



Ranch Ehrlo Society



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developmentally
focused

family involved

relationship based

trauma informed

competence centred

ecologically oriented

Succeeding despite adversity

Gabriel Rasmussen has not had an easy life. He became an orphan at two and a half years old through tragic circumstances and bounced around from foster home to foster home after that tragic incident.

“I’ve lived in 21 cities, towns, and villages,” he said. “It was so hard as a kid without a sense of belonging.”

Rasmussen ran away from every placement he had. He became a permanent ward of the province when he was 11 years old. In 1999 he ended up at Ranch Ehrlo, a place he didn’t want to run from. He was at the Ranch for two and a half years.

“When you go to Ranch Ehrlo Society it’s very structured, which is excellent. If you didn’t come from a structured home, you’ll learn that at the Ranch,” he explained.

Rasmussen explained that the youth care workers had such a positive impact on his life. They were mother and father figures to him. He knows they loved their jobs; they loved helping people.

“You pick up different things from different staff. For example, Cam Huberdeau was always clean, always washing his hands, cleaning up, and tidying things,” Rasmussen said.

Caseworkers and group therapy also taught Rasmussen many skills, including empathy, listening, understanding, and dealing with emotions.



Gabriel, a former youth, is a certified tree faller.

He also raved about the therapeutic camping trips he went on where he learned to fish, fillet a fish, how to make tea and spruce gum, and how to camp.

“Those were such great experiences for me. I want my son to have those same memories, so I take him to many of the same places I went to with the Ranch.”

He is still in contact with staff even after more than twenty years.

“It was so hard being thrown into the system at two and a half years old, and not having a sense of belonging. It means so much to me that (the staff) still care about me, want to see how I’m doing, and want me to succeed. They’re like my family now,” he said.

Rasmussen is a certified tree faller and certified faller tutor, and he loves his job. He recently came back to the Pilot Butte campus to take care of some of the trees on the property.

After all the time that has passed, he thinks things are still the same at the Ranch.

“From where I was high in the trees, I could see and hear everything. I could hear the staff talking to the kids, and I could see them hugging kids when the kids were upset,” he concluded.

Turning 30

Many of us dread turning 30, but for Ehrlo Sport Venture, the upcoming anniversary is something to be celebrated.

Ehrlo Sport Venture’s Outdoor Hockey League (OHL) is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. It is a time for us to reflect on the past and plan for the future. From its humble beginnings in a Regina classroom to a league that now welcomes over 300 youth a year, the OHL allows

all youth the opportunity to play hockey by removing the financial barriers.

The Outdoor Hockey League and Dress-A-Champion were first thought of by former Ranch Ehrlo teacher Russ Matthews and his Ranch Ehrlo students at Coronation Park School, as part of a school project.

Once the equipment was collected, the class decided to create the first outdoor hockey rink at Grassick Park in inner-city Regina because, at the time, the area had the highest crime rate in all of Canada.

The OHL provides recreational opportunities for kids who miss out on playing hockey due to poverty or other barriers that limit access to organized sports. It provides equipment free-of-charge and organized weekly hockey games. But the league was also created to strengthen communities.

Today the OHL is gearing up for its next season which kicks off in December at eight different rinks in Regina. Registrations for the 2022-2023 season will open soon.

We will also be celebrating our upcoming anniversary with a celebratory family skating event on November 2nd from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. at the Brandt Centre rink for Ehrlo Sport Venture players, parents, volunteers, and sponsors. Come skate on the same rink as the Regina Pats! If you are interested in coming, please RSVP to kayla.mckee@ranchehrlo.ca. We hope to see you there!

New vocational support program

It’s a new academic year for the vocational programs. This brings forth time to plan and develop new therapy programs for the participants at the Learning Centre.

An exciting new therapy has been added that will help participants and bring some four-legged love into their lives.

The Learning Centre is a special education program designed to support adults, aged 17 and older, with differing abilities and sensory needs to lead a full life.

“Our programs are routine based, meeting the individual needs of our participants. We provide community-based services that maximize development, community involvement, inclusion, independence, and participants’ contribution to the society in which they live,” explained Michelle Schwabe, program manager.

She added that the therapeutic support workers who work alongside the participants were tasked with thinking outside the box, as the





Participant at pet therapy

Learning Centre needed a few more therapeutic community programs since COVID-19 broke down some of our connections. Discussions occurred about different therapies that benefit our participant base, and pet therapy was chosen.

Therapy dogs can help people with autism build social communication, manage their emotions, and build play skills. They are also used to support positive social interactions with peers.

The service is provided thanks to St. John's Ambulance. Their therapy dog program has certified therapists and certified dogs. The dogs are highly trained and have to pass a very strict course, and so do the handlers.

Michelle added, "We are so grateful that we can provide this unique therapy with their assistance."

56th annual AGM

The 56th Ranch Ehrlo Society annual general meeting took place virtually on September 21st.

Dr. Louise Greenberg, board chair, started the meeting with the land acknowledgement of Treaty 4 and Treaty 6 territories, the original lands of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, Dene, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

Greenberg, along with Ranch Ehrlo CEO Natalie Huber then addressed the members to give them some highlights from the past year.

The agency welcomed three new board members this fiscal year: Benjamin Findlay, Lana Gray, and Blair Swystun.

Greenberg also took the opportunity to thank board members leaving the board for their valuable service and wish them all the best in the future. These included Carmen Lien, Hiedi Pearson, Marlys Tafelmeyer, and Sheri Woods.

The special guest speaker for the meeting was Dr. Lisa Broda, Saskatchewan's Advocate for Children and Youth. She explained one of the purposes of the advocate's office is to bring voices to our province's children and youth.

"We would also like to thank our executive, staff and volunteers who work so hard to help individuals and families achieve their full potential."

Natalie Huber, Ranch Ehrlo CEO

Shelley Reddekopp, Ranch Ehrlo's vice-president of finance, presented the financial statements. The financial results for the agency for 2021 to 2022 were positive with year-end results providing a net surplus of \$286,000 over budget.

The meeting ended with an opportunity for questions and a message of thanks.

"Ranch Ehrlo Society would like to thank its board of directors for its direction and support including chair Louise Greenberg and vice-chair David Hedlund," concluded Huber. "We would also like to thank our executive, staff, and volunteers who work so hard to help individuals and families achieve their full potential."

To review a copy of the Annual Report, including the audited full financial statements, please visit ehrlo.com.

Learning to be a family

Charlee is a Treatment Foster Program parent in Ranch Ehrlo's Treatment Foster Care Program (TFC).

After fostering *Adam for a year and a half, she recently had the opportunity to open her home to his biological sibling, *Ben in May.

She explained that while it was rewarding to bring the brothers together, it was also very challenging teaching them how family treats one another and what a family looks like.

"There were and still are some adjustments for Adam to share the care, affection, and attention he had become so comfortable with while at the same time help teach Ben self-regulation and establishing a sense of safety and stability in my home," Charlee said.

Charlee used both boys' summer birthdays to help build the relationship with their biological families; and she tailored the parties' themes and activities to the individual boy's interests and abilities.

"In my opinion the connection with the family is stronger. They are more willing to reach out to one another now," said Charlee. "It just makes me so happy to see this family start finding their way."

Charlee explained that she and her partner Braeden aren't trying to replace the family that the boys already have. They do what they can to create positive interactions for the boys and their family.

"It was so amazing to have had these two visits start and end in such a positive and healthy way," she concluded.

Beautiful campuses



Ranch Ehrlo's Paper Crane artist Dustin Ritter has been incredibly busy all summer instructing mural painting at the Pilot Butte campus, Corman Park campus, and at several Ranch Ehrlo group homes.

Buckland's 25th



Ranch Ehrlo Society's Buckland campus recently celebrated its 25th anniversary! The crowd had the opportunity to enjoy some food, tour the campus, participate in a round dance, and was entertained by a talented drummer/singer, and a youth fancy dance.

15th anniversary



Ranch Ehrlo's Corman Park campus recently celebrated its 15th anniversary with a magic show and a carnival theme.

Battle of the Butte 2022



The third annual Battle at the Butte was on September 24th. There were approximately 40 participants from 10 different programs participating in the strength contest on the Pilot Butte campus.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation



During the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, we were honoured to walk Ranch Ehrlo's path to reconciliation on our Pilot Butte campus.