

# AROUND the FIRE

NEWS FROM CRYSTAL PEAKS YOUTH RANCH

SUMMER 2008



## *Molly, Monica & Molly*

BY KIM MEEDER

It was with complete wonder that I looked down into the hopeful eyes of eleven year old Molly. "It's true," I concluded, "Even a child can become a leader, even a kid can become the 'tip of the sword.'"

Only days before, Kelsie, Anne and I responded to a local plea for help from a woman named Monica who lived in a neighboring town. Her reason for contacting us was simple; she wished to place one of her horses at the ranch in an effort to downsize her workload. She shared how she was struggling mightily with two insidious diseases... either of which could kill her. It was not that she wished to place *any* of her beloved horses, but her failing condition was currently robbing her of some of life's most basic necessities... like breathing. Apparently, the simple task of walking out to her corral and throwing hay over the rail was rapidly becoming more effort than her weakening lungs could bear. "I've been praying for help..." Monica shared.

In the course of our conversation with her, we learned that her family did not

have insurance and that there were not enough financial resources for her to afford the treatment that she so desperately needed. It was because of this sad fact that she would also be trying to sell her husband's horse as well. Clearly, these horses were not in need... the *family* was. After praying together, the girls and I agreed that the ranch could best serve this struggling family by taking *both* of their horses together. We would put the word out to those in contact with the ranch who have offered their financial help in unique 'horse' situations such as these and wait and see what the Lord had in mind.

The next day I traveled over the Cascade divide to speak at a large church in the Portland area. At the end of the evening, a sizable gathering had formed of those who had made their way up to the front to wish me well. Within this group there slowly approached a young mother and her little girl. "This is my daughter, Molly" she began.

The following account that poured from her heart would have made any woman on earth proud to be this girl's mother.

She shared how, two years earlier, her daughter had read about the ranch and was so deeply moved by the ministry for hurting children and horses... that at nine sobering years of age, she made a very special decision. Molly realized that she *could* make a difference in this world. Even though she was nothing more than a child... she was a child who could 'choose'... and Molly chose to help. In the years following, instead of having a 'normal' birthday party,

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she chose instead to forfeit her childhood right. It was her desire that the money her parents saved could be put to use to help others in need. It was Molly's decision that her saved birthday money was to be given to Crystal Peaks. She had been saving for the last two years. "We were just getting ready to drop her gift to the ranch in the mail when we found out that you were going to be speaking near us. As a mother, I couldn't imagine that my daughters gift to someone she has come to admire from a distance, could pass from her hand directly into yours. We never dreamed that we would have the opportunity to meet you face to face."

It was at that moment that I looked down at Molly in complete wonder, and simply smiled.

When she was finally able to look into my face, I could see that her beautiful eyes were glittering with tears. "I saved this up for you... so that you could help another horse." she said with the soft voice of an emotional little girl. Within that simple comment, my layered thoughts silently rushed together and formed a single, sharpened point of clarity. 'And it begins. Lord, Molly's gift is going to be the 'tip of the sword' for Your gifting to help Monica. Where the tip leads... the rest of the blade will follow.' I looked into her bright eyes and realized 'this is the one, a single child... who will lead them all.'

"Molly, I believe I know who that horse is..." I began as Monica's story flowed between us. I shared of her private struggle to afford the medication that she so desperately needed to fight for her life and of her four legged family that needed a new home. "Molly, do you think that your gift is meant to go toward helping Monica by buying her horse?" I quietly asked. The little girl's battle for composure began to crumble as the fragile dam that held back her tears collapsed. With liquid glass streaking down her cheeks, her response to my gentle question was a silent, solemn nod.

It is moments like these that help me more fully understand what our Lord really means when He asks us to come to Him as a child. Completely selfless, hands open, heart open and truly willing to bend in any direction that He chooses to blow us.

Over the next few days, I watched in awe as something extraordinary was set into motion. Because one self-sacrificing little girl believed that her simple step of faith mattered... others began to follow her example to not only provide funds for the horses, but go beyond in creating a financial conduit for a family in need. As the word of Molly's gift spread, others stepped in behind her lead. When Brian, from Las Vegas heard the call to help "Monica's Mission," he chose to not only fulfill the purchase price for her husband's horse... but her donated horse as well. Gifts continued to pour in as more and more chose to follow in the steps of an eleven year old girl... who was following in the steps of the Lord.

In less than two weeks, the ranch received two beautiful paint mares and Monica received an envelope full of 'loaves and fishes.'

It took me nearly a month to be able to finally catch young Molly on the phone. After recounting all that the Lord had done since we had seen each other last and sharing with her how *wonderful* the new horses were... I had one more thing that I needed to share with my innovative little hero. "Molly, as you know from reading the books... we always rename our horses to identify them to their new life here on the ranch. I wanted to be the one to call you and tell you that we have chosen a very special name for one of the new mares. I will give you one guess as to what it might be." All I could hear was a contemplative, "Ummmm..." I imagined her looking up at the ceiling as she searched for a fitting name for a beautiful chestnut and white paint that she had never

seen. Then her voice changed and I could clearly hear that she was smiling. She knew the answer. In a slightly hesitant voice, she asked, "Is it... Molly?" With laughter in my voice, I answered, "Yes... it's Molly!"

True to her namesake, Molly, the horse, has become one of the most kind, gentle and selfless horses that the ranch has ever known. Within the first hours of this sweet mare's arrival at the ranch, she reached out in love to a battered little girl who needed reassurance that she could be loved. Brian was chosen to name the second mare and in honor of his beloved grandmother, she is now known as 'Grace.'

In remarkable days such as these, I have learned that even the smallest heart or 'pebble', when thrown into a pond, can make impression rings. But no impressions are made if the pebble chooses to stay on the bank. Within this life, each of us has the ability to choose if we will make that leap of faith into the pond or not. All of us have the opportunity to choose, with childlike assurance, to make a difference in the world around us. We too, can choose to make impression rings of love... just like Molly... who chose to be just like Jesus.

**"I WOULD ENCOURAGE  
KIDS TO NEVER GIVE  
UP TRYING TO MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE. NO  
MATTER HOW YOUNG  
OR OLD YOU ARE, THERE  
IS ALWAYS SOMETHING  
YOU CAN DO TO HELP  
SOMEONE... AND MOST  
IMPORTANT - PRAY. ASK  
THE LORD FOR HELP."**

*~Molly, 11 yrs old*

# "SANDY PANTS" IS COMPLETE!

BY TROY MEEDER



"What do you mean we need a new arena? Where on earth are we going to put it?"

Every inch of this little place is already filled to capacity!" Such are the deep conversations of a couple that own a kids ranch in a cinder pit.

Kim and I were on our annual fall drive with our camper, dogs, hiking boots and tons of goodies to eat. It was late October and we were heading up through Washington into the North Cascade Wilderness to work and rest. I have come to realize that it is within these times of driving together that we share our hopes as a couple, dreams for the ranch and ideas for the ministry within it.

Somewhere just outside of Leavenworth, Washington, Kim began to share how MUCH we really needed another arena for the kids to ride in. As the ranch continues to grow, each season brings more activity and more children. With the ranch already bursting at the seams with kids and horses, we needed

a creative solution. "We simply need more space," she said as she scribbled notes on a pad of our growing list of new ideas. How could I disagree? She was right. If we could just carve out a small walk/trot arena somewhere on the ranch... we could reach out to more kids.

Nearly five months later it proved true that "carving" became the key word in this new project. Because of our previous years of intense effort to forge a ranch out of a rock quarry, perhaps I conveniently allowed myself to believe that certainly not ALL of this property could be solid rock... could it?... It COULD! Yet, with the help of an excavator, a tractor, a small fleet of gravel trucks, jack hammers, pry bars, shovels and a hard working team... we saw first hand that mountains can be moved.

As of April 14th, our freshly completed "Sandy Pants Arena" was opened for a new season of activities.

A special thanks to the many blistered hands that helped to create this deeply appreciated addition to our ranch.



# BOZEMAN'S CHOCOLATE HOPE

BY JULIE LOVE



## CHOCOLATE BAR ★OUTPOST★

Clearly, it is no secret to anyone how MUCH Crystal Peaks adores its beloved chocolate. Here at the ranch, untold amounts of energy are fueled by untold amounts of chocolate! When Eric Wagner, the founder of 'Wild West Company,' (a wholesaler of fun, old western style gifts) chose to support Crystal Peaks through a Horse Sponsorship... no one realized how his kindness would soon become the *chocolate gift that keeps on giving.*

Eric, and his wife Susan, chose to sponsor Bozeman, our colorful Clydesdale, at over 17 hands, who currently stands as the largest horse on the ranch. Perhaps because of his unique stature, color pattern and twin blue eyes, Eric chose him to represent a new treat that he was soon to release to the public.

As the 'Trail Boss' of this generous organization, Eric explained, "Wild West Company shares the compassion that Crystal Peaks has for impacting children's lives through the rescued horses that currently live on 'the ranch of rescued dreams.' Here at Wild West, our desire to help in this effort and to develop new and unique western gift items for our retailers, led us to introduce a new line of chocolate bars in which Bozeman is one of the featured horses. A tasty combination of 2.25oz of milk chocolate and toasted almonds, the bar in which Bozeman represents is very appropriately named 'Hope'. We felt that this name was completely fitting in representing what Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch is all about."

If you would like to help spread the word about the ministry of Crystal Peaks, while also benefiting your business or company, please consider becoming a wholesale customer through Wild West Company (1-888-440-6674 or [www.wildwestcompany.com](http://www.wildwestcompany.com)). What a fun way to share 'hope'... one chocolate bar at a time.

(For those interested in becoming a Horse Sponsor, please see our website at [www.cpyr.org](http://www.cpyr.org), under the 'How You Can Help' section.)



Dear Crystal Peaks Staff,

I'd like to first thank all of you for an amazing first time experience for my daughter, Brooklyn. We are so grateful for all that you do to make this much more than a horse ranch, but offer a bit of heaven to our two daughters. It truly is something that will be carried throughout their lives. A lesson that teaches when life gets you down, you always have GOD and the horses to turn to.

This ranch not only provides a safe place that is uniquely theirs, but amazing young women role models who choose to put Christ first. We can only pray to have our daughters follow these wonderful examples. We are blessed and honored as a family to know we have such a gift given to us with every visit. Words can not explain the immense gratitude for all that this little ranch has done.



While not coming out to the ranch over the winter, we saw our oldest daughter, Kendall slip back into some old habits. But with the recent session with a leader and Ranch Fellowship, those old habits are already staring to fade away. (Just in time, I might add.)

Again, this ranch is a gem tucked away and is a treasure we hold dear to our hearts. Although we often want to tuck it away just for ourselves, we can't help but feel we have to tell everyone we run a cross of the great work Crystal Peaks does and continues to do.

Thanks for everything,  
*Jean*

# THE JOY OF SUMMER

BY BRITTANY PINKEY

How is it that kids can find joy in the simplest of things? Sometimes, all it takes is a roll of plastic, biodegradable dish soap, a hill and a hose... and the fun begins! As the black plastic is laid down, swarms of hot and dusty kids, parents and leaders begin to gather. The excitement starts to rise as shoes and socks are exchanged for bare feet, all in the anticipation of good, old fashioned fun.

I have discovered that when taking part in the carnival-like atmosphere, you can feel like you're caught up in a snow-globe type experience where all present join in on the fun. Old memories of childhood past mix with new ones as everyone is caught up in the joy of just being a kid again.

May we never lose that rare and special ability to be able to experience life through the eyes—and sometimes the actions—of a child!





# Breedlove Guitar Raffle

A new partnership has been forged between Breedlove Guitars and Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch. The result of this union was a custom inlaid guitar, created to be raffled off as a benefit to the ministry of the ranch. Breedlove is internationally known by performers and guitar aficionados for building instruments of supreme quality.

The uniquely customized guitar was to become the first 'Crystal Peaks Edition' in a continuing series of one-of-a-kind pieces. Each inlay was tooled by founder Kim Breedlove himself. Constructed from Myrtlewood and Walnut with Abalone inlays, this new instrument was also a part of the Northwest Classic Guitar Series. Its market value was estimated at approximately \$7,500. We are pleased to announce that Eric of Bend, Oregon is the proud new owner of this piece of art.

*"What a blessing this is... I can't believe it's ours,"* Eric shared as he held his new Breedlove Guitar. He continued to explain how he couldn't wait to sit down and play it.

In appreciation of all those who participated in our first raffle event, we wish to thank you for your support and friendship. It was a wonderful auction that we look forward to continuing in the years to come. So, be watching! The next Breedlove will be finished very soon.



*Yes! I would like to help Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch fulfill their mission*

**Please use my donation for:**

- Where it is needed most
- Endowment Fund
- For the children
- For the horses
- Ranch Equipment
- Staff education
- Volunteer program

**Payment Method:**

A check payable to Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch  
CPYR for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Credit cards are accepted at:*

*[www.crystalpeaksyouthranch.org](http://www.crystalpeaksyouthranch.org)*

*Send donations to: Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch,  
19344 Innes Market Road, Bend OR 97701.*

You can also make your donation at  
[www.crystalpeaksyouthranch.org](http://www.crystalpeaksyouthranch.org)

*Our current wish list is also available at our website*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail (please) \_\_\_\_\_

My Gift is \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of  
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My Gift is \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of  
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**Please send acknowledgement to:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail (please) \_\_\_\_\_

# SUMMER DATES

*If your summer schedule finds you near the ranch, we invite you to come visit us!*

## **Tours**

Please give our office a call at 541-330-0123 to schedule for one of our tours. Because our tour schedule varies slightly, please contact us as to when you will be in our area to be sure we have a tour scheduled during the time you are available.

## **Ranch Fellowship**

Our Ranch Fellowships are a wonderful combination of a shared meal, worship and a time of teaching. We cherish this time as an opportunity for the whole family to come together.

June 24, 6:30 p.m. *(Dinner Provided)*

July 8, 6:30 p.m. *(Potluck)*

July 22, 6:30 p.m. *(Dinner Provided)*

August 5, 6:30 p.m. *(Potluck)*

Sept 2, 6:30 p.m. *(Dinner Provided)*

Sept 30, 6:30 p.m. *(Potluck)*

## **Round-up**

Here on the ranch we love laughter and play... and there is no better time to experience summer hilarity than during Round-up Thursdays! Bring the entire family (*and maybe a change of clothes*) to our fun-filled afternoons of outrageous games.

Starting Thursday, June 19 – Thursday, August 28  
*(with the exceptions of August 7 & 21). 4 – 5:30 p.m.*

## **Hoe-Down**

Our annual Hoe-Down is an event not to be missed. With everyone dressed in their finest Hillbilly attire, come and enjoy an evening of crazy family games, contra dancing, food, worship and time spent together. We hope you will be able to join us!

Saturday, July 26, 4 – 9 p.m.

Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch Co.  
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Bend, OR 97701  
[www.crystalpeakseyouthranch.org](http://www.crystalpeakseyouthranch.org)



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