



developmentally
focused

family involved

relationship based

trauma informed

competence centred

ecologically oriented

Art from the Heart reception

Ranch Ehrlo's artists showed off their artistic achievements at the 17th annual Art from the Heart calendar reception on Dec. 16th. The event was modified slightly due to COVID-19 but that didn't hinder the creativity of the art on display.

The calendar was unveiled, and the artists had the opportunity to showcase their work and sign autographs for those in attendance. This year 17 works of art were included in the calendar. After the signing, guests and artists were treated to a table of goodies prepared by Vi Deters and students from the school. This was an extra special year, as it is Vi's last event before retiring after 37 years at the agency.

Each year the calendars are printed and distributed to Ranch youth, staff, board members, and partnering agencies.

Northern comfort kits

Students in Corman Park and Prince Albert now have backpacks full of comfort items and fuzzy outerwear to help them through the coldest months of the year.

The comforts kits were created thanks to funding from the Children's Aid Foundation's Ted and Loretta Rogers Foster Care Transition Program. The aim of the comfort kits is to ease the transition for children and youth who require support during a time of tremendous uncertainty in their lives.

"The kids were super excited about everything. They kept grinning ear from ear.





Education directors Hayley Maurer and Shawn Ly creating the comfort kits

One was so excited she was almost bouncing out of her shoes just pulling out the pack of gum. It was great to see their smiling faces,” Shawn Ly, principal and northern education director stated.

Students in Regina and Pilot Butte received their kits last March.

Matheson House continues to spread joy

For the second year in a row, the staff and youth at Matheson House in Prince Albert had a special Christmas gift for the other northern programs. The team prepared an outdoor getaway at Ranch Ehrlo’s camp at Heritage Lake.

“Again this year, groups may not be able to go to the pool, or ski hill, like in pre-COVID times, however the great outdoors is still available to us all,” explained Ron Schlamp, Matheson House program manager.

To maintain social distancing, each of the four groups was invited on a separate day leading up to Christmas for their winter wonderland experience. Once they arrived on site activities available included snowshoeing, ice fishing, or just sitting around a cozy fire with some snacks and hot chocolate. Matheson House chopped wood, shovelled paths, and had all the outdoor gear prepared in advance for their guests.

Beading helps keep culture alive

The youth at Welke House are a creative bunch. Inspired by their skills, youth care worker Jill Harnett brought in a friend to show them traditional Indigenous beading.

“I feel it’s my responsibility to keep their culture and traditions alive while in care,” Harnett said. “I got inspired by just the group we have right now. We have a lot of creative youth in our house and I wanted to expand their talents.”

Shanel, who is teaching the youth about beading, has experience making her own regalia. During her lesson, she explained how these activities are important in Indigenous culture.



At Ranch Ehrlo, we have a committee made up of staff that focuses on truth and reconciliation throughout the agency. Each month they come up with activities and learning opportunities for participants. For December, the focus has been on art.

Our staff also bring CARE into everything they do. With beading, they’ve created a therapeutic environment where youth can achieve a goal while also being challenged. This helps them grow as individuals.

“These kids are capable of so much,” Harnett said. “While some initially felt they couldn’t complete the task, they pulled through with the support of adults. They are finishing something that is going to be so special to them in the end.”

Helping siblings come together

It was the words “I love you, sister” that hit a chord for Ranch teacher Nolan Malbeuf.

Over the past year, Malbeuf and Schaller Education Centre staff have been working to build a positive relationship between two sisters at Ranch Ehrlo.

Recently, Malbeuf discovered an opportunity to connect the two. He invited Emily* to do some painting in his class during his prep time. It was just the two of them in the room, and he realized this was the perfect opportunity to invite her sister, Katie*, who had free time.

“They got to hang out and chill for a bit and they got to paint this canvas together,” Malbeuf said “One thing on my mind is my family. At the Ranch, family involvement is number one.”

While we strive to include family wherever possible, the Ranch placed the two siblings in separate classrooms in order to meet their developmental needs.

In this case, we had found that when they were together there had been disruption to the classroom environment. That’s why this moment of them coming together in a positive way became a highlight for staff.

“The open-door policy Nolan and I have together really facilitated this moment,” explained teacher Josh Hughes. “A safe and supportive environment is beneficial for all kids, and at this moment they were in a good place to have time together.”

During their time with Malbeuf, he had mentioned to the sisters that he always says ‘I love you’ to his family. When it was time for the girls to say goodbye, Emily had told Katie she loved her.

“It really takes a team to make this happen. We work together to help kids as best we can,” Malbeuf said.

Hughes added, “We try to champion with CARE and take that welcoming approach. It’s beneficial for youth. Sometimes it has its challenges, but in the long run, we are getting there.”

**Names changed to protect privacy*

A helping hand for those in need

Helping others is one of the greatest strengths of Ranch participants, and when people are in need, they don’t hesitate to lend a hand.

In the fall, participants at Black Bear House in Regina and Alex Guy House at Buckland made donation packages for people experiencing homelessness.

“At the Ranch, we always have full bellies, really good food and a nice home, but not everybody has these things so we need to help when we can,” said one of the participants at Black Bear House.

Black Bear House is part of Ranch Ehrlo’s Supported Living Programs, which provide care for people with multiple, complex development needs.



Participants at Black Bear made 20 meals of sandwiches and macaroni salad for people at Camp Hope in Regina.

Alex Guy is part of Ranch Ehrlo’s group living programs, which provide care to young people where every activity is focused on achieving the best outcome. It’s located at our Buckland Campus, just north of Prince Albert.

Alex Guy participants made 25 bags of food and handed out mittens and toques in Prince Albert. One of the youth had the idea of writing inspiring messages on the bags.

“It is very important to help those in need because giving back to the community you are a part of is a great way to establish connections to a city,” said Emily Bohmann, a youth care leader at Alex Guy. “Feeling like there is a place you can call home and having tangible experiences gives people a sense of belonging.”

These acts of kindness align with Ranch Ehrlo’s CARE principles by enhancing relationships among participants, staff, and the community, while also building competencies that allow them to grow.

A tribute to Vi

One of Ranch Ehrlo’s best is retiring from the agency. Vi Deters, an educational assistant, has shown us all how to be better people both in our professional and personal lives. She has been with us for over 37 years.



“Anyone who has had the opportunity to know Vi, work with Vi, and learn from Vi is so fortunate because she is without a doubt one in a million,” said Hayley Maurer, the principal at the Schaller Education Centre. “I thank her for her years of service to the agency, to the staff, and

most importantly, to the kids.”

While at work, Deters was known for her resilience, care, and amazing cooking skills. She was able to get the youth to make the most delicious meals. It was a way to show her love language.

Through food and conversation, Deters made the youth feel warm and a little less homesick, which is something all staff strive for each day. It’s these skills that stood out among her colleagues.

“Her understanding of how, when, and where to confront and what needs to be confronted should be included as a training piece for all of us,” said Scott Landry, the vice-principal at Schaller. “She is an example of dedication, work ethic, and perseverance.”

Not only did Deters make an impression professionally, but she also touched the hearts of many at the Ranch, staff and students alike.

Maurer said Deters is always welcome to visit during her retirement.

Holiday lights



Holiday lights make spirits bright at our Corman Park campus.

Camp training



Our Therapeutic Camping Program is a highlight at the Ranch. To ensure that our participants and staff are safe in the great outdoors, our staff do wilderness training. Recently staff completed an Advanced Wilderness First Aid Course.

Directors’ challenge



Rever House was the overall winner of the agency wide directors’ challenge in December for creativity in indoor decorating, outdoor decorating, snow art and sculptures, and gingerbread construction.

Cultural family programing



Angel Whitestar, who works with families in our Family Treatment Program recently helped interested families in making ribbon skirts and parfleche earrings.

Community4connection



Community 4 Connection spent the day distributing donations, personal hygiene supplies and food. Several agencies, including Ranch Ehrlo, came together to make this happen and we are so proud to be able to help out at this initiative.