



Mother's Day Extra Special For Thankful Rawhide Alumnus and His Mom

As Mother's Day approaches, we recognize that for every struggling boy there is a mother that is suffering. This year, for the first time in many years, Rawhide alumnus Luigi and his mother Patricia will enjoy Mother's Day and celebrate the strong relationship they have developed.

Luigi came to Rawhide in August of 2006, when he was just 13 years old. His mother recalls having to appear in court and how difficult it was for her to see her child wearing an orange jumpsuit and so unsure of his future. "All I could do was pray for the best," she stated, "and I thank God for putting Rawhide in his life."

When Luigi first arrived at Rawhide, he knew that he wanted to change but didn't know how to do it. He would find the answer within a matter of weeks. After two weeks on the ranch, Luigi turned his life over to Jesus Christ, and now, he recognizes that moment as a significant turning point.



Luigi and his mother Patricia continue to build strong bonds today.



Luigi works on a project in the Gabrielse Woodworking Shop while a student at Starr Academy.

"There is so much more to my life now than I ever could have imagined before I came to Rawhide," Luigi said. "In the six months that I was here I made a 180-degree turn." Patricia agrees that Luigi is a completely different person from who he used to be. She has noticed that he is much more respectful and always thinking of others before himself. She sees that he has a heart for God and that he wants to do the right thing. "He has completely turned around. Today he's doing just wonderful; I'm so proud of him!" she stated.

Luigi is now a sophomore in high school and holds a 3.7 grade point average. He is also a member of the varsity choir at his school and would like to travel to Mexico and Kenya. He plans to attend college and earn a degree in law enforcement. "I've taken so much from the community, and now, I want to give something back. I want to reach out and give people guidance and prove that change is possible. I can't imagine any other career for myself," he explained. He credits Rawhide and the

counseling he received on the ranch with giving him the skills and abilities to address his needs, and he learned how to fill the voids in his life with meaningful goals and activities rather than with gangs, drugs, and alcohol.

Patricia and Luigi continue to work on building a strong bond today but acknowledge how far they have already come. They described their past relationship as rocky, at best. Today Patricia is happy that she and her son have learned to be real with each other and maintain a close relationship. "Rawhide taught us what life is really about. It's not about how much money you have or what kind of house you live in but what's in your heart," she explained. Luigi completely agrees with his mother and concludes by sharing, "I don't take for granted what we have because I know so many others who would love to have it but don't. I thank God every day for what He has given me, what He has given our family, and what He has given us."

2009 Rawhide Friday Fish Fries

Frontier Cafe at Rawhide - Serving from 5-8 p.m.

May 15

August 21

June 19

September 18

July 17

October 16



Adventure Camp

Summer School with an Edge!

Rawhide is introducing a brand-new, adventure-based, team-building camp for the summer of 2009. The camp is designed to help credit-deficient teenage boys develop respect, responsibility, and self-control while enjoying the Flambeau River State Forest in northern Wisconsin. Youth will experience seven days of activities including canoeing, swimming, camping, cooking, climbing, fishing, hiking, life lessons, and will be able to earn one Phy Ed or elective credit toward graduation.

"Rawhide held similar summer camp sessions many years ago and they were very successful," stated Executive Director, John Solberg. "Contributions to support the camp program will allow us to reach out and help at-risk boys before they get into more serious trouble."

For more information visit www.rawhide.org/camp or call 1-888-745-7445.

Camp Dates

June 13-June 20

(Junior High School, ages 13-14)

June 27-July 4

(Freshmen & Sophomore, ages 15-16)

July 11-July 18

(Junior & Senior, ages 17 and over)

July 25-August 1

(Freshmen & Sophomore, ages 15-16)

August 8-August 15

(Junior High School, ages 13-14)

Rawhide's Training Center Heavily Damaged by Fire

At approximately 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2009, a fire was discovered in the Round-Up Hall, a training facility/workshop that is one of the oldest structures at Rawhide Boys Ranch. The New London Fire Department was called and arrived shortly thereafter to respond to the fire. No one was in the building at the time, and there were no injuries resulting from the fire.

According to New London Fire Chief, Bart Roloff, the structure was engulfed in flames as crews arrived. The fire originated on the west side of the building in a workshop area and firefighters were able to limit the majority of the damage to that half of the building. "It's probably going to be a total loss," Roloff said. "The building is still there, but there's significant damage throughout the inside." The building - which served as Rawhide's Starr Academy until 1998 - sustained extensive fire, smoke, and water damage, especially in the roof.

An investigation by the insurance company indicated that the cause of the fire was due to problems with an electrical exhaust fan that served a kiln in the building. New London firefighters received assistance from Dale, Hortonville, and Fremont fire departments. Firefighters cleared the scene just before 2:30 a.m. on Friday. Contributions to assist with the rebuilding can be made to Rawhide.



Rawhide's Newest Outpatient Counseling Clinics Unveiled!



Chet Krause; Cheryl Brooks, Kimberly-Clark Corporation; Bart Starr; Mary Harp-Jirschele, John J. and Ethel D. Keller Fund; Cherry Starr; and John Wollner, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation, joined Rawhide students in a ribbon-cutting ceremony. (Pictured L to R)

On Tuesday, April 7th, Rawhide announced the opening of two new outpatient clinics in the Fox Valley at a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at Rawhide. Bart and Cherry Starr, as well as representatives that contributed to this new initiative, were present to celebrate the official opening.

"For many years youth have come to Rawhide to receive services; now we can take this expertise and extend it to the communities," Rawhide Executive Director John Solberg stated. "Building on the success of our clinic in Green Bay, we are excited to offer these services in the Fox Cities, and thankful to our supporters for underwriting the cost to bring preventative services to youth who need them," he added.

Opening these clinics allows Rawhide to extend services to boys as well as girls. Clinics are located in Menasha, on the campus of Rawhide, and in Green Bay. Clients will also have access to Rawhide's Equine Assisted Therapy in an indoor riding arena, as well as a variety of other therapeutic activities on the Rawhide campus. To learn more, visit www.rawhide.org/strongfamily, or call 1-877-300-9101.