

Beauty A Blaze

The Newsletter of
★ BLAZING HOPE RANCH ★

OUR PURPOSE

We endeavor to proclaim the matchless beauty of God as manifested through his character, his actions and his Word and to reignite the radiant beauty conceived by him within the deeply wounded soul.



HOPE RISING FROM BANDANA ASHES

I went to my first ever hootenanny, ya'll! A hootenanny is an informal gathering with folk music and sometimes dancing.

We wound through the back roads and pulled into the grassy parking area on the side of Drewia Hill. If you search the words 'rustic elegance' The Barn at Drewia Hill should top the list. The venue made me want to get married all over again.

Rowdy kids in tow, we wiggled our way through the barn full of crowded tables to locate our seats. **It was a packed house, and anticipation was in the air.** The table was laid out shabby chic style with mason jars full of flowers, burlap, and bandana

napkins. Oh, and candles....let's not forget the candles.



I was bouncing my grouchy 16 month old to the music of the bluesy jug band playing in the corner, when Caleb said, "Mom! Fire!"

I think I responded with an absent-minded mother's "Yes, the candles are pretty, now eat your food." (Or something of the like.)

"No, Mom. Fire. It's on fire!"

I looked where he pointed. **My eyes grew three times in size that day. One corner of a bandana curled in the candle flame. I envisioned the beautiful white linens draped in the barn rafters engulfed in flames.**

I dropped it on the ground and started stomping. Our host, David Haggard, now alerted to the fact that his hootenanny was at risk of going up in flames, ran over to help me with the last of it.

And that, folks, is why you wear boots to a hootenanny.

But we weren't there just for music, food, and fun (or fire). There was a higher calling to this funny-named event. Hootenanny for Hope was a fund-

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GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE

Blazing Hope Ranch is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit faith-based organization dedicated to the empowerment of female survivors of human trafficking in a safe, Christ-focused environment that promotes full restoration of mind, body and soul while weakening the sex trade through advocacy and awareness. Would you consider ways to **HELP HOPE RUN FREE:**

- Volunteer the gift of your time
- Donate item(s) listed on our Current Needs list on the website
- Invite us to share at your church or organization
- Donate online through PayPal on our website or facebook page
- Donate by Check:
Blazing Hope Ranch
PO Box 164, Dayton TN 37321

GUARDIANS OF HOPE

We live in an over-sexualized culture. Men gravitate toward the visual and are fed a constant diet of the images displayed in TV shows and ads, magazines and the internet. **Increased access to graphic material cloaked in the shroud of secrecy and private has not quenched the thirst but only deepened the desire.**

Much like a gateway drug, the visual pursuit eventually leaves one dissatisfied and can eventually lead to

searching for stimulation in a more participatory encounter.

These activities in all their forms lead to the degradation of the viewer and the "object" of their temporary interest alike.

Little does a guy know that his actions in fantasy or reality are most certainly fueling the exploita-



tion of countless women made in the image of God but in many cases **may also be funding, supporting and fueling the endeavors of human traffickers and encouraging them to enslave young women (and men) across the street and across the globe.** This must stop!

In an effort to weaken de-

mand for human trafficking and rescue girls before they become victims in need of the ranch, we are working to launch Guardians of Hope. **This program will seek to inform and mobilize men in the church and community to recognize their contribution to exploitation, build accountability and give men the opportunity to fight to protect those that are most vulnerable.** Watch for more info to come.

- David Haggard

*He works justice for
those who are pressed
down by the world,
providing food for
those who are
hungry. He frees
those who are
imprisoned; He
makes the blind see.
He lifts up those
whose backs are bent
in labor; He cherishes
those who do what is
right.*

Psalms 146:7,8



BANDANAS (CONTINUED)

raising event for Blazing Hope Ranch, a budding ministry in Dayton, TN that exists to assist female survivors of human trafficking by providing healing, opportunity, protection, and education. Programs include transitional living, equestrian therapy, and camps for foster children.

The guest speaker, Angie Duncan, a survivor of human trafficking and founder of Hosea's Heart in Knoxville, TN opened my eyes to the need for places like Blazing Hope Ranch. The entire room leaned in to hear her heart-rending experience. The pain of her story was palpable. Tears pricked my eyes, but didn't start to fall until **she shared the hope she found in Jesus. That was beauty at its finest.**

I've heard reports of human trafficking on the news. Those stories evoke images in my mind from the movie Taken—white, middle-upper class girl, followed and kidnapped.

The truth behind the driving force of human trafficking is darker, and far more subtle. Who are the victims of human trafficking? Foster children on the fringe, desperate for a better life. Children sold by their own families for drug money. Young women raised under generational sex slavery, watching their mothers and grandmothers sell themselves to survive. The young woman at the strip club or exhibited in pornography might be there of her own volition, or she might be a victim of sexual slavery. The victims are the people society forgets.



The need is greater than we can imagine for places like Blazing Hope Ranch. But there is always hope. Those who society overlooks, God sees.

His heart is bent toward them and his hope rises...even from bandana ashes.

- Amanda Cox

Read her whole blogpost at :
www.hopeperch.wordpress.com/2016/04/22/hootenanny-for-hope/

HOOTENANNY IN PICTURES



See all the Hootenanny for Hope Pictures online at: www.blazinghoperanch.org

THANKS FOR GIVING A HOOT

Hootenanny Silent Auction Donors:

- Justin's Horseshoe Art
- Running Princess
- Kenworthy Family
- Sagebrush Coffee
- Shipley Basket Company
- Dianne Kean
- Krafty Girl Creations
- Laurabeth Hixson
- Julie Hasty
- Groover Photography
- Oliver Enterprises
- Sewn by Jules
- Evelyn Marie Williams
- Bob & Rachel Hay
- Waterworks Carwash
- Vickie Patterson
- Janice Perron
- RCCC

Hootenanny Volunteers & Special Guests:

Angie Duncan—speaker, Lyn Ebersole—event coordinator, Bryan SSTOP group and students, Cameron Maxfield—Emcee, Kris Cobb—Barn at Drewia Hill owner, Jeff & Darlene Bruehl—face painting, Kat Harris—photography and Numerous individuals who helped set up and tear down.

Ranch supporters and friends:

Because of your generosity, the ranch raised over \$12,500 toward summer camps and building on the ranch at the Hootenanny!



BLAZING HOPE RANCH

PO Box 164
Dayton, TN 37321

Phone: 423-667-3820
Web: www.blazinghoperanch.org
E-mail: blazinghopetn@gmail.com

WHERE HOPE RUNS FREE

BORN TO FLY @ CAMP RUN FREE

"People don't realize the pain and lack of self-worth in those of us who are victimized," says Katarina Rosenblatt in her book "Stolen" **Children with low self-esteem are looking for love and someone to tell them they are good at something, worth caring about, and have valuable things to say.** These people, often children, are so desperate for someone to care that they are not aware of the danger until it is too late.

On the other side, **trafficker's prowl like roaring lions looking for those that seem insecure and lonely.** People

that can be easily sold a lie. One pimp, when interviewed said, "tell a girl you'll give her heaven and she'll follow you into hell." Traffickers are good at identifying the vulnerable and determining the best way to "hook" them.

"Until something changes inside us, we're vulnerable and able to be manipulated by people who want to use our bodies for their gain." Rosenblatt says. **This is why Blazing Hope Ranch has developed a day camp called Camp Run Free.** Every activity is based on an anti-child trafficking curriculum

called Born to Fly. This exciting new program will offer crafts, Bible teaching, games, horse activities, and a lesson. **Campers will have fun while also learning they were uniquely created with beautiful purpose,** build confidence and benefit from therapeutic work with hors-

es. They will learn to be patient as they are developing and building skills necessary for successful adulthood. They will learn to identify "dream thieves" and other risks to their future success.

- Jo Haggard

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help at one or both of our two 1-week day camps on **June 27-July 1** and **July 18-22**. Volunteers will be solid in their Christian faith, committed to at least one entire week, able to pass a background check and have a heart for vulnerable kids. If interested go to "how to help" tab at www.blazinghoperanch.org and select "summer volunteer" to download and complete the application along with other documents.