



developmentally  
focused

family involved

relationship based

trauma informed

competence centred

ecologically oriented

## Winterfest and 1st annual fishing derby

In the south, Ranch Ehrlo Society's 1st Annual Fishing Derby featuring Winterfest at Echo Lake on March 5th was a superb success. There were over 150 people enjoying the day.

One of the organizers, Brandon Radmacher stated, "Everyone is so present and enjoying being together. There's a real sense of acceptance and family here today."

Youth were also quick to comment on the event. "This is our first Winterfest, and we love it." one exclaimed.

There was a photo booth for anyone who wanted to remember their day as well as hot dogs, hot chocolate, and fire barrels for those who wanted to warm up.

Winterfest kicked off with a week-long life-sized foosball

tournament on Pilot Butte campus.

Corman Park and Buckland campus youth participated in the Northern Winterfest on March 25th. The day was full of fun although events had to be adapted to melting ice and snow.

Throughout the day, youth participated in survival-type challenges like woodcutting and fire-starting, tested their skills in milk jug ring toss and the classic bell kick.

As always, points were awarded to each house and the day was wrapped up with an awards celebration. Congratulations to Klassen House who took away the shiny



Echo Lake fishing derby and Winterfest



Milk jug ring toss at Winferfest north

cup trophy and title of 2022 Champion of the Northern Winterfest!

## 11 years and going strong

For the 11th consecutive year, we've been recognized as one of Saskatchewan's top employers.

This special designation recognizes the Saskatchewan employers that lead their industries in offering exceptional places to work.

Continuing to be faced with challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff persevered to help the most vulnerable children, youth, families, and individuals in our communities.

"This recognition is not only about Ranch Ehrlo as an organization; it is about the people who work here. All of you, who go above and beyond by providing quality care and services, as well as advocacy, for vulnerable individuals and families," stated Ranch CEO Natalie Huber. "Thank you so much for all that you do!"

## Make a Mark art exhibit

Smiles were big and excitement was in the air at the opening gala for the Make A Mark art exhibit at the George Bothwell location of the Regina Public Library.

Ranch Ehrlo Society partnered with the Regina Public Library's Dunlop Art Gallery to present Ranch participants' art to the public which also included creating a live mural on site.

Dustin Ritter, art teacher and the driving force behind the show, stated, "It was wonderful to have youth from the community stop by to contribute to our mural. They happened to be in the library and asked if they could join us. It was such a great way to bring people together."

David Hedlund, Ranch Ehrlo's board vice-chair was amazed that such incredible works of art were made with bingo dabbers, markers, and a little bit of acrylic paint. He thought the exhibit showcases the amazing talents, hard work, and dedication of the participants.

David Rivers, vice-president of the Ranch's clinical and family services department agreed, "I have to thank Dustin and all the participants for a super art show. Creating art promotes growth and development."



Ritter with youth working on a live mural at the art exhibit

The main exhibit is at the George Bothwell Regina Public Library location, with four other pieces displayed at the central library downtown on the second floor. Make A Mark will be available for viewing until May 15th.

## Jillings House renovation

A home in Regina has been adapted and renovated to best meet the needs of participants in our Supported Living Program.

Participants in the program are often long-term Ranch Ehrlo residents so, when we're looking at how to help them best achieve success, moving them to a space that best suits their needs, is a great move forward.

"In our Supported Living Program, we continue to strive to provide person-centred, strength-based care," explained Pam Dmytriw, vice-president of group living services. "We are continuing to look at our homes and making sure they meet the needs of our participants."

In continuation of the idea that the design of a home should best suit the needs of a participant, Garven House was designed and built last year to house participants who resided in our older Jillings Home. Once those participants were moved, Jillings House was renovated.

The renovations to Jillings began in the fall and were recently finished. The home expanded from a five-bedroom to a six-bedroom home







and has been renovated from top to bottom with no space untouched.

“It is such a bright beautiful open space now that uses the ecologically oriented

principles of CARE. The colours in the home are fresh and homey. The home now allows for a lot of different gathering spaces for the participants so that activities can happen in different areas of the home at the same time,” explained Monica Rivers, clinical consultant.

“It is such a bright beautiful open space now that uses the ecologically oriented principles of CARE.”

-Monica Rivers, clinical consultant

## Ranch assists in a national effort

Ranch Ehrlo clinical team members are providing their expertise to an international effort to create effective standardized trauma-informed care for children and youth.

The Canadian Consortium on Child and Youth Trauma has members from across Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. The consortium’s mission is to create a standardized approach to child and youth trauma care “through advancements in research, practice, policy, and law.”

Clinical team members at the Ranch are contributing to the consortium through participation in various key projects.

David Rivers, vice president of clinical and family services at the Ranch explained, “The consortium aims to improve the quality of life for trauma-impacted children and youth while facilitating research and collaboration for student and professional training.”

## Family Night at Home program expands

Staying in with the family got a lot more exciting thanks to a continuing partnership between Ehrlo Sport Venture (ESV) and Jays Care Foundation – the charitable arm of the Toronto Blue Jays.

The Family Night at Home program started with Jays Care Foundation’s desire to provide COVID-19 relief to some Toronto-area families and help some local restaurants in the process.

This spring they offered to run the family program in Regina and supplied the funds for 25 families to have three Saturdays of dinners delivered to their homes from local restaurant Fresh and Sweet, and three entertainment kits. Each evening had a different activity: movie night, a karaoke kit, and paint night, which encouraged families to have fun with each other.



Gloria Patrick, Sport Venture program manager commented, “This program was a great opportunity to continue to build relationships with families that use our services and the community.”

## Looking back on the family-based treatment home

In January of 2020, Ranch Ehrlo Society embarked on a pilot project designed to meet a specific need in our foster treatment services.

We know that all children are different, and some have complex needs that are best met within a family setting. We developed our unique Treatment Foster Care Services (TFC), in partnership with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services, to serve these children.

But just over two years ago, the agency created a new program. The Ranch provides the house and vehicle to the treatment foster care family, as well as around-the-clock support workers who assist with youth care.

Heather Whitequill and Quincy Dustyhorn stepped up to run the new program, named Whitehorn House.

Lisa Neill, manager of Treatment Foster Care stated, "It's important for the participants to learn what a healthy family looks like with positive role models. We work with the participants and their families because our priority is reunification whenever possible."

Whitequill added, "This new program allows us the opportunity to spend more one-on-one time with the kids because we have that extra support. Our support workers are also our son and niece, so it's really great for the youth to see a whole family working together."

The couple also provide the youth in their care and other parents in the FTC program with cultural resources and knowledge. They have shared their knowledge of powwow, star blankets, the medicine wheel, and balance in life. Dustyhorn makes all the ribbon skirts and regalia for the youth in his care as well as for his own children.

Recently a youth in the home expressed interest in connecting to her home community. They took her to a naming ceremony at her First Nation where she received her name, colour, direction, and spirit animal.

Two years into the pilot project and the model is working extremely well. Family is the focus whether the youth still reside in the home or not. Whitequill and Dustyhorn have a motto: once you're connected to our family, you're always our family.

## Raptors win gold



Participants from Ranch Ehrlo took home gold medals in the Special Olympics floor hockey tournament. The Raptors is a community team made up of players from the Ranch as well as members of the community and other agencies. By winning gold, the Raptors qualified for the provincial tournament in 2023.

## 5th annual powwow



After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Ranch Ehrlo's powwow is back! The 5th annual powwow will take place August 25th on the Pilot Butte campus. Save the date on your calendars now!

## Emergency receiving spaces coming to Corman Park



The board of directors has approved the construction of an Emergency Receiving Program home on the Corman Park campus outside of Saskatoon. The facility should be operational by June 2023. There is an urgent need for emergency care for participants from central and northern Saskatchewan.

## Sport Venture donation



Thank you to Scott MacLaren at Canadian Tire for his generous donation of skater helpers. This donation has helped our new Outdoor Hockey League skaters build confidence on the ice!

## Art from the Heart pieces on display



Every department at Ranch Ehrlo Society practices the CARE principles and works to keep the agency's mission top of mind, including our finance and accounting who showcase youths' art in their office.