



CREATING CONNECTIONS  
THAT INSPIRE YOUTH AND FAMILIES

# CONNECTING YOUTH WITH Family, School, Values, Animals and Nature

## AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS



Helping • Inspiring • Equipping • Improving • Teaching

### PROGRAMS:

#### Home and Family

- Preventative Aftercare
- Supervised Visitation

#### Values and Ethics

- STORY Program
- Youth Mentoring

#### Animals and Nature

- Animal Assisted Therapy
- Pawsitive Connection
- Thunderbird Ranch

#### School and Education

- Courses and Projects

### FOCUS:

Helping children and families in crisis referred by county child welfare departments, courts and youth corrections.

Helping hard-to-reach youth from troubled homes, alternative schools, diversion programs and treatment centers with histories of school drop-out, homelessness, teen pregnancy, delinquency and mental health conditions.

Helping all youth, parents and families manage the stresses, confusion and trends in our society.

Helping families navigate the scary and confusing task of securing care for children with special health care needs.

### IMPACT:

#### Statewide

- 2000 lives annually
- All human service areas
- 20 Colorado counties
- Judicial districts & NYC regions
- Mobile staff
- Graduate field training
- Cost-effective



#### Bi-lingual support

- Special healthcare needs
- Resource navigation

**"We were called ..."** *"I'm back with my mom and grandma!" - Robert, age 10*

It was the second foster home in a year for the two children; Shauna, age 7, and Robert, age 10. *We were called* by county child welfare because of concerns about parental neglect and abandonment. Dad was in jail. Mom was overwhelmed and emotionally distraught. It was grandma who was the steady influence in their lives. *NOW*, four months later, the children are settled in school, mom has gained self-confidence and is doing well both at home and in her job. Grandma is helping care for the children after school, and the family is staying together.



# THE BENEFITS AND IMPACT OF OUR PROGRAMS

## "We were called..."

**"I didn't think I could do it!"**  
 - Josh, age 15

Josh was very worried and insecure. He rarely talked to others. At home and school, he would quickly withdraw into a social shell. **We were called** to include Josh in our STORY program, which focuses on youth with similar needs and problems. Over the next 12 weeks, Josh began to open up. He did exercises and projects that helped him share his dreams and hopes for the future. He embraced some personal values, which helped him gain the courage to become a leader in the class. **NOW**, Josh is a real talker. His parents, teachers and friends are amazed. Josh has made some great friends and even went to the school dance! HOORAY for Josh!



**"Lola's my best friend!"**  
 - Stevie, age 9

Stevie was full of fear and reacted with temper tantrums and run-aways. **We were called** to provide animal assisted therapy. The therapist and her dog, Lola, came every week to help. **NOW**, Stevie is a student in a regular classroom.

**"Our family is back together!"**  
 - Angie, age 13 and Eric, age 11

Their family was broken with angry outbursts and abandonment. The court placed both children in foster care. **We were called** to calm the family crisis. **NOW**, after months of



therapy and relationship building, the marriage is saved and the family is back together.

**"I am not my diagnosis!"**  
 - Alicia, age 14

Alicia was really struggling. Born with a genetic disorder, she had angry outbursts, was easily distracted and labeled with several diagnoses.

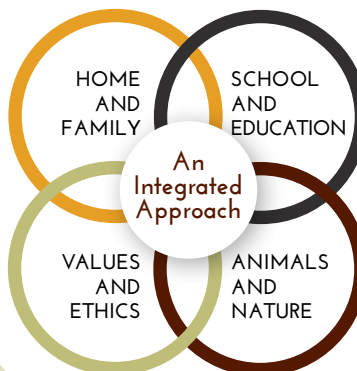
**We were called** to provide a specialized mentor to help Alicia learn to make friends and inspire hope. She blossomed doing creative projects and opened her heart to the mentor. **NOW**, Alicia is confident, has friends and proudly wrote a song exclaiming - "I'm not my diagnosis - I'm Alicia!"

### OUR MISSION:

To connect children, youth and families with the resources and inspiration to become hopeful and productive citizens.

59 YEARS

OVER 77,000 LIVES



### OUR AWARDS:

Samaritan Institute-Colorado Ethics in Business Award for Non-Profits

Two time recipient of the El Pomar Outstanding Youth Organization Award

Numerous features on NBC Nightly news, Animal Planet and Discovery Channel



CONTINUING OUR LEGACY: COLORADO BOYS RANCH FOUNDATION

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