

Agape Youth Ministry

UPDATE

June. 2011

AGAPEYOUTH@AGAPEYOUTH.ORG

(480) 471-8253

MEMO from the CEO

Some of our friends get together with us on a regular basis and, during our last get together, the discussion turned to the changing generations. Our group (ages 60's to early 70's) can look back at our adult kids and grandkids and the kids they are now raising. Everyone in our group are devoted Christians and deeply care about their family and about good family values, however, some of our younger generation family members are or have struggled with lifestyle choices, i.e., drugs, divorce, poor choice of friends or spouses, etc. that has caused devastation in their lives.

This got me to thinking ... what if there was some type of intervention that could happen for today's kids before they started making poor life choices. An intervention that could teach kids how to make good choices based on solid Christian values, which could alleviate the heartaches that poor choices would cause them, their parents, grandparents, and ultimately, their own kids.

With the calling God has given me with Agape Youth Ministry, I get frustrated when I hear such conversations, knowing that Agape Youth Ministry's Residential Ranch Program for at-risk teens could easily be that intervention. But, we are struggling with trying to get financial donors, qualified staff, and energized volunteers to keep moving forward with the plans to be able to open the Ranch Program to today's troubled teens.

I think the biggest frustration is that it seems the general population doesn't want to admit that our juvenile problem has been put under the awareness radar. The drug abuse, the gang activity, homeless problems, and violence are as great as ever. As Christians living in this society, shouldn't we be focusing more on these issues and trying to intervene? The lure of secular society bombards us all through secular news, media and education systems, as they glorify open sex, encourage drug use (i.e., legalization of marijuana), and distort God's purposes for marriage, etc., which is working against Christian values. We need to push back!!

Let's start by supporting Christian ministries, like Agape Youth Ministry, and by getting involved in teen outreaches and in our church youth programs. We need to push back --- we need to intervene for the sake of our younger upcoming generations.

Gordy Lange, CEO

OPPORTUNITIES

You may be asking yourself, “what can I do?” We have listed some areas where you could help the Ministry and the Ranch.

Don't let an opportunity that God presents pass you by!!!!

- † Be a member of our prayer team. Contact Sandy Nelson, e-mail, sandy.nelson@imiss.com.
- † Participate on one of our fundraising committees. Contact the office: (480) 471-8253, or e-mail: agapeyouth@agapeyouth.org
- † Contact Bruce Lane to help with the annual parking lot sale: brucelane316@yahoo.com.
- † Help with the Phoenix Fall Round-Up. Contact Bill Perdue at perduew@cox.net
- † If you live in the Tucson or Sierra Vista areas, help us start a fundraising committee
- † Be a financial partner!

We have to raise approximately \$5,000 every month to operate the ranch and ministry.
YOU can help! *God blesses us so that we might be a blessing to others.*

RESOURCES FOR YOU

We strongly believe that it is important for parents with teenagers to keep themselves informed in ways to deal with their teens. In this newsletter, and in future newsletters, we will try to provide new information about resources that might be of help to you. Some book resources that you might consider are the following:

“When You’re Living With a Troubled Teen”

By: David B. Hawkins

Paperback can be ordered through Amazon.com

Description: We know that adolescence can be a difficult transition for teenagers—but it’s no picnic for parents, either! How can I know what’s normal adolescent behavior and what is cause for concern? When should I intervene, and when should I just let things take their natural course? Will my teenagers turn out OK, or are we all in for big trouble? There are answers, and this book can help you find them.

As part of the Pocket Therapist series, this booklet offers practical, godly wisdom for parents who are facing the challenge of teenage children. While acknowledging that there are no simple fixes to life’s crises, Hawkins compassionately insists there are important steps we can choose to take, thereby opening ourselves to God’s healing and peace.

“At Risk - Bringing Hope To Hurting Teenagers”

By: Dr. Scott Larson

Paperback can be ordered through Amazon.com

Reviewer Comment: Dr. Larson does an excellent job weaving together the theological, sociological and psychological facets enabling the reader to work with and redeem kids in crisis. I work at a crisis ministry with at-risk students, and by far I have found this to be the most helpful resource available to date.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH



The staff at Agape Youth Ranch has just completed 3 days of training for the camp helpers for this summer's camps. Besides being orientated with the camp procedures, the staff had a great time developing and practicing those activities that the campers will be experiencing during their camp at the ranch, including relay games, crafts, animal science classes, horsemanship training, and dog obedience training techniques.

JOHN MILLS IS LEAVING AYR! After spending 6 months as the Ranch Program Director, John Mills is leaving us to go back home to Minneapolis to be with his wife, Marcia, and possibly take a position with the Veterans Administration. John has been the guiding light in preparing our 12-month at-risk teen program. He has also filled the gap in helping with all the various maintenance issues while we searched for a Facilities Maintenance Foreman. We all pray that John will have a successful future and we certainly thank him for serving at the Ranch. **We surely welcome your prayers for God to provide us with a new Program Director!**

WHAT A BLESSING! Jeff Bower from Calvary Chapel Queen Creek and his helpers have completed the reinforced firewall separating the Connors Building's activity area and workshop. Jeff's crew worked until 9:00 PM some nights to complete the project. Many thanks to Pastor Jim Remington for helping to get Jeff involved, and to Jeff and his great crew!



Conner's Building

Another results from the new firewall and enclosing our east and west garage doors to the Connors Activity area has been with the placement of coolers, which now provides a nice cool activity area for our camp activities. AYR's staff and campers give a big hug to Jeff and his crew.

It's still not too late to register for Summer Camp No. 3 (1 week camp) and for Camp No. 4 (our 4-week camp)!!!

Attached is a camp registration form for your convenience. You can also register on-line at our website: www.agapeyouth.org.



Matthew 18:5: *Any one who welcomes a little child on My behalf is welcoming Me.*

Matthew 19:14: *Let the children come to Me, don't stop them for the Kingdom Heaven belongs to them.*

Camp Application

Complete and mail to Agape Youth Ministry, P.O. Box 11415, Phoenix, AZ 85061-1415

OR: Register online at www.agapeyouth.org

Camp #3 (Ages 14-16) – July 10-16

Fee for Week-long Camps = \$350 total / \$150 deposit with application

“Summer at the Ranch” 4-week Camp (June 19 - July 16) / \$1200 total / \$300 deposit with application

Camper Name _____ Age _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Work Phone _____

City/State/Zip code _____ Parent's cell # _____

Check the session the camper wishes to attend: _____ Camp 3 (Ages 14-16) July 10 – July 16

_____ Camp 4 (Ages 13 -16) June 19 – July 16 (4 weeks)

Describe briefly camper's experience with horses (if any) _____

Camper's T-shirt Size: Youth: S _____ M _____ L _____

Adult: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL

YOU CAN HELP!

A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need. Proverbs 17:17 (NLT)

Several people have asked about the needs of the Ministry and the Ranch. First and foremost, we ask for your prayers that the Ministry will be able to begin its long-incoming 12-month Residential Program for At-Risk Teens.

Also:

- ✚ Become a Financial Partner with AYM by donating \$25 each month, which is easily done on AYM's website – www.agapeyouth.org.
- ✚ Do your Internet searches & Internet shopping through **GOODSEARCH / GOODSHOP**. There is a link on AYM's website. Just type in Agape Youth Ministry, Phoenix in the organization box and we will get a percentage of each search or purchase made, without any cost to you!
- ✚ Sign up through your employer for automatic payroll deduction to donate through **Valley of the Sun United Way - Account# 4740627**.
- ✚ If you are an APS employee, APS will match any funds donated or time donated with funding. For more information, contact George Cole at georgeandlauracole@gmail.com.

Due to the current state of our Nation's economy, money has become more of an issue for everyone and every organization. However, the financial needs to be able to operate Agape Youth Ranch and provide our programs and camps continue. So, we ask you to consider putting a small amount aside every month for the Agape Youth Ranch, which will ultimately help to have a positive impact on young teens' lives.

Other Needs!!! Can YOU help?

Furniture for staff housing, such as couches, tables, chairs, etc.
Used full-size passenger Van (in good condition, please!)
Monies to repair the Ranch's backhoe
Brush Hog to cut weeds
Mechanical hand tools for the Ranch's maintenance shop

Prayer Requests!!!

Ranch Program Director, with a passion to help change the lives of at-risk teens;
Bunkhouse Leader positions (2) to be filled with God's chosen;
Food Service and Ranch Host (Cook) who finds joy in feeding hungry staff, teens, & volunteers;
Fundraiser Coordinator position filled with one of God's gifted innovative leaders;
Fundraiser volunteers for fundraiser dinner event and other events;
That the AYR Staff continues to be encouraged in their service;
That the 12-month Residential Program for At-Risk Teens would start very soon; and
Please pray for all those who are involved in Agape Youth Ministry / Agape Youth Ranch
(for wisdom, unity, perseverance, strength, safety, and to continuing growing in our Lord)

For your convenience, a Donation Form is provided below!

DONATION FORM: To support the work of **Agape Youth Ministry**, I would like my donation to be applied toward:

Agape Youth Ranch **Adopt-a-Teen Fund** Adopt-a-Horse Fund Adopt-a-Dog Fund

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$ _____

Check enclosed Charge Card:    / One-time donation Monthly donation

Card No.: _____ Last 3 digits on card back: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____

If you are making a monthly donation, please indicate the date you would like the draft to occur: _____

Name as it appears on Card: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: (____) _____ Cell phone: (____) _____

E-mail address: _____

All contributions are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. *We will send a donation receipt to the above address.*

THANK YOU!

Please visit our website often: www.agapeyouth.org