



CARL ORTH FAMILY LIFE CENTER & Guest House

One of the original ranch buildings on the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch campus at 1732 So. 72nd St. West, Billings, Montana, the **Carl Orth Family Life Center** was originally a machine shed. After many years and many different uses, *“Orth Lodge” now provides free lodging for families visiting their children who are receiving treatment at YBGR’s Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility.*

Family therapy is a critical element of a youth’s treatment plan, and since three out of four children in the PRTF come from families who are considered low-income, lodging can be a barrier for families who do not live in the Billings area. Having five apartments available to families in Orth Lodge plus the three-bedroom Guest House adjacent to Orth Lodge removes that barrier and provides a safe, welcoming environment for family therapy sessions as well.

YBGR has engaged families in the treatment process in one manner or another since opening its doors in 1957. *Effective family therapy can serve to train family members to help children adhere to medication regimens upon discharge and teach them how to respond in a crisis.* Family therapy can evoke firsthand knowledge of a child’s history, moods, and behaviors – especially when the child is unable or unwilling to offer up this critical information to the therapist on the child’s own.

Success in treatment and in adaptation to the community following discharge is directly and consistently related to parental involvement and family support, and Orth’s free lodging enables families to visit and participate directly in their child’s treatment.



The on-going maintenance and operation of the Carl Orth Family Life Center is made possible by our generous donors. A special thanks to the Dean & Connie Studer DAF, the Fortin Foundation of Florida, the Helen M. Sloan DAF, and Anderson Hedge Wagner & Kienitz.



First boy arriving at YBGR in 1957.



The three bedroom Guest House, another of the original Ranch buildings, provides lodging options for larger families.



Orth Lodge accommodations are simple but clean and free to families visiting their children during their treatment.



Although all the Orth Lodge apartments have a fridge and microwave, families are invited to eat in the Nutter Dining Hall.



Family Therapy is a key component in a child's treatment plan.



YBGR has engaged families in the treatment process since the beginning.