



Intensive Family Weekends, a Deeper Awareness

In November 2011, Rawhide initiated a new program to the continuum of care for at-risk youth and families. Intensive Family Weekends provide an opportunity for youth under Rawhide's care to experience three consecutive days of high impact counseling sessions with their family. Each weekend includes a variety of group and family sessions throughout three days that will lead to stronger family relationships. The families arrive at the Rawhide grounds on Friday afternoon and stay through Sunday at lunch.



Brian Schroeder (right) leads a counseling session to a group of five families at a recent family weekend.

Trained facilitators guide those families through carefully designed activities to engage them on the inter-workings of the family structure. Over the course of the retreat, families will deepen their understanding of: the effects of trauma and a wounded spirit, the connection between stress, fear, and anger, and will learn why some behaviors aren't changing.

"The goal of this initiative is to complement the work we do with youth here at the Ranch by doing intensive work with hurting families who have been devastated by past trauma and 'wounds of the heart,' and desperately need help in terms of family restoration and personal healing," stated Brian Schroeder, Rawhide Family Weekends Facilitator. "In life you learn from your own mistakes as a family. If we could go back and learn from the mistakes it will help them work through real practical daily changes," concluded Schroeder. His goal on facilitating this intensive family weekend is to help families better understand feelings and what is at the root of some of their problems.

Eye Opening

One of those stories involved a family of a young man who has received services from Rawhide. The first activity of that evening involved a presentation about the condition of the heart and how it affects your view of life and circumstances. The mother said it was an "eye opening" experience and desired to change the condition of her heart through healing past wounds.

As the weekend continued, the program focused on the different toxins that inhibit families from living life to its fullest. For example, mothers may identify a toxin such as depression. It leads to a breakthrough that is really beneficial to the family, and often families realize the need to continue to work with counseling and the benefits of it.

Another participant made it very clear that "she was thankful to everyone at Rawhide for an amazing, life-changing family weekend experience."



An About Face student, (right) leads his family through an experiential activity under the guidance of a Rawhide staff member. These hands-on activities are designed to foster more meaningful family bonds.

In 2012, the Intensive Family Weekend program will be hosted at Rawhide and in Milwaukee thanks to the support of the Nicholas Family Foundation. For more information contact us at 1-888-745-7445.

Alumnus Making a Difference in Special Way

Roger Devenport, a 1979 alumnus of Rawhide is making dreams come true for a very special population. In 1992 Roger and Sue Devenport purchased a thousand acres of land in Northern Wisconsin and developed it into one of the finest white tail hunting preserves in North America. For 15 years they donated lodging, meals and hunts for numerous disabled, disadvantaged and terminally ill youth. Their successful Three Lakes Preserve was sold in 2007, and they now devote their time to providing adventure experiences for disabled youth and veterans.

One recent trip involved a young man named Alex who nearly lost his life in a car accident. Now 21, he severed his spinal cord and spent two months in the hospital. Doctors said there was a zero percent chance of walking and that he was going to be in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. Against all odds, Alex is back on his feet. He credits part of his amazing recovery to the help of this special charity and a member of his favorite team.

Green Bay Packer A.J. Hawk accompanied Alex to the Three Lakes Preserve and has been involved ever since. Hawk is a spokesperson and volunteer for The Way Outfitters program. The Way Outfitters program has started to showcase these amazing adventures on television. Starting last December, a half hour TV show airs on the Sportsman channel. For Alex, his outfitters experience gave him hope. These trips are completely funded by donations. To learn more about these special trips, visit:

www.thewayoutfitters.com



Roger Devenport pictured with his wife Sue and their children, Sean, Abe, and Sydney



Terri Simpson, a teacher at Starr Academy is pictured with an art board that was created by students in the About Face program and is on display at Schneider National in Green Bay.

Benefactor Remembers Rawhide Through Estate Gift

The conclusion of 2011 brought news of a very significant bequest from the estate of Irene E. Spyhalski. We will forever be grateful for the legacy it will provide to benefit Rawhide youth in the future.

Irene was a 1940 graduate of Marquette University's Nursing School. She practiced as an Occupational Nurse until retirement from the Medical Department at the First Wisconsin Bank. In honor of their generosity, Rawhide will be naming the health screening room after Irene and her late husband Norbert.

To learn more about how you can create your own legacy to help the youth at Rawhide through planned giving, please visit our website at www.rawhide.org or call Sandy Paulus at 920-531-2593.

A note of thanks from the Community...

"Thank you so much for the day of work you put in at Lambeau Field for our Stop Hunger Now event. Your cheerful manners, hard work, and of course your very useful muscles made our job so much easier and so pleasant! So many women went out of their way to tell me how you all had impressed them so much! Your positive attitudes and work ethic will take you far."

Laurie Murphy (Wife of Green Bay Packers President, Mark Murphy)

Thank you to those who chose to remember Rawhide in 2011 upon the death of their loved ones

Memorials

Jeanette Anderson
Bass Memorial Gift
Erwin Beyer
Jeff Borkovich
Henry Buslee
Beverly Carl
Harry Christensen
Mary Deda
Harold Ellsworth
Gail Engler
Syd Faulks
Fabian Fontaine
George Gabrielse

Vaughn Gehrt
Robert Giering
Adam Gundlach
Lucas Hemaier
Adam Hildreth
Mary Jo Huset
Ilene Isenberg
Lilian Jones
Robert Kendgia
Eugene Koch
Joann Lawrenz
Paul Lensink
Justin Meidam
Ruth Nelson

Virtle Paulson
Naomi Pavlik
Leah Price
Dennis Roberts
Dolores Scaglione
Jerry Schmidt
Larry Sipple
Steve Smith
Harry Spriggs
Earl Stump
Alec Thomas
Jane Vanden Boogart
Herb Wachholz
Art Waller

Jake Ward
Kenneth Wilkes
Terry Zimmer

Estate Gifts

Robert W. Boniface
Irene Spyhalski
Norman P. Cripe
Harry L. Cook
Orwald W. Tews
Evelyn Radke
George and Jessie Rushton