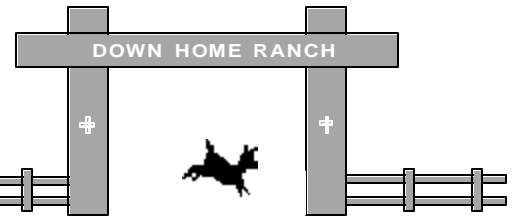


THE SPIRIT OF DOWN HOME RANCH



March/April 2004

Vol. 14 No. 1

College Students Spend Spring Break at DHR

Not every college student in Texas headed for the beach over spring break this year. For the second year in a row, a number of them spent Spring Break helping out at "College Mission Week" at Down Home Ranch. Thirty students from seven different universities worked side by side with the residents in the berry patches, the greenhouse, community gardens and tree farm. They baked cookies and helped with craft projects. They poured concrete footings for the greenhouse expansion and put on a pizza party and dance for Ranchers and local special needs kids. They worked hard and played hard resulting in an incredible Spring Break for Down Home Ranch. A great bunch and a great week. We miss them all. Ya' ll come again!



DHR staff, volunteers and College Mission Week students from Texas Woman's University, Sam Houston State, UT Austin, Trinity University, Navarro College, Mary Hardin Baylor and Texas A&M.

Samsung Dock House

Samsung Semiconductor Austin is making a big splash at Down Home Ranch. They are building the Samsung Dock House on April 29, 30 and May 1.

By providing both money and volunteers Samsung will create a great new facility for DHR Ranchers, campers and visitors. The Samsung Dock House will be on the North Pond, which is undergoing major improvements thanks to Alcoa and Mine Services Inc.

The Samsung Dock House will include a bathroom, storage for fishing gear, life preservers and paddles. The main room will

picture of Danny and Gordy working on pond dock.

Rancher Danny and volunteer Gordy work on the building of the fishing/boating dock at the Ranch.

be a big, windowed porch with tables, ceiling fans and other amenities. A place to rest, to visit, to meet, to play games. To reflect and pray.

Residents, campers and visitors alike will find that the Samsung Dock House is a great, inviting, new space at Down Home Ranch.

Thanks to our new friends at Samsung!

\$1,000,000: The Perfect Challenge

We have a big challenge. We need a million dollars for a \$620,000 foundation grant. \$1.62 million total.

\$1,000,000 has a lot of zeros and is a stretch for the Ranch. But, this is what it takes to move us to the next level, and the level after that.

We have until Nov. 1, 2004 to have \$1 million in gifts and pledges.

We're calling this the Perfect Challenge. It is especially "perfect" because it will move us to a new, higher level of development. Here's the plan. We seek 70% from foundations and 30% from donors like you.

Foundations make clear

that they want to see broad and deep support from our contributors. We need your help! We need \$300,000 pledged from our donors. To date 129 families have pledged over \$80,000. We are truly grateful for their support, but we still have a way to go.

A Perfect Challenge? Appeals like this come only once or twice in the life of an organization. This is the first for the Ranch. Please help!

**Charitable Golf
Tournament**

April 16, 2004

See story inside

director's chair

By Jerry Horton

When I was a college undergraduate in California, we were busy discovering the frisbee and (we thought) inventing "sangria" on the beaches of Santa Cruz. Spring break was more of the same. Mindless and indulgent youth.

Some might say "He hasn't changed much", or, "he's just getting old." Either might be right.

But, with our "College Mission Week" now behind us I am struck by the distance between where I was and where I am today.

Whereas Judy and I work hard and have invested our lives in the Ranch we now see others bringing our dream into reality.

How can one weigh the worth of college kids spending their spring break with Danny, Mike, Kelly, KJ, Heidi and Robert? Together they poured concrete, planted, fenced, played, and danced. They ate three meals a day together and became friends. They bonded.

How do you put a value on these college kids buying our Ranchers gifts and telling them one by one that they liked them, they even loved them? That they were of value. They were important. I may be getting old and a tad jaded, but I was in tears when they spoke.

Life is nothing without the love and embrace of others. We invited these college students to spend a spring break week at the ranch and they came and transformed our little community.

When I was in academe I took a great interest in "intentional community," an idea that isn't all that bad but has been beaten up a lot over the years.

But community is what we are about here at Down Home Ranch and those college kids gave us a great dose of it over spring break.

Grandpa Charlie, RIP

Charlie West, "Grandpa" to hundreds of Ranch Campers died on February 6, 2004.

Before he died, Grandpa Charlie requested that any memorials be given to a special fund for Ranch Camp. The "Grandpa Charlie West Fund" will provide monies for camp scholarships and special projects to improve Ranch Camp facilities.

Memorials can be sent to the Grandpa Charlie West Fund, Down Home Ranch, 20250 FM 619, Elgin, TX 78621. In addition to the fund, this year's Ranch Camps will be dedicated to Grandpa Charlie. The camp t-shirts will bear his picture along with the words he spoke to every camper: "God loves you and so do I."



Ranch Roundup Charity Golf Tournament

Round up your golf clubs and your friends and plan to participate in the Ranch Roundup Charity Golf Tournament at River Place Country Club. Call 888-926-2253 to register.



When: Friday, April 16, 2004

Time: 1:00 p.m. Shot-gun start

Type: 4-person Scramble

Cost: \$100 per golfer or \$350 per team (Entry fee covers green fees, carts, range balls, a golfer gift pack, dinner and drink tickets.)

Where: River Place Country Club

Awards Dinner: 6 p.m.

1st, 2nd & 3rd place team prizes * Hole-in-One Prizes * Putting Contest
* Longest Drive Contest * Closest to the Pin Contest
Live music by Templeton Thompson, Nashville Recording Artist

Leave a Legacy

Please think of Down Home Ranch as you consider your will and how your estate will be gifted. We will put all "Legacy Gifts" into our Endowment. Gifts of cash, stock, real property, valuables and other items can provide a lifetime of support for our Ranchers.



Leave A Legacy ?

Matching Gifts

Just a reminder. Your employer may have a matching gift program. This is especially true with larger companies. Sometimes if you give \$1 the company will double it. One friend gives us \$500 and his company sends a \$1,000 matching gift.

Your volunteer hours may also be matched by a financial gift from your employer.

Check with your benefits department and let us know if your company matches gifts of money or volunteer hours. We would be happy to complete the necessary paperwork.

Ranch Camp Needs YOU!

Hard to believe that in two months it is summer! With summer brings *Ranch Camp*! And the word is out about DHR's *Ranch Camp*. We have had so many applications already that we have had to open a fourth week of camp to accomodate all the requests.

So here's why we need YOU! We need counselors, cooks and nurses - people willing to share a week, or two, or three with some very special people. It is guaranteed to be a summer experience to remember. We never know who has more fun at *Camp*, the staff or the campers. Counselors must be 17 years of age or older. Counselors-in-training, those under the age of 17, are welcome to spend each day at camp as assistants to our counselors.

How about it? Ready to have some fun? Call Judy at 888-926-2253 to sign up!

Our Wish List

- Golf cart, golf clubs
- Garden tools: rakes, hoes
- Small work tools
- Wooden rocking chairs
- Texana art work
- Riding mower
- Road base (delivered)
- Dump truck (functional)
- Tickets to games, events
- Guinea hens
- Bike racks
- Tractor
- Pontoon boat
- Skid steer
- Baseball gloves, bats, etc.

Receiving our e-newsletter? Its our way of keeping you current on the happenings at Down Home Ranch. Sign up by sending us an e- mail at newsletter@downhomeranch.org.

calendar

April 16 Charity Golf Toumament
 April 29/30 & May 1 Samsung Dock House
 May 15 Open House for Bamabas House
 June13-18 Summer Camp Session I
 June 20-25 Summer Camp Session II
 June 27-July 2 Summer Camp Session III
 July 4-9 Summer Camp Session IV
 August 6 & 13 Poinsettia Planting
 August 14 Special Event @ Elgin VFW
 Oct. 2 Yam Bake X
 Nov. 1 Perfect Challenge Pledge Deadline

THANK YOU!

The list of volunteers and in-kind donations is so long that we do not have the space to individually thank each person. The mission of the Ranch is so vital to each and every gift of time, talent and treasure. Please know that we are truly grateful.

Re-Created Greeting Cards Available

The residents at Down Home Ranch have been very busy creating beautiful re-created greeting cards that are now available for sale. They can be purchased in our gift shop – 10 cards for \$7.50 plus tax. If you would like to order by mail send an e-mail to info@downhomeranch.org or call 888-926-2253. To order by mail, there will be an additional charge of \$4/ each for postage and handling for each packet of 10. The following packets of 10 cards are available. They are blank on the inside so you can add your own message:

- Birthday
- Thinking of You
- Multi-purpose note cards
- Sympathy
- Assorted

Please allow 10-14 days for delivery.

judy's views

Richard Simmons, the Girls, & Me

Here at the Ranch we're dedicated to healthy living—physically, mentally, and spiritually.

That's why we bike or walk everywhere we can and study ways to increase our fitness (and decrease our girth).

Beginning last November, when the girls moved in, we began exercising to Richard Simmons' *Sweatin' to the Oldies* tape.

At first our movements were pretty random and Richard and gang always seemed to be several moves ahead of us.

But gradually we caught on, and pretty soon Kelly, Heidi, and I had them down pat.

Kelly J started out with a broken foot, so she didn't get in the groove until after Christmas. Even then she tended to stand stolidly in place, although I encouraged her to get moving.

"Come on, Kelly, you can do it!" I would shout between (labored) breaths. But Kelly just stood there.

She stood there quite agreeably for about five weeks and I had begun to think she just had a real aversion to programmed exercise.

But then one afternoon, without changing expression in the least, she announced flatly, "Oh. Now I get it," and began to swing her arms and move her legs with the best of us!

I guess she just needed time to absorb the moves mentally before she was ready to start them physically.

And that's the way it goes at Down Home Ranch, a different place...with a different pace.

**You're Invited to
Attend the Spring Concert of
"We Are the Chorus"**

**Hosted by the Armstrong
Community School of Music**

**Austin Lyric Opera
905 Barton Springs Road
Sunday, April 18, 3:00 PM**

Ranch AIR

“Quality of life” is an abused phrase, but we still embrace it here at the Ranch. Hence, we are happy to announce a new program, “Ranch AIR” or Artist In Residence.

Recently, Carol Rice, teacher and water colorist from Ft. Worth, came to teach our Ranchers in water colors, producing some touching, lovely works. Carol is the first to come.

We’ ll report more on this new program soon. For details call Judy or LeAnn at (512) 856-0128.



Barnabas House, a home for three new Ranchers will open in April. Sharon Lungren will be Resident Assistant to Tyler, Jarred and another new Ranch resident. A big open house will be held in May to celebrate the opening of Barnabas House.

Keep an Eye on Our Weather

Down Home Ranch was announced as the newest Live WeatherNet site in Central Texas on KXAN-TV, Ch. 36, in Austin earlier this month. The station will periodically mention the Ranch in its review of weather conditions during their daily newscasts.

You can connect to our current weather conditions at any time by visiting our website at www.downhomeranch.org and click on Live WeatherNet.

Spring Planting Time

Spring plants are ready and we have a variety of Johnny’s Selected Seeds also available. Down Home Ranch Gardens can also be your tree headquarters. Seedlings, 1 gallon and 3 gallon trees are available: oak, crepe myrtles and much more. You want it? We can get it! Come out today for the best choice.

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- Judy Horton Elgin
- Kevin Morse Austin
- Ashley Sanchez Cedar Park
- Dr. Madeline Sutherland Austin
- Robert Wenske Elgin

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- Joanna Redfield Vaughn Austin

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- LeAnn Powers, Development Dir.
- Glynda Wester, Office Manager
- Pat Tatroe, Foreman
- Sharon Lundgren, Resident Asst..
- Ann Reynolds, Resident Assistant
- Teri Daughtry, Grower
- Lobo Guerrero, Groundskeeper

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