

LEARNING CENTER NOW OPEN!



The Peppers Ranch Multi-Purpose Learning Center opened its doors December 4, 2010, just in time for Santa. The children sang their version of "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands" on their new stage before a full audience. Thank you to our donors. It is because of you this building was made possible. The library is stocked, tutor rooms in use, art therapy will soon create our own Picasso and the families have a common area to join together as a community.



Momma Jil and Sarah read together in the new library.

THANK YOU DONORS!



Cecil draws his first memory in the new Art Therapy Room.



Oshalyn and his tutor Ms. Donna work on Geometry problems in one of the new tutoring rooms.



Jada and JT perform on their new stage!



Inspirational quotes such as this one by Eleanor Roosevelt cover the gym walls.

GIVING



"Living at the ranch is a gift for all of us every day. Since we have been given so much it's important to find new ways to give to others."

By: Sarah Meacham, 4-H Reporter for Peppers Ranch Club

There are many different ways a person can give. They can give their time, their love, their money or their blood. The biggest gift ever was Jesus dying on the cross to give us eternal life. Because of him, we should give back to our friends, families, and communities. We are here to serve and giving is the most important way to do that.

When we became a part of the Peppers Ranch Community, "to give back" was one of the first things we were encouraged to do. We volunteer to pick up trash in Edmond, volunteer at the Food Bank in Oklahoma City and this Christmas we put together duffle bags full of blankets, pillows and hygiene items to give to the children in the Logan County Shelter. I know this will make some kid really happy in a time when everything is really sad for them. In our family, we all gave half of our allowance to pay for the bags. When I spend my own money, it makes me happier to know I really did help someone else instead of my mom paying for everything.

Living at the ranch is a gift for all of us every day. We have been given so much it's important to find new ways to give to others. You don't have to have a lot of money to give either, because the gift of your time is great by helping your neighbors, community and family.

SANTA visits Peppers Ranch from the North Pole.....



Congratulations to Peppers Ranch Ratcliff Family
DHS Area I

**ADOPTION
FAMILY OF
THE YEAR**

HARK! The King is Born

Our First Production: December 4th, 2010



TUTORING TIDBITS.....

"I love working at the ranch because the kids are the highlight of my entire day! Rather than just helping them in Math or Reading, I am able to help them gain confidence in themselves. When I first began tutoring, I heard kids saying, "I can't do this" or "I am stupid." Now I see them beaming and proudly saying, "I am smart" and "I can do this." Once I am able to get a child excited about school, the child is hooked! This is what I enjoy the most, watching the transition from a child disliking school, discovering what he or she likes and using their interests to captivate learning."

Ms. Katie



Isaac works with Ms. Katie to complete a reading assignment.

Reading Rewards Program.....

Statistically only 50% of foster children graduate with their high school diploma. When children arrive at the ranch, it is not uncommon for them to be a year or two behind their same age peers in math and reading. While our tutoring program provides the children with extra support, we were convinced there was more we could do to encourage them to build a solid foundation in reading. We created a reading incentive program designed to spark their interest and excitement in reading. They check out books from their new library and keep track of what they read to earn "Peppers Bucks." Children are able to buy items big and small from the "Peppers Store."



Susie and Jada show the items they earned for being such dedicated readers!



★ STUDENT OF THE MONTH ★

The student of the month program recognizes students that make an extra effort. Good conduct, honesty, solid work ethic, courtesy and perseverance are characteristics they must demonstrate.

Congratulations to our Students of the Month:

Cole: October

Sarah: October

Isaac: November

Ethan: December

PEPPERS PARENTS

Our very special parents at Peppers Ranch have a combined total of over 70 years of experience as foster parents!

ROOTS & WINGS.....

Over the years, Peppers Ranch has received enormous support and encouragement from donors like you who believe in our mission. We want to *thank you* for the contributions you have made. Your generosity has helped us build a community where children can heal from abuse and neglect. We have seen tremendous, heart-warming results and we have been able to keep many brothers and sisters together.

We are excited about the addition of two homes in 2010, as we continue to grow the ranch debt free. With thousands of children in the DHS system needing a stable and loving family, we are determined to help as many children as possible.

We are pleased and proud to announce the launching of Phase II of our Capital Campaign, "Roots and Wings." The funds raised will be dedicated to building three more homes in 2011 and two additional homes in 2012. We want to say how much we appreciate your participation as we embark on the next phase of our multi-year capital campaign. Our success in changing children's lives would not be possible without our generous donors.

Blessings in the New Year.

Peppers Ranch Board, Administration, Parents and Children

U.S. MARSHALS GIVE THEIR TIME.....

Congratulations to our 2010 Horsemanship Class! After a season spent learning what is kept in the tack room, how to safely interact with a horse, the parts of a horse, how to bathe, groom, water and feed a horse, the children celebrated their accomplishments with an end of year awards ceremony. Four US Marshals attended the event to hand out the certificates. Our little cowboys and cowgirls advanced to the level of "Buck-a-Roo." The older kids advanced to "Wrangler." Yee Haw!





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"I know in my heart that man is good. That what is right will always eventually triumph. And there's purpose and worth to each and every life."

-Ronald Reagan

A Child Like Me?

With saddened eyes and head bent low, It's damaged goods most see.
With my unclear past and broken heart, Who would want a child like me?

I watch her walk into the room. From a distance I can see.
But dare I take a closer step? Who would want a child like me?

And then I see her look my way. She smiles so tenderly.
But do I even dare to dream, She would want a child like me?
And then, as if I spoke out loud, She approaches cautiously.

I try so hard to once believe, She will want a child like me.
But dare I once let down my guard, And trust that she will see,
Hiding beneath this old stained shirt, Is a beautiful child like me?
My smile, they say, lights up a room. I'll be good as good can be.

Oh, please, dear God, let her want A special child like me.

I feel her hand reach out for mine, And within her eyes I see,
A single, tiny, shining tear. Could she want a child like me?
And when she takes me in her arms, With a warmth so pure and new,
She says the words I've prayed to hear, "The child I want is you!"

~Lisa J Schlitt

Momma Anna and her daughter
Susie share a special moment together.



The children at Peppers Ranch "THANK YOU" for
helping make the dream of a forever family possible!



All donations are tax-deductible. Peppers Ranch is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.