In May, I experienced for the first time the graduations of children and their families from the program here at Eagle Ranch. While I certainly hoped to hear encouraging stories of family renewal at this celebration, I was completely unprepared for the level of transformation that the graduate children and families shared with us that evening. One particular moment that stands out for me was the speech given by one of our graduates, Payton. As she concluded her remarks, she publicly apologized to each member of her family in attendance at the event. There was not a dry eye in the room as she went one by one apologizing to each family member while reaffirming her love for them. At the end of her address, her entire family rushed to the stage to embrace her. They shared how much healing they had received along with Payton through the journey they had all experienced at Eagle Ranch.

In the Bible, we read about God's promises to impact and heal generations, and in the book of Malachi, the prophet proclaims that God will "turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers." At the Ranch, we pray and labor for generational impact, and we've been blessed to see so much of it over the years.

As you read the graduate testimonies in this newsletter, I hope you'll experience the beauty of these miracle stories. I also hope you will see the part you have played in making these stories possible. God is still in the habit of miracle-making, and it is an honor and joy to partner with you to join God in this work. Enjoy the celebration!

Faithfully,

John Shackelford
Eagle Ranch Executive Director

OUR MISSION

eagle ranch helps make life better for children and their families, positively impacting communities for the glory of God.
Parker
THE FAITH HOME

When my parents told me I was coming to Eagle Ranch, I was hoping that it would turn out good for me and my family. I wanted more peace in my family. I wanted to get along with my brother like we used to. I didn’t know how to fix it myself. I felt like everything was all my fault.

When I got to Eagle Ranch, I would say to myself, “Why can’t we be like other families, and why do I have to be here?” Then I met another boy here and learned how he had lost his mom when he was young. I realized that no one had a perfect childhood.

Here, I got help working on expressing how I felt and managing my anger. I learned to think about things differently than I had before, and my houseparents and my counselor helped me work through them. In the Faith Home, I felt encouraged to work hard on my goals, and I really wanted to make a difference while I was here. I started to trust people more, and I learned it was okay to just be myself instead of acting like everyone else.

As we went through the program, my weekends at home got better. I started spending more time with my family and enjoyed doing things with them. I was getting along with my brother and doing stuff together with him. Things are much better now. I grew as a person, and my family is back together. I will always remember this place in my heart and hope to come back one day.

Ke'Iri
THE MERCY HOME

Overall since I’ve been at Eagle Ranch, I have learned how to communicate with others, share how I feel, be open to listen to other people, and take the time to hear out that person and not be invalidating. I feel good about going home – I know it will be a challenge, but I have learned how to trust in the Lord more because I can’t do it on my own, and I believe that God can help me. Now, I can use the different skills I have learned while I have been here to help me remember all of these things.

Gavin
THE FAITH HOME

When I first arrived at Eagle Ranch, my goal was to work on my anger. I argued with my mom constantly. I would yell a lot, then shut down. While I was here, I found that I wanted to make better choices for my life. I could choose a way to control my anger. I started growing and making better choices. I started to feel better, I was proud of myself, and I got to do more things with my friends. I still have a lot of things to learn, but I am on a good path and I know I can do this because of what I have learned here.
Cam’ron
THE FAITH HOME

While at Eagle Ranch, I learned a lot about responsibilities and being held accountable for my choices. I learned that being active is good for me and it helped me feel better about myself. My teachers helped me with my classes and struggles in school; if it wasn’t for them, I feel like I would not have learned or grown so much. My counselor helped my mom and I connect, when before we felt like we could not get along. He also helped with the problems between me and my stepdad. I learned to speak my mind and talk to my mom about how I really felt instead of just avoiding situations. My mom learned to hear me, too. I really feel like things will be different now at home.

Wesley
THE FAITH HOME

Before I came to Eagle Ranch, there was a lot of yelling in my home, including me. I used to fight with my sister every day and it drove my parents crazy. I got mad, then my parents got mad, and it was the circle of madness. I always thought we had to be flawless. I thought I had to be the best kid for my mom and dad to be happy. I realized through being at Eagle Ranch that it doesn’t matter how good or how bad I am, but it matters how good I work with people. During my time at Eagle Ranch, I realized I needed to stop and listen to other people. I started to realize that other people are hurting too, not just me. While I was in the Eagle Ranch program, my family started changing. My dad and mom stopped fighting, my sister stopped complaining, and it was less hectic and chaotic at home. Home became more peaceful. The Ranch has made a big impact in my life.

Payton
THE BLESSING HOME

I came to the Ranch struggling with self-confidence, being ruled by negative self-talk, depression, and self-hate. I was also battling a physical illness. Everything became so difficult that it brought me to the point where I didn’t know how to cope anymore, and I was taking it out on everyone around me, especially my family.

Through the amazing care of my Eagle Ranch team, I have been able to learn and accept that life is a journey—a God-guided journey. There will be many times throughout our lives where we will face inevitable hardships, but hardships are necessary and bring change and perseverance.

While God’s plan might not make sense amidst the pain and suffering, God is the ultimate reminder that through life’s bitterness there is hope for peace and restoration.

If I have learned one thing during my residence at Eagle Ranch it would be that we all have a choice. We can choose to fill our hearts with fear and doubt in the Lord, or we can choose to trust Him amidst the uncertainties. If not for my amazing Ranch care team and the help of my housemates and my family, I would not have accepted the fact that I could choose, even amidst what I couldn’t control.

I want to thank everyone at Eagle Ranch who helped remind me of my purpose and gave their all so that I could be successful.
Josh came to Eagle Ranch in 2016 afraid, unsociable and unmotivated. He refused to go to school and made every excuse to stay home. This led to many arguments, and Josh would retreat and hide out in his room for hours—sometimes for days—and refused to come out, talk, or even eat. Fast forward to today, Josh recently graduated high school as valedictorian, excelled in sports and other extracurriculars, and is headed to the University of Georgia this fall to study Mechanical Engineering. Josh recently returned to Eagle Ranch to share his story:

When I was younger, I developed an intense fear of school. I withdrew not only from school, but from family events, sports, activities with my friends and the normal things a young boy usually does. I would end up spending most of the day in my room. What little interaction I had with my family was bitter and rebellious. I became more mean, more obnoxious and more aggressive. I cared about no one else except for myself.

The time I spent at Eagle Ranch changed the course of my life forever. God began to chip away at my hard heart. The first thing that changed was what came out of my mouth. I learned to listen and how to articulate myself and my feelings—words when used sparingly have immense power. I discovered that I actually enjoyed learning. As I applied myself in school, I experienced academic success for the first time, and I loved it.

Amongst many other things I would develop here at the Ranch—such as a love for sports, teamwork and family balance—the most important lesson I learned was my need for God. Those first few nights as I lay awake, anxious and frightened, I began to read the Bible. I started in Genesis and just kept on going. Soon it became a habit. Along with journaling, I started to notice how God was beginning to work inside me. He was giving me an opportunity here at the Ranch to turn my life around. He was changing my heart.

I fought my heart change every step of the way. I tried everything to get out of the Ranch, but slowly I would begin to surrender. I began to make choices that were in line with God’s will, not my own. I learned to control my anger. I learned to listen and appreciate those around me. I began to love learning and found that I had the power to be successful. My family would be restored.

The Ranch was the catalyst through which God changed my heart. I was a boy who was afraid to come out of his room, and now I am able to face the world. God works miracles at Eagle Ranch, and for that I am forever grateful.

To read Josh’s full speech and about his time at Eagle Ranch, visit EagleRanch.org/joshcalupca
HONOR GIFTS

Contributions to the Eagle Ranch Honor Program are listed in alphabetical order by the name of the honoree.

Donors are listed after the name of the person in whose honor they contributed (donations received January 1 – June 14, 2022).

HONOR GIFTS

ALL THOSE AT EAGLE RANCH

DAVID JOB

SHANE HUIET

TOM HUGHES

MARCUS HENDERSON

MIKE & GINGER HARPER

MRS. PEGGY GRAHAM

THE WEDDING OF DANIEL & DARRYL GARMON

MURIEL NATHAN

THE CHUMA FAMILY

FAMILY FOUNDATION

MR. & MRS. E. KAY STAFFORD, JR.

JILL MOMPER

CAROL & RAE GREENE

MRS. EDWARD (LOUIS) ADAMS

DR. J. EDWARD ADAMS

PHILIP & MARY HART

MARY HART WILHEIT

DR. DIANE WILDER

JIM VAUGHT

EDDIE & KAYANNE STAUB

MAC & JENIFER COILE

BETTY COWART

CLAUDE ADAMS

SANDY & SCOTT WOODRING

THE WOODRING FAMILY

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THE CHUMA FAMILY

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THE CHUMA FAMILY

FAMILY FOUNDATION

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Nancy Elliott

Alan Barlow

Catherine Eubanks

Doug & Diane Magnus

Tina & John Burns

Dick & Pam Readwell

ANNE D. CHAPPELL

JENNIFER B. STREET

JENNIFER B. STREET

LINDA NELSON

W. G. "ROBBIE" NELSON

JADE C. BARNES

NANCY BURTON

JANET HAYNES

JUDY (MRS. LOUIS) ADAMS

CLABUS ADAMS

CHRIS ADAMS

JAMES M. ADAMS

LOUISE BARRETT

WEMMERS (LENNY) BAKER

ROBERT ALLISON

JEFFREY JOSEPH ALLEN

ESTHER AGNEW

JOHN & MARY HART WILHEIT

DR. DIANE WILDER

JIM VAUGHT

EDDIE & KAYANNE STAUB

MAC & JENIFER COILE

BETTY COWART

MRS. EDMUND WALKER, SR.

HILDEBRAND

NANCY BURTON

JANET HAYNES

JUDY (MRS. LOUIS) ADAMS

CLABUS ADAMS

CHRIS ADAMS

JAMES M. ADAMS

LOUISE BARRETT

WEMMERS (LENNY) BAKER

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MAC & JENIFER COILE

BETTY COWART

MRS. EDMUND WALKER, SR.

HILDEBRAND

The Eagle Ranch Honor and Memorial Gift Program

On these pages, each name you read represents a gift that is going directly to help boys and girls heal from crisis and build a better life. Making an honor or memorial gift is a meaningful way to honor a friend or loved one. Within 24 hours of receiving your gift, we will mail a beautiful personalized acknowledgement card and information about our ministry to your recipient of choice. Giving is easy: visit eagleranch.org/give, call our office at 770.967.8500, or mail your gift to:

P.O. Box 7200, Chestnut Mountain, GA 30732. Thank you for blessing our ministry.
In the midst of every crisis comes a turning point. Struggles reach a crescendo to support our annual, privately funded budget. Help make our 2022 tournament the Soaring Futures is Eagle Ranch's largest fundraising event, with all proceeds going to support our resident children. The Soaring Endowment was created to sustain generational change in the lives of families in north Georgia and metro Atlanta.

The endowment will provide long-term operational support for Eagle Ranch, ensuring that children and families have a trusted partner to come to.

To find out more or take the next step, call Kelly Brewer at 770.967.8500 or kbrewer@eagleranch.org.

GOLF SPONSORSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

Since it first teed off in 1994, the DeWitt Weaver Eagle Ranch Golf Classic has raised over $1 million to help struggling children get the help they need. This tournament is Eagle Ranch's largest fundraising event, with all proceeds going to support our annual, privately funded budget. Help make our 2022 tournament the biggest and best yet! For more information on sponsorships options, contact Kelly Brewer at 770.967.8500 or kbrewer@eagleranch.org.
Summer Fun

This summer, our boys and girls enjoyed a variety of activities meant to build them up physically, emotionally, spiritually and educationally.

Two of our homes got to experience sailing camp for a week, hosted by the University Yacht Club. Lessons learned included how to rig a sailboat, tie a variety of knots, how to “tack” a sailboat, recovering a capsized boat and more.

Children participated in summer fitness activities including weightlifting, yoga, swimming and more. The goal was to offer a variety of ways to engage in physical activity, helping them to gain confidence and learn the importance of fitness in overall health and well-being.

A first for many of our children, horse camp provided our boys and girls with an in-depth experience into the world of horsemanship.

For more information on our programs, visit our website at www.rockcreekfoundation.org.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

I want to support Eagle Ranch children with a gift of:

☐ $1000  ☐ $500  ☐ $100  ☐ $50  ☐ $25  ☐ $________

Please designate this gift toward:  ☐ General Operations  ☐ Honor Gift  ☐ Memorial Gift  ☐ Greatest Need

This gift is made by__________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________

City __________________________ State _____ Zip _____________

In honor/memory of ___________________________________________

City __________________________ State ________________

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Name ______________________________________________________

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City __________________________ State _____ Zip _____________

Relationship to honoree/deceased ____________________________

EagleRanch.org

Celebrating
The Faith Home

Every family in the Faith Home graduated from Eagle Ranch this spring!
(Parker and family not pictured)