

"There are so many memories, but I have to say that the Girl's Prayer Group has been the most rewarding part of my job over the past 15 years. It has been wonderful to provide a safe place for the girls to share their prayer requests, receive personal prayer, drink hot chocolate and bathe in God's love."

"I plan to continue my work with the youth in Wibaux through the non-profit ministry that my son and his wife started called Plains2Peaks. This provides me with the opportunity to do what I love most - minister to the youth."

"I will miss Home On The Range more than I can say. I will miss the staff and most of all, I will miss the girls and prayer group. I can't tell you how much I appreciate the opportunities that have been given to me through HOTR to share the love of Christ."

"Home On The Range has provided a loving home for traumatized kids for over 70 years. I know I am leaving my position as Youth Minister in good hands as Nathan and Lauren Gentry will work together to share the love of Christ with both residents and staff alike. Thank you, HOTR, for the 24 years I have been employed here. I have worked with five executive directors and six Assistant Chaplains, with my son, Joshua, being one of them. I pray that HOTR will continue to be a place where staff and residents alike can find a God centered place that cares for everyone that comes to live and work here."

We wish Peggy and her family all out best!



For the past year, Home On The Range has been raising money for the addition to Badlands Learning Center. This addition will have two larger classrooms, a sensory room, a small kitchen area for life skills and independent living classes, and an outdoor learning classroom. The plans also include building a permanent wall to divide the two current classrooms and restoring the employee training room. The cost of this project is approximately \$3 million. As of December 31, 2025, HOTR has raised more than \$1.8 million. Ground-breaking of the project will be this spring, with a targeted completion date of December 2026. If you would like to contribute to our youth's education, just send a personal donation to HOTR and write BLC on the memo line, or donate online on our website, <https://hotrnd.com/>.



Throughout the year, we have been blessed to have several church groups, organizations and individuals make quilts or blankets for our children. When a child comes to Home On The Range, they get to pick out a quilt they like. It is theirs to keep. We appreciate all the love and time that goes into each stitch. The children know they they are loved when they wrap themselves up in their quilts.



Many of our staff have special talents and share those talents with our youth. One of our musically talented staff and his band members from Nashville presented a special performance just for our boys and girls. Cody has been sharing his gift with our children for many years, teaching several how to play the guitar. This fall the group decided to perform for our youth. It was exciting to see a live band and the children thoroughly enjoyed it; especially because they have such a special relationship with him. Thank you, Raven's Ghost, for this special concert. The children will remember this unforgettable event.



Badlands Learning Center Stats

1/1/2025 - 12/31/2025

65 students served

158 classes passed

79 credits earned

27 G.E.D. finals passed

6 G.E.D. diplomas earned

100% of students here 30+ days passed at least one class!

WAYS TO REMEMBER HOME ON THE RANGE



Protect what matters most to you - create your own will today!

Did you know that you can support Home on the Range through a will? Creating (or updating) your will is one of the most important things you can do to ensure your family and favorite charities can be supported. Having a will also provides you with the following.

Security: Creating your own will and estate plan allows you to communicate important financial and healthcare decisions so you are prepared for whatever the future may hold.

Peace of Mind: A will allows you to provide for the people and pets you love, so you know that no matter what, they will be supported, the way you want them to be supported.

In less than 20 minutes, write or update your will for free!

The Bismarck Diocese has a partnership with **FreeWill**, an online service that makes it simple, cost-free and accessible to create your own will. Nearly 67% of American adults do not have an estate plan, missing a crucial element of Catholic stewardship.

Here's how it works:

1. From the convenience of your home, log in at **FreeWill.com/bismarckdiocese**.
2. Select a username and password.
3. Begin typing your information.
4. Once completed, your free will is ready to print.
5. You sign and notarize with a local notary public.*
6. DONE!



Takes about 20 minutes to complete. **It's easy and 100% FREE!**

If your circumstances should ever change, it's easy and FREE to log back into FreeWill and change your will, then print the updated copy and have it notarized again.

**In the state of N.D., for a will to be legal, you MUST sign your will in front of a notary public. Most banks, insurance offices, investment offices and public libraries have notary publics who can witness your signature.*

CONTACT US

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GIVING HEARTS DAY

24-hour secure online fundraising event for Home On The Range

Home On The Range has been chosen by Dakota Medical Foundation and Impact Foundation to participate in the 2026 Giving Hearts Day on Thursday, February 12, 2026!

All proceeds raised on Giving Hearts Day will go towards therapy and programming needs. These funds will ensure our children will continue to receive the care they need!

Early Giving is open from January 12 - February 11 at <https://givingheartsday.org/>

Checks are also accepted! Checks must be dated 2/12/2026 and received by Home On The Range on or before Thursday, February 12, 2026.

Here is the direct link to our donation page:

app.givingheartsday.org/#/charity/92



HOTR Spiritual Update

Submitted by Nathan Gentry, Pastoral Assistant



Here at Home On The Range, we have many different youths that each have a unique story. Leading up to the holiday season this year, many of them made a choice in their stories, and that choice was that they were going to follow Jesus. After making that choice, a handful of them chose to get baptized and fully commit their lives to Jesus. At the baptism service, the girls and boys shared their testimonies. Each one sharing a unique story of brokenness leading them to this moment. The moment when the redeeming grace through Jesus Christ finally found them. One thing that I really noted in their testimonies was that it was not just a single moment that lead them to Jesus, but they mentioned multiple people and moments in their lives that pointed them to eventually follow the Lord. My encouragement to myself, as well as to all of you, is that any moment we can share the Gospel message with someone is impactful, even if we do not see the fruit of the labor. So, keep sharing about Jesus and encouraging the people around you, though you may not see it, you very well could be one of the people someone mentions in their testimony years down the road.



HOTR Ranch Hand
Home On The Range
16351 I94
Sentinel Butte, ND 58654
(701) 872-3745
www.hotrnd.com

Contributions to Home On The Range in honor or in memory of an individual help ensure that the facility can continue to provide the very best care possible. We notify the honoree, or next of kin, regarding the gift with an appropriate card, as well as sending the donor a receipt or card. Just complete the form below or the printable donation form located on our website. Please note, if we do not receive the name and address of the family, we will not be able to send a notification of the gift.

Memorial Living Honorarium

Tribute in the Name of: _____
(name of deceased or honorarium)

Please notify the family of this gift and mail to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Giver's Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

*Return form and contribution to Home On The Range,
16351 I-94, Sentinel Butte, ND 58654.*