

# Ranch Ehrlo launches new community service

Ranch Ehrlo Society is expanding its community services with the launch of Community Living Supports (CLS)—a new initiative designed to improve quality of life for individuals experiencing disability and to support their families and caregivers.

The CLS service will offer three distinct programs: Integrated Supportive Living (ISL), Respite Home, and Respite Care. Together, these programs aim to fill a critical gap in community-based supports by offering more personalized and flexible care options.

"We're incredibly excited to launch Community Living Supports, a new chapter in Ranch Ehrlo's commitment to strengthening families and enriching

lives," said Jane Powell, director of clinical and community services. "By offering a range of support—from independent living to respite care—we're helping families stay together and thrive."

Powell is leading the development of the new programs with the support of David Rivers, vice-president of clinical and family services.

Integrated Supportive Living (ISL) will provide adults with low to moderate support needs the opportunity to live more independently. Each fully accessible home will be shared by two participants, with private



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bedrooms and a shared living area. Support staff will be on-site eight hours daily, with additional clinical support provided weekly.

Respite services will include both Respite Home and Respite Care options for children, youth, and adults. The Respite Home will offer short-term care in a Ranch Ehrlooperated residence, while Respite Care will allow families to access support in their own home.

To learn more, visit ehrlo.com/community-living-supports or click "Community Living Supports" in our hamburger menu.

### A place to heal together



Ranch Ehrlo Society is expanding its supportive housing program in Moose Jaw, opening a second property that offers more than just a roof—it's a place where families can heal, grow, and stay together.

Located at the former Chez Nous site at 1101 Grafton Ave, the new building will house up to 16 families, each with their own private apartment.

The program helps families stay together while parents engage in daily structured programming focused on healing from trauma, substance use, mental health, and more. Trained staff are on-site 24/7 to support each family's unique needs.

"This program keeps families together—and when families break apart, unhealthy cycles continue," said Jade Pavey, a graduate of the program who now works as a Family Program Support Supervisor. "We're working to be part of the solution."

Since its inception, the program has helped over 120 families. At discharge:

- 80 per cent had one or more children remain or reunify with them
- 353 children were kept safely with their families
- At six-month follow-up, 70 per cent of families remained intact "We're proud to offer opportunities for families to remain together, heal together, and thrive," said Patti Petrucka, executive director of family treatment programs.

The new location reflects Ranch Ehrlo's commitment to community collaboration. Staff are actively engaging with neighbours to address concerns and ensure a smooth transition.

For many families, like those of Violet Sanderson and Jade Pavey, the experience is life-changing—helping them rediscover connection, confidence, and hope for the future.

"I really love how the program helped my family in the reunification process. We were so disconnected, but we really learned how to be a family again," shared Violet Sanderson, a mom who graduated the program with her family. "When we first entered the program, we wrote down what we hoped to achieve and, in the end, we ended up getting so much more than what we had wished for."

## Ranch Ehrlo helps youth through anger, loneliness

A former participant has a message for youth at Ranch Ehrlo: your time here won't define you, but it can certainly change your life.

Twenty-eight-year-old Justin Ingman walked through the doors of MacKay House at 14 years old, and spent two years growing, healing, and forming lasting relationships that would change his life. He met true friends for the first time, confided in caring and compassionate staff, and bonded with his housemates over a love for music and a dream to start their own band and broadcast on YouTube.

"Growing up, I was the kid who got bullied. I didn't have any friends, so coming to the Ranch was a nice change because people wanted to spend time with me and enjoy me as a person," he shared.

Justin made a best friend, who became more like a brother, and over time, formed meaningful relationships with staff and caregivers.

While Ingman's time is remembered fondly – highlighted by trips to the pool, the library, and Friday nights (where he learned to plan, prep, and cook meals), he said it was his ability to heal from trauma and take better control of himself and his emotions that impacted him most.

"I'm most proud of the changes I've made, growing from an angry kid who couldn't figure out what he wanted in life to becoming who I am today. The Ranch helped me develop character...and it changed the way in which I look at the world."

Ingman, now a father of four and proud business owner, said lessons he learned at the Ranch have carried him into adulthood – inspiring him to do better and be better. With the help of counsellors, therapeutic programming, and incredibly supportive staff, he was able to learn coping strategies, gain life skills, inherit patience and understanding, give grace, and most influentially, to be tenacious.

"One of the most important things I learned and have taken with me in life is the understanding that if I'm not doing something successfully, it doesn't mean I need to give up. It means I need to change. I have to figure out how I can improve, because I may not be successful right away but if I give up, I can never have that chance."

Ingman is grateful to the peers and staff who helped him through difficult years of anger and loneliness, and sends a heartfelt message to the current youth at Ranch Ehrlo:

"Give it a chance. Nothing is wrong with you; some of us just need a bit more guidance and stability to get us to where we want to be in life. Let your guard down, trust the staff and form relationships, because when you leave here, these people are still going to care about you."

"If I didn't give the Ranch a chance, I don't know where I would be. I'm so glad I did."

Youth-led pipe ceremony brings Buckland campus together



On June 6, youth on Ranch Ehrlo's Buckland campus led the charge in creating a cultural event to bring all three houses on campus closer together.

They organized a pipe ceremony with Elders Liz Settee and Curtis Breaton. Approximately 50 people attended, including youth and staff from Matheson, Alex Guy, and Klassen houses, as well as the families of staff.

The event was initiated by the campus's Youth Representative Council (YRC), made up of three leadership driven young ladies.

"This initiative was driven by the youth," said director Barclay Batiuk. "They felt there wasn't enough collaboration between the houses, and they wanted more cultural programming."

"I really wanted to do more Indigenous ceremonies. A lot of the kids here are removed from their culture, and I thought it was important to have a ceremony," said Melissa\*, who has been on the YRC for a year.

She added that it was important that the houses do an activity together to foster community.

Batiuk explained that the youth brainstormed several ideas before deciding on the pipe ceremony with support from the two elders.

Following the ceremony, attendees shared a feast prepared by the education staff.

"I thought this was a really great event and the kids were so well behaved," Batiuk said. "We'll meet with the YRC again in September to see if we want to do it again next year."

"We have more plans for healthy culture activities that will keep the kids busy," Melissa added. "Just observing the kids was great, the way everyone acted, they showed so much respect to the elders. The sun was shining, and it was just a great day."

Plans are also in place to smudge each of the houses.

\*name changed for privacy



#### 8th annual powwow a success

Members of the community converged on Ranch Ehrlo's Pilot Butte campus to take part in the 8th annual powwow on August 28.

This year's powwow may have been our biggest and best yet, uniting 160 dancers, dozens of drummers, and countless community members at the campus.

The powwow is an annual opportunity for the community, as well as our participants and staff, to engage with Indigenous culture while learning more about the work Ranch Ehrlo does. The day began with a pipe ceremony, followed by a feast and the grand entry at 1 p.m. Attendees enjoyed a family-style carnival and canteen, an inflatable play structure, and a new sensory teepee sponsored by the Autism Resource Centre.

Ranch Ehrlo's powwow wouldn't have been possible without our other generous community sponsors. Thank you to the following:

- Event sponsors: Restorex, Biosweep, and TD Asset Management
- **Drummer & dancer sponsors:** TC Energy, Full Throttle, Signature PrintIt, SIGA, David Johnson Construction, Sask Energy, Namerind
- Canteen sponsors: Westridge, Sherwood Co-op, Atlas Sewer Service, AON
- Family carnival sponsors: Ledcor, Directwest, KD Mech.Ltd., City of Regina, OWZW Lawyers, Dependable Vacuums Plus, Marsh





#### TFC youth learn skills



Four children in Ranch Ehrlo's Treatment Foster Care (TFC) northern program recently spent a day learning land-based and survival skills on a rural acreage near Muenster. The event, was made possible thanks to foster parents who generously offered their property as the learning site and their skills as survivalists.

### Volleyball tournament



On August 27, Corman Park held its third annual beach volleyball championship. Staff and participants from across the agency participated in fun games of beach volleyball, friendly competition, and lots of laughs.

#### The power of animals



For the past four years, Appleton's Chitek Lake camping trips just wouldn't have been the same without Rover and Winchester. These lovable pups have brought comfort, joy, and a whole lot of smiles to both youth and staff. Their bond with the kids is genuine and special — a beautiful reminder of the healing power of animals.

#### Summer barbecue



The Adult Representative Council hosted their annual summer barbecue at Evraz Park, bringing together over half of our Supported Living Programs participants and staff for a sunny afternoon of food, games, and connection.

#### Talented youth



A talented Ranch Ehrlo student is thriving in trades education! This Grade 10 high schooler has not only impressed her teachers but also exceeded her own expectations. As part of her Construction 10 course, she crafted a stunning handmade night table, and in Welding 10, she created an incredible plasma-cut tribute to Tupac.

