



HAPPENINGS AT THE RANCH

December 2020



A Note from Scott...

At the risk of stating the obvious, 2020 has been a heck of a year! Along with the many challenges, however, we have found some silver linings to be thankful for.

***For starters, we are thankful for you and your generosity!
Your support is important now more than ever...***

This year many families decided it was too risky for participants to leave their own homes, or for us to go to their homes to provide services so we lost participation from several individuals. That drastically decreased our revenue, as we of course only get paid when we are providing services. Yet, despite the fact we had less participant clients, our costs continued to increase because of COVID-19. We not only had to purchase PPE and other supplies to keep everyone as safe as possible, but we also had to pay for a large number of staff to stay home, several times throughout the year. That meant paying exorbitant overtime to the staff who were healthy, so they could fill in for those who were being quarantined. Those increased expenses, combined with reduced income, caused a big deficit. And we could sure use your help to ensure we can continue to provide quality programming and services to those who need them.

The good news is that we have brought on some very talented people, as you read in our newsletter last month. We have tightened our budget and improved the quality of the services we provide. We've been building out capacity for our gardens. We're slowly starting to build our client base back up again. And new programs are being put in place, which we will be announcing very soon. There is much to be thankful for!

Should you be willing and able, we could really use some extra support this year. Please consider increasing your donation amount to help us out. Your support is always appreciated, and put to good use. [Click here and donate today!](#)

***Thank you once again for your continued support.
I hope you have a magical, safe and love-filled Holiday Season!***

Scott Pralinsky, Executive Director
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Hereford News

The DTA (Day Program) has been doing fun activities with the participants like working on crafts for the holidays. We love watching the excitement on the participant's faces when they make fun things! On Wednesday, November 23 the GSE and DTA programs participated in an early Thanksgiving lunch. Everyone partook of many kinds of foods brought in by staff's and participant's families and left with full tummies.

The GSE program is working hard to update and get the Hoop Houses ready for the next planting. As the leaves fall the participants that work in the GSE program are working hard to pick up the many, many leaves all over the ranch. We don't know if the leaves will ever stop falling, but I bet the participants hope they do really soon!





On Thanksgiving day the staff and participants at the Ranch, shared a Thanksgiving meal and enjoyed the food and the company. (*This big guy to the left was feeling very grateful to be living at EHR!*) As we move forward into the month of December, all programs at Echoing Hope Ranch prepare for a busy and fun-filled month!

Brenda Schumacher, Program Director, Hereford
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Tucson News

Coming soon to Echoing Hope Ranch... *Tucson!*

As December starts our AZ winter, it's a time of planning in Tucson for growth and change. How will services sprout and grow in 2021 in the real and virtual world we now call home? We'll be meeting new families and participants, helping them connect and working on getting boots on the ground for much needed DDD services. We'll also explore how online and in-person classes and meetups might feed the need for training, education and recreation. This city will be the big, small town just down the street and to the left of the Hereford ranch.

With a New Year and always looking forward,
Gale Quackenbush, Program Development Manager, Tucson
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From the Ranch...

This holiday season at the ranch, Agriculture and GSE have been working in anticipation for the upcoming crops. Although we have discontinued our stand at the Sierra Vista Farmers Market for the season (don't worry, we will be returning soon), participants and staff have been picking pecans from the trees and fixing garden beds in the hoop houses. Some staff and participants have also started cutting, drying, and stacking wood to sell this winter. We have had new members of the barn in recent weeks. We have three cute piglets and three wonderful kittens. In addition, we also have dozens of healthy chicks that were incubated and hatched right here.



Maintenance has been working very hard reconstructing the old A frame and turning it into a barn for pottery and clay activities. This will include a pottery kiln, wheel and lots of molds, which will be used by DTA and GSE to create crafts. The project is ongoing but is looking ready to be used very soon.

As the mornings get colder and colder, staff works indoors with participants collecting and storing seeds from matured plants grown inside the hoop houses. Although seed banking might not seem so exciting, we in Agriculture find it to be a good training method to teach organizational and sorting skills. All of us are getting ready for the month of December and are excited to complete more projects that will help Echoing Hope Ranch grow even further.

Talon Duncan, Ranch Manager
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Holiday Shopping!



As many of you already know, in November we had plans to do a Holiday Event at a nearby church. Unfortunately it had to be canceled due to things out of our control. Participants had made some very creative holiday gifts and decorations to sell. So, December 9th through the 16th we will be auctioning handmade gifts on our Facebook page! The post will be pinned to the top of our page and will include the few instructions needed. There are pretty bracelets, decorative wine bottles with lights inside and ornament collections.

***Bid on your favorite item, or bid on them all.
It's a great way to support EHR and get some holiday cheer in return.***

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

This holiday season it's easy to buy gifts *and* donate to Echoing Hope Ranch. AmazonSmile provides a percentage of your purchases of eligible items. If you don't already have an account go to smile.amazon.com and click on "Get Started". If you do have an account, go to AmazonSmile in the top navigation and you can search for, change and set your preference for Echoing Hope Ranch.