



Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation

Wrangler

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Billings, Montana

Rebuilding More Than Walls Matthew's Story of Repair and Renewal

When someone believes in you enough to teach you a new skill, they might give you something that changes your life forever. That's exactly what happened for Matthew.

When Matthew arrived at the Ranch last year, he carried the weight of anger, leaving holes punched in the walls of his home. In a moment of honesty, he told his treatment team that he wished he could fix the damage himself. Instead of judgment, he was met with understanding. And his words opened the door to a new path forward.

Seeing an opportunity to turn remorse into healing, his team reached out to Maintenance Technician Tim Gilge, who offered to teach Matthew drywall repair from the ground up, starting with holes he had punched in the walls at his lodge. What began as a lesson quickly grew into a skill-building partnership. Together, they learned wall preparation, patching, mudding, sanding, texturing, priming, and painting – turning broken drywall into something Matthew could proudly claim as his work.

At the same time, Mental Health Worker Dakota Williams became a steady, grounding presence. Through encouragement, honesty, and trust, Dakota helped Matthew feel capable of change – not just in what he could fix, but in who he could become.

And this is where donors stepped in. Because of their generosity, Matthew will leave the Ranch with a complete set of tools and supplies to continue repairing walls at home. But the deeper restoration will take place within his family. As he



rebuilds the walls he once damaged, he will also begin rebuilding trust with his mom and siblings.

Matthew with his Mental Health Worker Dakota Williams.

Matthew's toolbox now represents something far greater than equipment. It symbolizes hope and is proof that, while he may not yet have every tool for life, he has learned to use the ones he has to heal, trust others, and create a better life for himself.

"It sure makes a difference when you know somebody cares."

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Learn About Some of the Tools in Our Planned Giving Toolbox

At Yellowstone Foundation, we are deeply grateful for our many donor friends who have wisely chosen to support our mission not only today, but also in the years to come. One of the most meaningful ways to do that is through a *planned gift* – a gift arranged now to benefit the causes you care about in the future. Planned gifts are flexible, we make them simple to create, and they can provide significant tax advantages. Here are some common examples:

A Gift Through Your Will

A legacy gift through your will or trust is one of the easiest ways to make a lasting impact. By naming Yellowstone Foundation in your estate plan, you can support our mission with a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or what remains after caring for loved ones. This thoughtful gift costs nothing today and can be changed at any time.

Pay-on-Death (POD) and Transfer-on-Death (TOD) Designations

Many donors are surprised at how easy it is to create a meaningful legacy using beneficiary designations. Bank accounts, CDs, brokerage accounts, and even real estate can be transferred directly to charity at death through POD or TOD instructions. These designations avoid probate, are simple to set up with your financial institution, and can be updated at any time.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA

A QCD is a simple, common-sense way to give. If you are 70½ or older, you can send any amount (up to \$111,000 per year per person in 2026) straight from your IRA to charity. It's better than writing a check because you avoid income tax on the amount gifted. It can even count toward your required minimum distribution. It's simple to arrange and allows your charitable dollars to go farther.

Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs)

A charitable gift annuity allows you to make a gift now and receive fixed payments for life. In return for your contribution, Yellowstone Foundation will pay you (or another person you name) a steady, guaranteed income, regardless of market conditions. CGAs also offer an immediate charitable tax deduction (and even a valuable *tax credit* in Montana). At the donor's passing, the remaining value goes to our perpetual Endowment Fund to assure long-term financial stability for our Mission.

Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRTs)

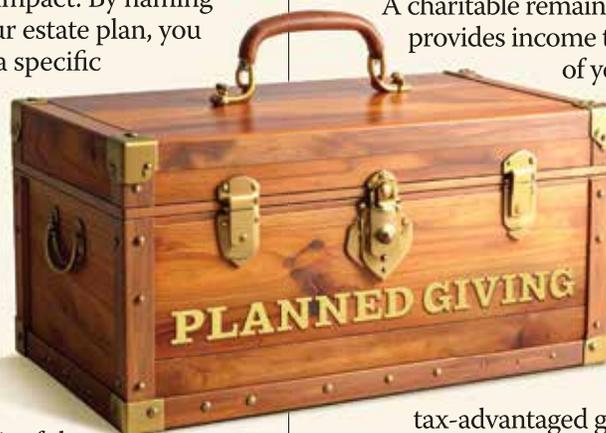
A charitable remainder trust is a flexible planning tool that provides income to you or loved ones for life or a term of years, with the remainder ultimately

benefiting troubled youth. CRTs help you avoid upfront capital gains tax on the sale of appreciated assets such as stocks, farmland, rental properties, and businesses. For more than 50 years, Yellowstone has helped donors turn assets like apartment complexes, second homes, ranches, cattle, crops, and even ATM machines into

tax-advantaged gifts creating massive charitable tax deductions, paying the donors a generous income stream for life, and creating legacy-class gifts at the donors' passing.

If you've been blessed with a windfall or are facing a significant taxable event this year, ask us how a **Charitable Lead Trust** can help. Would you like your primary or secondary home to go to charity some day? Ask us how to generate a large charitable deduction with a **Life Estate Agreement** while you continue to use and enjoy your home. Would you like to simplify your charitable giving and instill the virtue of philanthropy in your children and grandchildren? If so, a **Donor Advised Fund (DAF)** might be the right tool.

Our expert planned giving team is always on standby to visit with you and your tax, financial, and legal advisors to explore whether a planned gift might be a fit in your overall estate planning or as a part of the solution to the tax problems arising upon the sale of valuable assets. And always without charge or obligation. Call or stop by today, we look forward to meeting you!





The Beauty of Winter, the Strength of Our Kids

This year, winter came early to Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch. Just after Thanksgiving, the first snowfall blanketed the Ranch in white, and since then, fresh coatings have arrived regularly – each one a quiet reminder of new beginnings.

There's something about winter that speaks to the heart of what we do here. The challenges of the season – the cold, the shorter days – mirror the challenges many of our kids and families face. But just as winter prepares the earth for verdant summers, these challenges prepare young lives for growth, healing, and hope. Every snowflake feels like a promise, that fresh starts are possible, and brighter days are ahead.

Winter isn't just about endurance, though. It's about joy. Laughter echoes across the Ranch as kids sled down snowy hills. The sun's rays twinkle against the frosted trees, reminding us of the beauty of God's creation and the warmth of His love, even in the coldest months.

To our donors and friends: thank you. Your prayers and support make these moments possible. You are truly **Caring People, Preparing Youth for Life**, and we are in awe of the difference you make every single day. Because of you, kids at YBGR don't just survive in winter – they thrive in it.

From all of us at Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, may your winter be filled with peace, joy, and the wonder of fresh beginnings.

Christmas Shopping Over the Years

In the early 1960s, generous donors made it possible for each youth at the Ranch to enjoy a shopping trip to a local retail store. Over the years, the tradition grew – youth first shopped at JCPenney, and now Kohl's hosts the annual trip during their biggest sales, putting out all their sale racks so kids can get even more for their gift money. Originally, gifts covered \$15 worth of clothing for each boy; today, each youth receives \$150 to spend on clothing, shoes, and outerwear, with another \$50 for staff to fill each child's stocking.



1962



1963



1967

Holiday Joy Across YBGR:

A SEASON OF TRADITION AND MEMORIES

Annual Kohl's Shopping Trip

Thanks to the Foundation's Secret Santas, youth in our residential program enjoyed a special shopping trip to Kohl's on December 17th. Each child was paired with a volunteer or



Youth set out, accompanied by staff, to make their selections at Kohl's.

Ranch staff member who guided them through the store, helping them pick out essential items such as clothing, shoes, and outerwear. For many, it was their first time choosing brand-new items that truly fit and felt like their own, creating a meaningful moment of confidence and joy.

Therapeutic Group Home Celebrations

Across Montana, staff in YBGR's Therapeutic Group Homes made the holiday season feel like home. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, they shopped for each child to ensure they received essential winter items. They also invited youth to help decorate each home, turning spaces into cozy, festive retreats. Together they decorated trees, baked treats, and created crafts, bringing warmth, belonging, and holiday spirit to every home.



Youth in Great Falls' North Skyline Group Home helped decorate the Christmas Tree.

The holiday season at Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch was filled with warmth, joy, and meaningful moments for youth across Montana. Thanks to the generosity of donors, volunteers, and community partners, children in every YBGR program experienced the magic of Christmas through cherished traditions, festive activities, and special events.

Moss Mansion Tree Decorating

This December, three teens from the Billings Ranch Campus helped decorate a shimmering Gilded Age Christmas tree in the historic Moss Mansion kitchen. For two of the youth, it was their first time



The YBGR Christmas tree lights up the historic Moss Mansion kitchen.

decorating a tree – a cherished experience often missed due to trauma, family challenges, or poverty. What began as a simple outing became a meaningful moment of joy, connection, and new tradition.

Festive Present-Wrapping

Back at the Ranch, gifts from the Kohl's trip were wrapped during a lively present-wrapping gathering in the Chapel on December 22nd. Volunteers from Rebel River Creative, Stockman Bank, Cushing Terrell, local families, and Ranch and Foundation staff transformed the space into a hub of laughter, ribbons, and holiday cheer. The wrapped gifts were then delivered to the lodges, ready to be opened and enjoyed on Christmas morning.



Volunteers from Cushing Terrell, Rebel River Creative, and more helped wrap presents in the Robbie Chapel.



All the wrapped presents waiting to be delivered to the lodges for Christmas morning.

Special Holiday Events

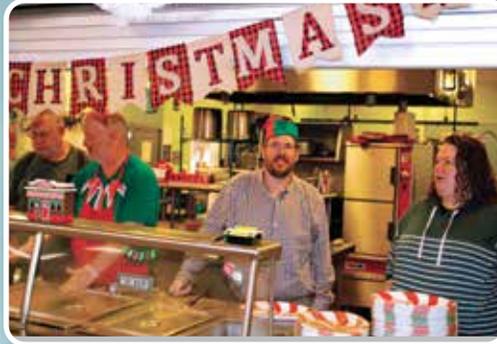
The season included even more special events. *Movies with Michael* saw kids gathering in the Chapel on December 14th to watch Christmas movies and enjoy popcorn. Staff and volunteers served the kids breakfast on Christmas Eve morning with Santa even making an appearance. Breakfast was followed by a Christmas Eve service in the Robbie Chapel, and Christmas morning included opening presents followed by a traditional Christmas dinner in the lodges. A New Year's Eve pizza party concluded the holiday festivities. All these gatherings brought the youth together and fostered connection, joy, and lasting memories.



Chaplain John Boeder leading the congregation in song for Christmas Eve Service.



The joy and chaos of Christmas morning.



Ranch staff and volunteers serve breakfast to the kids on Christmas Eve.

Community Care Holiday Highlights

Beyond residential programs, YBGR's Community Based Services teams worked to make the season memorable for the youth and families they support.

Offices were decorated for the season, welcoming kids and caregivers throughout December. In Butte, kids helped decorate, adding their own creativity and excitement to the space. In Kalispell, the team hosted a holiday dinner and provided stockings for kids – an evening centered on connection and care.

And over in Shelby, the team once again joined their local community stroll, inviting families to decorate cookies and enjoy the celebration. Jessica Kjos, Administrative Supervisor, baked more than 200 cookies for the event, and the crew took home first place in the holiday decorating contest.

Your Support for Kids in the Community

The Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation, alongside partners like Toys for Tots, helped ensure that children in Community Based Services received holiday gifts – made possible by generous donors like you. This support made the season brighter for families navigating hardship and extended the same sense of warmth felt across YBGR's group homes and at the Ranch.



Above: The YBGR Shelby office decked out for the holidays.



Right: Presents wrapped by School Based Therapist Madalyn Stucker wait to be picked up by parents at the Great Falls office.

From Hope to Root Beer Floats: Celebrating Growth at the Ranch

Graduating from the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility is a tremendous accomplishment and each youth who achieves this milestone is honored with a powerful tradition that marks their growth and transition: the HAAM ceremony.

While every lodge adds its unique touch, the heart of the celebration remains the same. Kids and staff gather to reflect on the journey of the graduating youth – celebrating their progress, and saying goodbye with care and intention.

As part of the ceremony, each person shares four written reflections:

H	A message of Hope
A	Words of Advice
A	Something they Admire
M	A meaningful Memory from their time at the Ranch



Youth discharging from the Ranch get to choose a treat, like root beer floats, to share with friends.

There are often tears, hugs, and heartfelt words. Some lodges request cut flowers from the gardens, while others bring special touches of their own. To end the celebration, the youth graduating chooses a favorite treat to share – root beer floats, cheesecake, chips and queso – whatever feels like them. It’s a small way to savor the moment and mark the transition.

At Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, goodbyes aren’t endings. They’re milestones.

Where Ancestral Footsteps Still Guide Us Reclaiming Culture, Connecting to the Land

On Indigenous Peoples’ Day, on October 13th, youth and staff at YBGR reflected on the generations of Native people who had gathered along Canyon Creek – the same creek that runs through the Ranch today.

With the guidance of Native American Services Coordinator Josie Brady, Indigenous youth set up tipis, walked the same land, and harvested from the same soil as their ancestors. Through these experiences, they are reclaiming culture and connection in everyday acts of celebration and learning.

This spirit especially came to life during the Indigenous Peoples’ Day Round Dance, hosted by Western Native Voice, when two young women from the YBGR Mustang Nation Club proudly joined the circle. They danced to every song, laughed through the potato dance, and practiced their first celebratory vocalizations – their voices strong and joyful. Each step honored generations before them.

We embrace this connection through programs that celebrate culture and growth:

Cultural Activities – Open to all, using plants, rocks, etc. from nearby landscapes.

Wellbriety Program – Blending the 12 Steps with tradition.

Mustang Nation Club – Creating ribbon skirts and exploring Native history.

Together, we honor our people, our land, and the living legacy that still flourishes along Canyon Creek.



Girls proudly wore their finished skirts to the round dance.



Making ribbon skirts starts with learning to sew.

Thanks to donors, the kids have lots of colors and fabrics from which to choose.



Memorial Listings

September 16, 2025 – December 12, 2025

A special word of thanks to all donors listed here who support Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation through their memorial and honor gifts.

AUNT MAY

Dan Hogan

EARL AYE

Betty Aye

SHARON BALTRUSCH

David Harri
Bill and Betty
Baltrusch
Rita Dorn

JAMES "JIM" BENNETT

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Col. Frank
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DUANE JOHNSON

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John & Leannie
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DEVIN MICHAELIS

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Denny and Diana
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PEGGY NELSON

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KELLY ZULLO

Ronald Zullo

IN HONOR OF:

MARIE FORET

BROUSSARD
Jules Broussard

MIKE HARGRAVE

Marilyn Hargrave

MICHAEL HILDRETH

Joyce Hildreth

FERN WOLERY

James Davy

Remember Us in Your Will and Leave a Lasting Legacy

By naming Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation in your will, you can guarantee that your legacy of caring for troubled and abused children will continue for generations to come.

FIXED AMOUNT: I give the sum of \$_____ to Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation.

SPECIFIC PROPERTY: I give my _____ to Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation.

PERCENTAGE OF REMAINDER: I give _____% of the remainder of my estate to Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation.

CONTINGENCY: In the event _____ does not survive me, I give _____ to Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation.

These samples are suggestions only. Legal documents should always be prepared by your attorney.

Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation's legal address is 2050 Overland Avenue, P.O. Box 80807, Billings, Montana 59108.

Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. Gifts are tax deductible.

Memorial and Honor Gifts Form

Mail form to: YBGR Foundation, P.O. Box 80807, Billings, MT 59108

Amount: \$ _____ Given by _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

IN MEMORY OF:

Name _____

City _____ State _____

IN HONOR OF:

Name _____

City _____ State _____

Occasion: _____

SEND CARDS TO:

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Memorial gifts can also be made online at yellowstonefoundation.org

Yellowstone Conference Brings Leaders Together for Kids

What truly moves the needle for kids? At YBGR's Yellowstone Conference in October, the answer came into focus. This annual gathering at the Ranch brings together cross-sector leaders to advance outcomes for children and the broader behavioral health industry across Montana and beyond.

Under this year's theme, "Stronger Together: Building Strategic Partnerships for Lasting Impact," conversations were practical, thoughtful, and rooted in action.

Panel discussions focused on:

- Strengthening Native American Partnerships
- Empowering Excellence: Workforce Development Through Higher Education
- Mission-Driven Collaboration: Youth-Serving Organizations United
- Bridging Sectors, Building Futures: Public-Private Partnerships

One message carried throughout the day: No single organization can meet every need. But when partners align around shared goals, the impact grows.

Thank you to the panelists who lent their expertise, and to Mohini Venkatesh, Chief of Staff at the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, for traveling from Washington, D.C., to share her insights.



Mohini Venkatesh, Chief of Staff at the National Council for Mental Wellbeing and YBGR CEO Mike Chavers



(L-R) Strengthening Native American Partnerships Moderator Josie Brady and panelists Sunny Day Real, Montana State University Billings | Charlene "Charli" Sleeper, MMIP Billings Advocacy Project and YBGR | Clint Valandra, Billings Public Schools | David R. Blaine, Crow Times Youth and Elder Works



Work Force Development Through Higher Education moderator Kristin Thompson, YBGR Associate Director of HR and panelists James C. Petrovich, PhD, Carroll College (on screen) | Kate Chapin, MSW, LCSW, University of Montana | Becky Lyons, EdD, Montana State University Billings | Jen Chancellor, MBA, Grand Canyon University

Adopt-A-Lodge

YBGR offers businesses the chance to support building maintenance through its Adopt-A-Lodge program. For \$2,500-\$5,000 annually over three years, businesses fund repairs and improvements, helping create a safe, supportive environment for youth in treatment. Sponsors receive an “Adopted By” sign or plaque, recognition in the *Winter Wrangler* newsletter, and social media acknowledgment.

Thanks to our current Adopt-A-Lodge Sponsors:

- Dean & Connie Studer Family Foundation
 - First Interstate Bank
 - KE Construction
 - US Bank
 - Anderson, Hedge, Wagner, Kienitz, Zwemke, & Assoc.
 - Sodexo
 - Pacific Source Health Plans
- Hoiness Family Foundation
 - Pennmont Foundation
 - Charles M. Bair Family Trust
 - Johnson Family Foundation
 - Pacific Steel & Recycling
 - Rocky Vista University
 - David Milkovich
 - Alpha Omega Disaster Restoration

Buildings available for adoption on YBGR's Ranch Campus:

- Heptner Education Center
- Mary Brekkeflat Lodge
- Paul Stock Lodge
- McVay Lodge
- Wilderness Art Barn
- Broken Spoke Bike Shop

Johnson Family Foundation founders Willy and Julie Johnson in front of their adopted lodge.



4th Annual Yellowstone Chili Cookoff – A Sizzling Success!

The 4th Annual Yellowstone Chili Cookoff brought more than 350 guests out to the YBGR Ranch Campus on Thursday, September 25, for an evening filled with flavorful chili, live country music from www.Twang, and family-friendly activities.

Attendees sampled chili from nineteen contestants before casting their votes, with Skyler Carroll and Class earning both 1st Place *and* People's Choice. The Culligan White Team claimed 2nd Place, and TDS Fiber secured 3rd. Families enjoyed horse rides for kids, a lively silent auction, collector chili bowls, and yard games and event games like “heads or tails,” creating a warm and energetic atmosphere throughout the night.

This year's event raised a record \$43,594 to support youth served through Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch programs, including Yellowstone Academy in Yellowstone County, Community-Based Services across Montana, and Residential Programs that assist youth from Montana and beyond. Specifically, funds raised during this year's event went towards therapeutic tools and activities, helped meet emergency needs for kids and families, and supported the Uihlein Center Locker Room Remodel.

We're so thankful to all the volunteers, competitors, sponsors, band members and attendees who made this event the best one yet!

We look forward to seeing you for the 5th Annual Yellowstone Chili Cookoff on Saturday, **October 3rd, 2026!** Mark your calendars!



Attendees sampled up to nineteen different chilis at the festive tables.



Chili Cookoff winners (L-R): Janelle Luff and Skyler Carroll/ YBGR, Culligan White, and TDS Fiber.



Band www.Twang performed to the delight of attendees.



Each youth under 12 received a free horse ride. Tickets could be purchased for additional rides.

Platinum Sponsors:



Anderson, Hedge, Wagner, Kienitz, Zwemke & Associates



Silver Sponsors:

- CK Tech Security
- Cushing Terrell
- Marsh McLennan Agency
- Missoula Motor Company
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Bronze Sponsors:

- Billings Clinic
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- First Federal Bank & Trust
- Precision Plumbing & Heating Inc
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