

12 years of recognition

Ranch Ehrlo has once again been chosen as one of Saskatchewan's top employers for 2023. This is the 12th year in a row the agency has held this distinction.

This special designation recognizes the Saskatchewan employers leading their industries in offering exceptional workplaces.

"Since 1966, we've been creating an environment that fosters long-term employees, maintains a positive work-life balance, and, most importantly, allows everyone who works here to know that they truly make a difference," stated Ranch CEO Natalie Huber.



The Ranch's executive is committed to working with employees and using their feedback to make the agency the best possible place for our employees to work.



Natalie Huber, president/CEO



Extremely generous donation



Ranch Ehrlo and Ehrlo Sport Venture want to express our gratitude to the Brandt Group of Companies for their \$50,000 donation to the Ehrlo Sport Venture Outdoor Hockey League!

Shaun and Gavin Semple, owners of the Regina Pats and the Brandt Group of Companies, presented the cheque on the ice before the 3rd playoff game in Regina.

"We believe that everyone should have the right to play. Thanks to this significant donation from Brandt, even more Regina youth will have the opportunity to play the sport they love," says Gloria Patrick, Ehrlo Sport Venture program manager.

The donation is part of the Brandt Thanks A Billion program, which began in 2011, where they have provided \$22 million in support to initiatives that have made a real impact on the health and well-being of the communities in which they live and work.

Make a Mark 2.0

Ranch Ehrlo's Paper Crane expressive arts services have once again teamed up with the Regina Public Library to bring you a special art event. This year's highlight is black light art!

The new Make a Mark Mythical Art Exhibit opening gala will be on May 5th from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Creation Cube room at the George Bothwell, Southland Mall location.

This year there will be many original works of art from Ranch Ehrlo participants on display featuring the theme of mythical creatures.

The exhibit will run from May 5th to June 1st. Don't miss out!

Family advisory committee

Ranch Ehrlo has a new initiative involving participants' families!

While family involvement has always been an integral part of a participant's treatment program, the agency will take the next step to establish a structured family advisory committee consisting of the families of participants from our Group Living Services as well as the Supported Living Program.

"Ranch Ehrlo is committed to the practise of continuous improvement," explained Dr. Karl Mack, director of child youth development. "One of the ways the Ranch does that is listening to the feedback from various groups who experience the program."



- Dr. Karl Mack, director of child youth development

The committee will provide input to all levels of the organization on how the Ranch may be able to improve. The objective is to create a reflective committee that works in the best interest of those people who come to Ranch Ehrlo for developmental support.

The committee will meet three times a year, with their first meet-up in June 2023. If you are a family member of a current participant and are interested in joining the committee, please email inquires@ranchehrlo.ca.

6th annual powwow

Our 6th annual powwow will take place on August 31st on our Pilot Butte campus. There will be a grand entry and a family-style carnival with prizes and games to be won.

Our powwow is a place to join in celebration through dancing, singing, visiting, renewing old friendships, and making new ones while honouring the culture of our Indigenous clientele, staff, and community partners.

If you are interested in volunteering at our 6th annual powwow or sponsoring the event, please reach out to Kayla at kayla.mckee@ranchehrlo.ca for more information.

Comfort kits



Youth in our southern programs recently received a comforting surprise. A backpack full of plush items such as blanket, a teddy bear, and other treats.

Launched in 2013, the Ted and Loretta Rogers Foster Care Comfort Kit Program, through the Children's Aid

Foundation of Canada, aims to significantly improve the experience of coming into foster care, kinship care, or customary care for children and youth across Canada.

This program provides funds for backpacks stuffed with items and resources that bring comfort, well-being, safety, and a sense of security to young people struggling to cope with an overwhelming period of their lives.

Our next shipment of back packs will be distributed to the northern programs.

Incredible resilience

Martine Ahenakew has overcome a lot of life's hardships to reunite her family. The single mother of three is now clean and sober, working full time, and taking care of her kids.



Martine

Ahenakew has experienced many roadblocks in her life which began to pull apart her family. Her two oldest girls were placed in Ranch Ehrlo's Treatment Foster Care Program. Her son was placed in another program.

Her children were about to be permanently placed with the Ministry of Social Services when someone knocked on her door and changed the trajectory of her life.

The girls' clinical caseworker with the TFC program tracked her down and spoke with her about having the opportunity to reunite with her children, but she was going to have to work for it through Ranch Ehrlo's Family Treatment Program (FTP).

Before coming to the FTP, Ahenakew said that she didn't know how to do many daily tasks people take for granted. She didn't know how to process emotions, she couldn't make a doctor's appointment, and she

didn't know about self-care, or even how to talk with her children.

"I felt like a newborn baby with street smarts. When you're in addiction, you don't know how to do anything except use drugs and get drugs. I had to learn how to live," she said.

She credits her remarkable transformation to Ranch staff, especially her family preservation therapist, Theerie Hill.

Ahenakew also worked with the Treatment Foster Care parents who were looking after her girls, including Brittanie and Sam Park.

Park said, "Martine has set the bar pretty high for others to reach. She worked so hard to get well and be reunited with her children."

All three families continue to stay in touch. Ahenakew now speaks to Treatment Foster Care parents so the parents can appreciate and understand the difficult journeys the biological families must make to be reunited with their children.

Amazing transformation

*Billy has made a complete transformation! He came to the Ranch when he was seven years old. He was nonverbal and had frequent aggressive outbursts.

Kimberly Vaskor, housemother at Spruce Tree House, said, "When I would take him to school, I'd have to peel him off my leg and hand him to the teacher. He would be there between 15 to 30 minutes, and I would get a call to come and get him because he'd had an outburst."

Billy's staff worked very hard with him. He had speech therapy, and plenty of attention from his direct care team. Three months later he was attending school for half-days. For the last eight months, he has been attending school for full days with



zero incidents!

Matthew McGeough, program manager, said, "He is now speaking in complete sentences, getting 100 per cent on his spelling tests, and doing his homework in the evenings."

McGeough added, "He's just this whole new little guy. It's been a lot of hard work by his direct caregivers, his speech therapist, his caseworker, his personal support workers, and the school board. In my 17 years at Ranch Ehrlo, I've never been a part of something like this."

Billy's grandmother is astounded in the change she has seen in Billy. "It means so much to our whole family. You have all done an amazing job with Billy," she said. "When I see Billy the first thing I see is his beautiful smile. It just warms my heart."

*Name changed for privacy.

Thank you to our sponsors and donors

Thank you to all our incredible donors and sponsors who helped Ranch Ehrlo from January through April:

In kind donations

- BOSS Meat Company
- Sigma Flooring Group
- Lynch Farm Partnership, Winterfest sponsorship
- Broncos Bar and Grill, Winterfest sponsorship
- Seal-It up roofing, Winterfest sponsorship
- Simply Turf Landscaping and Lawn Care, Winterfest sponsorship
- Moore Outdoors, Winterfest sponsorship
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- Regina Pats, Winterfest sponsorship
- Saskatchewan Roughriders, Winterfest sponsorship
- Weekend Warriors Fishing Podcast, Winterfest sponsorship
- -Pokey's Tackle Shop, Winterfest sponsorship

Donations and sponsorships

- Boston Pizza Emerald Park \$1,051
- And thank you to our many personal donors who donate in person and online through our CanadaHelps account.

Wheelhouse cyclers



Staff felt rejuvenated after their recent spin classes at Wheelhouse Cycle Club! The southern staff association was thrilled to offer staff free rides in order to support staff living a healthy lifestyle.

Talented staff



RC Equina, family treatment worker, has been honing his photography skills for years at Ranch Ehrlo and recently snapped some shots of the stars when he was invited to photograph the NBA minor league Raptors game in Toronto!

Pats at Frost



Our Outdoor Hockey League participants had a blast at the 2nd annual Hockey Night on Wascana as part of the Frost festival. Players were surprised to have the Regina Pats Hockey Club, including Connor Bedard, join them on the ice!

Northern recruitment Ribbon skirts



Jodi Wiesner, supervisor of north unit manager support, and Jennifer Kliman, HR consultant, at a career fair in Saskatoon. The agency attends fairs to talk with potential employees who are considering working at the Ranch.



Staff joined the community and the Regina Police Service at their annual round dance. Kellee Leader, one of the workers in our Family Treatment Program, made 14 ribbon skirts for the families to wear to the round dance.

