EAGLE RANCH Celebration 2023

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The summer months provide an opportunity for us all to savor what God has done yet again in the lives of children and families. As you may know, at the end of each school year, we celebrate children and families who have accomplished the goals of our program and we launch them back into their lives together as a family at home.

The five children and families featured in this newsletter are only a sampling of the many

children and families we serve, but are illustrative of the miraculous healing that has taken place by God's power and grace for nearly 40 years. Charlie, Jordy, Faith, Ryland and Chloe all came to the Ranch around the same time that I did in 2021. It has been a joy and privilege to walk alongside them and their families as they've hoped for healing and realized that it is possible. These families have demonstrated incredible courage to rebuild the foundations of their family relationships to last a lifetime.

In a world constantly demanding our attention to all of the negative, broken things around us, I hope you'll take a moment to pause and savor the *qoodness* of these stories.

Blessings to you. Know that I and the rest of the Eagle Ranch family are grateful for you and for your partnership in this meaningful work.

Appreciatively,

John H. Shackelford

Eagle Ranch Executive Director

OUR PURPOSE

Eagle Ranch helps make life better for children and their families, positively impacting communities for the glory of God.

Eagle Ranch · P.O. Box 7200 · Chestnut Mountain · GA 30502 · t: 770.967.8500



Summer at Eagle Ranch is a time of fresh starts and fun. New and returning children and families come together to get to know our campus and each other. Boys and girls enjoy activities to promote interaction, teamwork and play.

GRADUATION 2023:

Celebrating family renewal

FAMILY RENEWAL OF RELATIONSHIPS IS CENTRAL TO THE EAGLE RANCH MISSION.

Our Spring graduates and their families share about their experiences working to achieve goals that promote whole family healing and strengthening bonds that will last into future generations.



"At Eagle Ranch, I have learned how to manage my anger and express my emotions. I know that I have to get out of my comfort zone to reach goals. Even through hardship, I learned that change is good." FAITH

"We'd tried everything, and it still felt like we weren't able to be a happy family. Through what we've learned at the Ranch, our relationship has transformed. We have the tools and self-awareness to communicate more effectively. We have grown together as a family. We've grown in how we handle conflict, struggles and navigate challenging things. We don't feel desperate anymore. Now we know it's okay. We've been trained in this. We can get through it."

> SARAH & JONATHAN, FAITH'S PARENTS



"The reason I came to Eagle Ranch was because I was battling screen addiction and was always angry and yelling at my parents. I didn't know what else I would do if I wasn't playing video games. It was my escape from reality, and I enjoyed it a lot. My time at the Ranch has allowed me to find other interests and make friends outside of gaming. I now have the motivation to engage in other activities, and I have the skills to make new friends."

CHARLIE

"I have never seen a place quite like Eagle Ranch. Everybody is there to support your child, and the role models that Charlie had are incredible. We were trying to control Charlie instead of training him, and now we are able to step back and give him choices. Our communication is better and our home is calmer. We now have the tools to face what comes our way. I'm not exaggerating when I say Eagle Ranch saved our family."

> JODI & BRUCE, CHARLIE'S PARENTS



"I struggled with mood swings and was failing all my classes. Now, I've learned to control my emotions and be mindful of what I say and how I say it. I've also learned to manage my anger." "Chloe struggled with making bad decisions, and we were concerned they would only become worse as she became older. We have learned to let Chloe make choices on her own, and if it's the wrong choice, she has learned to accept the consequences. Now, Chloe is a different child. She makes better choices, and there is a lot less tension in our relationship."

TIM & AMY, CHLOE'S PARENTS

"Jordy has become more self-aware of her feelings and learned how to better express them. Since being at the Ranch, I have seen Jordy mature. I have learned through the program that both the parent and the child have to put in the work to see change."

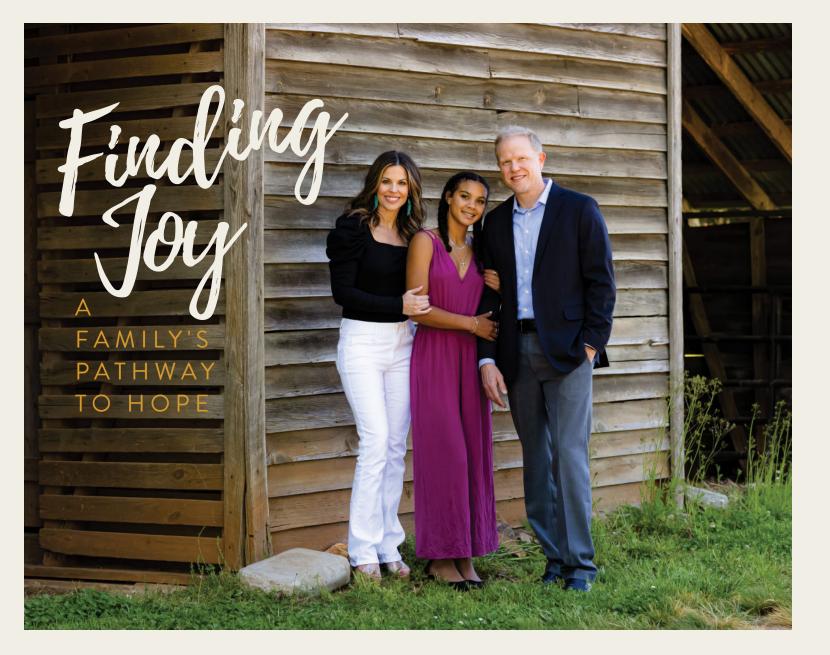
CASSIE, JORDY'S MOM



"Two years ago, I came to Eagle Ranch because I would argue with people. I would have a lot of anxiety, and I never knew how to handle it. Since coming to the Ranch, I have learned how to talk about my feelings, manage my anger and talk to people. I have made great friends who I will never forget."

"both the parent and the child have to put in the work to see change"

JORDY (PICTURED RIGHT)



Ryland arrived at Eagle Ranch in July 2021. "I'll never forget that day because it's the day I realized that God wanted me to push forward and keep going with my life," she recalled. "It was the day I told myself that I wanted to change."

Middle school was tough on Ryland. She was failing most of her classes and struggled making healthy friendships. Fear resulted in letting herself be led by others, even when it was to her detriment. "I was scared of people disapproving of me, invalidating me or dismissing me. It kept me from standing up for myself in stressful situations, and I would just shut down." Seeing their daughter's decline and worried for her future, Ryland's parents presented the idea of Eagle Ranch to her, knowing it was a choice they needed to make for their family, which includes three siblings in addition to Ryland.

"I realized I wanted to pursue this, that it was actually going to help me," she said.

Early on, the family recognized that Eagle Ranch is about restoration and working with the whole family.

"It really is a family therapy program," said Ryland's dad, Michael. "I think so often, at least when we first looked at it, we didn't I'll never forget the day I arrived at Eagle Ranch because it's the day I realized that God wanted me to push forward and keep going with my life.

fully understand how much we had to change our whole family dynamic."

While Ryland lived on campus as part of Eagle Ranch's residential program, her family came to the campus for counseling sessions, training and fun activities. While they stayed connected, there was enough separation to provide space for healing.

"One of the biggest benefits to the program is that it gives your family the space you need to step back and approach things differently," Michael said. "When you're in the middle of the chaos, it's very difficult to make changes and to see the hope and the light ahead. It's much harder in those moments to really focus because you're just trying to keep things moving. Once we had space to step back and approach it with a little more time, energy and intentionality, it really helped us navigate things better."

Ryland's mom, Kerri, appreciated that things never felt forced. She felt equipped to address their family's struggles.

"Eagle Ranch is a place that promotes healing," Kerri said. "You can't force anything but you have all the ingredients: space, reflection, putting down old tools that don't work and picking up new ones, with the goal of looking forward and having hope."

A large part of Ryland's healing was understanding how to sort through complex emotions and express them in a productive way. "A lot of kids these days don't actually know what they're feeling," she said. "They just know the overall feeling, like angry, happy, but when you break it down, it makes a lot more sense, and you understand why you are having an outburst."

Being able to express herself and not allow emotions to build up, helped Ryland be more open to rebuilding her family relationships and also learn how to make positive friendships.

She feels like she has a solid foundation to continue growing in her faith, relationships and life goals.

"Before the Ranch, I felt lost and rejected. Now I feel found and accepted. There's still so much I have to work on, but I'm proud of what I've accomplished," Ryland said. "I've worked really hard to get where I am now. I was determined that I could change, that I could have joy."

RYLAND IS THE INAUGURAL RECIPIENT OF THE CHUMA FAMILY "BELIEVE IN ME" ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP. The scholarship is awarded to an Eagle Ranch graduate who has displayed tremendous growth throughout their time in the program and a desire to pursue a unique academic passion, while maintaining an unwavering commitment to the fundamental values and core beliefs of Eagle Ranch.

THE EAGLE RANCH HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFT PROGRAM

On these pages, each name you read represents a gift that is going directly to help boys and girls heal from crisis and build a better life. Making an honor or memorial gift is a meaningful way to honor a friend or loved one. Upon receiving your gift, we mail out a beautiful, personalized acknowledgement card and information about our ministry to your recipient of choice. Giving is easy: visit eagleranch.org/give, call our office at 770.967.8500, or mail your gift to P.O. Box 7200, Chestnut Mountain, GA 30502. Thank you for blessing our ministry.

HONOR GIFTS

Contributions to the Eagle Ranch Honor Program are listed in alphabetical order by the name of the honoree. Donors are listed after the name of the person in whose honor they contributed (donations received January 1 – May 31, 2023).

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THIS YEAR'S RUN THE RANCH EVENT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!



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Eagle Ranch welcomed over 350 participants in the annual 5K, Fun Run and Nature Walk on June 3, 2023. Participants of all levels, from experienced runners to casual walkers, joined together to enjoy the outdoors and support our mission to improve the lives of children, families and the community. We want to give a big thank you to all the wonderful volunteers and sponsors whose generosity and time made this event possible! To view pictures and results from the day's events, visit EagleRanch.org/RTR. MICHAEL V. DUVALL Dale Graham MR. JERRY EDWARDS Howard & Carol Cooper GLORIA EGGLETON Doug & Diane Strickland Magnus LOUISE EHLERT Jerri L. Blumenthal LARRY W. ELLIOTT Greg & Susan Elliott JAMES (JIM) WESLEY ELLIS Jim Hardman Robin Myers JAMES (JIMMY) EDWARD ELLIS Jim Hardman TOM ELLIS Patsy Avers MR. CHUCK ENSLEN Stan Appleton ANDY EPTON Bill & Cheryl Epton CHRISTINE EVANS Bobbie Cain PAT FAIRCHILD Tim & Jan Fairchild ERIN SCHAFER FATZINGER Shane & Amy Fatzinger MRS. MARIE FAULKNER Mrs. Elver Davis Henry & Company JOE & MARY JANE FEENEY David & Kathy Teichert JUDY FENNELL Imogene Buckley Tammy Peebles DARRELL FOSTER Mrs. Linda Foster MELISSA FRAZIER Robin Rider CHRIS GADDIS Dennis & Gayle Strickland BRENDA GAIL GANT Albert Sapp

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Sailing into Summer with Fun & Learning

Members of the University Yacht Club and the Atlanta chapter of America's Boating Club teamed up to provide an interactive "Intro to Sailing" course to Eagle Ranch children and houseparents. Over two afternoons, participants gained instruction and hands-on learning about safety essentials, rigging, tacking and even recovering a capsized sailboat. They also enjoyed a chapel service, brunch and swimming. The sailors-in-training will put their newly acquired skills to the test during sailing camp from later in the summer.

A huge thank you goes out to Atlanta Boating Club, UYC and UYC Maritime Foundation for investing in our community.

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BRIDGING OUR MISSIONS

The Scott Family Bridge was dedicated in May recognizing The Scott Bridge Company, which generously donated the bridge construction in partnership with numerous suppliers who donated materials and services. The bridge connects The Wings Center to the Eagle Ranch campus and serves as a symbol to bridge our shared mission of helping children and families to impact the future for the glory of God.

JACKIE SAPP

THE SCOTT

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