



THE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S RANCH/EKKLESIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2421 W Duck Alley Rd, Eagle, ID 83616

Phone 208-888-5235

Fax: 208-888-3481



February, 2019

*"When you put faith, hope, and love together, you can raise positive kids in a negative world." Zig Zigler*

I came across an article written in 1975 by Mel Huckins informing supporters of the Christian Children's Home of the move from 36<sup>th</sup> Street in Boise, to the current location in Eagle, Idaho. As I read his article, I realized that I could copy and paste it word for word and it would describe the exact opportunity that the Christian Children's Ranch faces today.

Mel writes that what was once a quiet, almost rural, northwest, side of Boise had become urbanized and surrounded by homes. Forty- three years later, history repeats itself and we find ourselves in the same scenario. Our once rural "place in the country" has become surrounded by urban development. This has led the Board of Directors to make the decision to sell the current location of the Christian Children's Ranch and seek a new location that will allow us to serve at risk children.

#### **FACTORS LEADING TO THE DECISION:**

1. The Christian Children's Ranch is located in the middle of two of the fastest growing cities in Idaho; Eagle and Meridian. We are now surrounded by sub-divisions, shopping centers, a golf course, an equestrian center, and the new LDS temple. As growth continues it creates a safety concern for youth.
2. The state license for residential care facilities now require fire suppression sprinklers. The time and great expense to make these repairs and updates created challenges both financially and structurally.
3. Maintenance and upkeep on the current grounds divert valuable resources.
4. The state wants to move away from the house parent model and towards using professionally trained staff. Homes are required to have 24hr, awake care, with two adults present with children at all times. While we see the need and wisdom of these changes, our current facilities will not allow us to meet these requirements.
5. Needs of the children. It has become evident that while having two loving parents in a home to provide structure, stability, and a Christian example is of tremendous value; youth placed at the Ranch require additional services to address their history of abuse, trauma, and neglect. We need facilities that will accommodate these services.

#### **THE PLAN**

1. Sell the property; which is currently on the market.
2. Purchase a property that will meet the needs of youth.
3. Hire qualified staff to meet licensure requirements and serve the current needs of at-risk youth.
4. Provide students with access to an individualized education by maintaining our school, and school accreditation.

#### **WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

"Is the Christian Children's Ranch closing?" The answer is **NO**, we are not closing but moving, and making needed changes to serve at-risk youth. The need is great, as we have constant requests for placements. Until new property is purchased, we will continue operating the school, as a day school, and provide educational opportunities to at-risk children whose education has been compromised.

We continue to covet your prayers and continued support as we move through this transition time. We are excited; and believe God will make something beautiful out of it. Please check our website: [www.christianchildrensranch.org](http://www.christianchildrensranch.org) regularly for updates. We will be moving to an email newsletter format. If you would like to continue receiving updates, please make sure the office has your address. You can email us at [office@christianchildrensranch.org](mailto:office@christianchildrensranch.org).

Blessings,