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INSIGHTS



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:

CORNERSTONE RANCH

"Our experience at Cornerstone Ranch has been great. We always look forward to the opportunity to work with the Ranchers, whether it is a dance-off, trivia, or other activities. It is fantastic to see how the Staff and Volunteers interact with the Ranchers and provide an avenue for the Ranchers to live an abundant life."

-- Warren Norris, Managing Partner, in response to receiving the Cornerstone Ranch "Community Hero Award" for 2023

What is Cornerstone Ranch?

Cornerstone Ranch is a non-profit residential and day program for adults with special needs. Currently located on 42 acres of land outside McKinney, Texas, the Ranch features paved walking trails, a hand-planted garden and accompanying greenhouse, a spacious living facility for full-time residents and care giving families, and a multi-purpose center, the "Barn". The adults who come, affectionately called Ranchers, enjoy participating in a variety of activities, including cooking classes, daily workouts, life-skills training, dance parties, Bible studies, gardening, art sessions, outreach events, and more. The atmosphere is one of contagious joy and encouragement, embodying the vision of "empowering adults with special needs to live the abundant life they were created for."



The story:

The history of the Ranch begins in 1999, in a hallway at SMU, when college students David and Cynthia Heaton first met on their way to volunteer with a group for teenagers with special needs. After David and Cynthia married and graduated, they saw the tremendous need for programs for young adults with special needs post-high school, and began to dream about creating a support system for their friends with diverse abilities. In 2001, they set the foundation of Cornerstone Ranch by opening their home to three men with special needs. As their ministry expanded, they raised funds and purchased the land for the Ranch in 2004, welcoming the first full-time residents there in 2006. Over the years, the program has multiplied to hosting up to 7 full-time residents and around 60 day-program Ranchers. The staff team expanded from the Heaton family to a growing group of dedicated members who provide compassionate, individualized care for the day and residential Ranchers.



The vision lived out:

Cornerstone is built on three core values- place, people, and purpose. Under each of these values lies the understanding that each person has unique gifts to be celebrated, cultivated, and shared in service to others. In the day-to-day operations, the staff team equips Ranchers to grow in independence and develop meaningful connections through numerous programs. These programs are centered around the pillars of serving, developing life skills, healthy living, learning, working, and

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having fun. Learning life skills includes group shopping trips, hygiene routines, cooking classes, and home care. Amidst reading, mathematics, and health management, Ranchers also study and discuss what it means to live in community with each other. Although the Ranchers themselves often require specialized care, they are eager to practice serving others through volunteer work.



Community partnerships:

For the past several years, Titan Consulting has been able to partner with Cornerstone Ranch through gifting needed supplies for

projects and programs, as well as sponsoring events for the Ranchers. For our team, volunteering at these events guarantees a time of laughter and soul refreshment as the Ranchers share their wonder and kindness with us.

Frisco Rough Riders--

Over the summers, Titan joins a group of Ranchers at the Frisco Rough Riders stadium for a day of baseball fun!

Titan Christmas Party--

In December, Titan spends a day with the Ranchers in the Barn, helping everyone participate in festive holiday activities such as decorating cookies, building ornaments, and singing carols.

Come to the Table Event--

Cornerstone Ranch hosts an annual benefit event, Come to the Table, as a creative way to raise about 50% of the annual operating budget. Fundraising opportunities such as this one allow Cornerstone to cut back on the costs for each

Rancher, as well as continue to develop additional programs. At Come to the Table, guests can purchase beautiful artwork from the Ranchers during a silent auction, enjoy a delicious dinner, browse the Cornerstone Market for other tax-deductible, hand-crafted products, and celebrate the inspiring stories of the everyday moments of Ranch life. At the 2023 Come to the Table, Titan Consulting was awarded Cornerstone's "Community Hero Award", which managing partners Warren Norris and Kent Lamb were honored to accept.



Looking toward the future:

A few years ago, the staff team realized that the need was even greater than they had anticipated, as multiple families were driving long distances each day for their loved ones to experience being a Rancher, with other families joining an increasing wait list for spots to open. Additionally, they envisioned being able to welcome Ranchers with more extensive needs. All this prompted a campaign to look toward the horizon and expand. Through the support of organizations and individuals, they were able to purchase a larger plot of land in North McKinney and begin construction. In the new facility, the capacity for full-time Ranchers will increase to about 67 residents, with around 100 spots for the day program. The future location will include the current programs at Cornerstone Ranch, while extending the residential portions to encompass 8 independent-living apartments and several hospice care units.



How to get involved:

There are multiple avenues to partner with the incredible work going on at Cornerstone Ranch, with these being just a few:

- Become a financial partner.
- Sponsor a table at Come to the Table or another event.
- Volunteer for special events or the day program, as individuals or groups.
- Schedule a group workday to accomplish larger projects.
- Share the story of Cornerstone Ranch with others to raise awareness.



Explore www.cornerstone-ranch.com for more information and stories.

