

Beauty Ablaze

The Newsletter of

★ **BLAZING HOPE RANCH** ★

STATISTICS

- Over 14,000 new trafficking victims in the U.S. each year
- 13 years old is the average age that a girl enters the sex trade
- Only 700 beds available for effective after-care nationwide
- 60-person waiting list at the closest facility in TN

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.

FROM SPARK TO FLAME

It all started as a dream. An improbable dream. Born from a desire to simply love God more authentically and serve him more practically. The idea was to start a free ranch for troubled youth searching for hope. **Where creation and horses and servants of Christ would collide with the messiness of human pain and shame to reveal a God of beauty and wonder, goodness and mercy.** A dream about a place where God could orchestrate healing and restoration and give birth to vibrant, life-changing faith.

That dream, arriving in 2001, developed into a clear passion and calling over several years. The picture would come into

focus over time: a ranch that would confront the realities of human trafficking through residential treatment while



also offering other community services. We became aware of this horrific crime and tragic perversion of God's good gifts and immediately thought of the 25th chapter of Matthew. What better way to declare the beauty and worth of God in the world than by helping to restore his beauty to the "least of these"?

Each day, each of us is given the amazing opportunity and privilege to magnify and set his beauty ablaze in our own hearts and in the lives of those around us. A kind word, a thoughtful act, these can ignite a flame.

On the ranch, young women freed from the sex trade, from control and abuse, will be provided with the chance to be all that God designed them to be. Children and families gripped by struggle will experience a taste of his kindness and joy. **And a broken and watching world will see shimmering flickers of Christ** and the hope he provides delivered with two hands, two feet...and four hooves.

A WORTHY CALLING

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.

We will carry out our calling through four foundations of H.O.P.E.:

Healing - Restoring survivors to wholeness mentally and emotionally. **Opportunity** - Providing valuable skills training and experiences. **Protection** - Maintaining a safe and peaceful environment. **Education** - Promoting local awareness and understanding of human sex trafficking in the States.

DAVID, JO & THE TEAM

David and Jo Haggard are in love with Jesus. They want others to fall in love with him too. They have been planning this ministry since 2001. Together, they bring different skills to the development of this ranch.

David has fine tuned his administrative skills while working in various colleges and universities and currently works as the Director of Financial Aid at Bryan College, Dayton, TN. He is detail-

oriented, works with integrity and strives for excellence in anything he puts his hand to. He is passionate about growing in Christ and being obedient to His calling.

Jo is a gifted counselor and has been using her God-given skills to serve those struggling with mental illness. She has had the opportunity to manage three different transitional living/skills programs. She is passionate about walking with people



while they are in their darkest places and helping them find hope. Jo is currently serving as a counselor at Bryan College.

Terryl Roddy serves on the board as Vice President and is a native of Dayton, TN. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and has 30 years of teaching experience. Now in retirement, he gives of his time for local causes.

Bill Kellaris serves on the board as Treasurer. A former Dayton resident, he now lives in Virginia with his wife, Juanita and serves at Patrick Henry College. He has worked in higher education for over 40 years.

"Survivors will have access to community resources such as education, medical care and counseling, all within a biblical framework."



DELIVERING HIS HOPE

The ranch will try to fulfill the four objectives of Healing, Opportunity, Protection and Education through three primary programs.

Transitional Living

This program will offer a safe, Christ-focused environment in which to transition from intensive treatment programs to a less restrictive treatment setting for survivors of human trafficking. Residents in this family-style setting will learn life skills including home management, menu-planning and cooking, applying for and maintaining a job, securing and maintaining personal transportation. Survivors will have access to community resources such as education, medical care and counseling all within a biblical framework.

Community Outreach

Our goal will be to make no-cost ranch life and activities available to youth and families through collaboration with local agencies and other local organizations, clubs, churches and schools.

BHR will seek to offer alternative activities for families and youth to grow together in trust and confidence, to engage individuals and groups in exploration and appreciation for God's creativity and beauty and to build community awareness surrounding the issue of human trafficking.

Equestrian Care

Horse therapy will be central to the overall therapeutic offerings of the organization.

Horses are among God's most majestic creatures and



are deserving of careful stewardship. The effects of their mistreatment are not unlike some of those experienced by the survivors of abuse. BHR will take in these horses and provide pasture, shelter and regular care.

Each program participant will be paired with a horse for the duration of their stay/session and will be involved with horse riding, care and responsible stewardship.

SENDING SUGARFOOT

Do you ever question the existence of God? Or perhaps, do you trust that he is real but have doubts that he is compassionate and interested in you or your struggles?

If so, you are like a lot of people. Fighting through the daily issues of life and wondering where God has been. His silence is appalling at best and a sure sign of some fairytale at worst. **Imagine the life of a teenage girl, feeling unloved by her family who seeks solace in the arms of a man she thinks cares about her, only to be used and abused by him and others for profit.** How must she feel about the reality of a loving God? He is nowhere to be found in the dark back alleys or the dirty, cheap motel rooms she finds herself in day after day. The hopelessness must be consuming.

It is impossible for me to grasp it all, but I can relate to part of such a girl's story. I faced abuse and lacked a sense of value and worth. I could not find the love I so desperately needed. Thankfully I did not run into the arms of a predator but instead I ran to a neighbor's farm, looking for simple escape. To my surprise I found something so much more. I found a "beast of burden" that was more than willing



to help me carry mine. Sugarfoot was his name. A horse became one of my closest friends. He listened and offered constant encouragement and companionship. When things were particularly rough, I would find solace sitting in the corner of his stall. There I could cry out my hurts, confess my fears and connect with another living being.

Sugarfoot kept my heart and mind open to the possibility that there was truly a God who loved and cared about me, even in the darkest places. Sugarfoot was able to minister to me and reach me in a way that no human could. He was only the beginning of a bigger plan and his presence in my life would be

brief. My journey to wholeness and firm confidence in the beauty of God would take years. But there is no telling where I would be without God using him at a critical point in my life. Ultimately he would point me to one who would not only carry the burden of my pain and shame but hurl them from me like darkness flees the light of dawn.

So, although sometimes it feels like God is absent or aloof, we can remain confident in his presence. **He reminds each of us, "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you"** (Deut. 31:6). God kept his promise when I was 12 by sending a horse. His act of grace at that time could easily be overlooked or contested. But his overwhelming care and love for me cannot be denied when I fix my gaze on the cross. For "surely our griefs he himself bore, and our sorrows he carried...and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53: 4,5).

Jesus' life, death and resurrection shouts hope and healing to a hurting world. He is there for you. He is there for a teenage girl. We just have to keep our eyes open to the streaks of blazing hope he flashes across the midnight sky and wait patiently for the coming dawn.

- Jo

HELP HOPE RUN FREE

Partner with us to Pray for:

- Survivors of human trafficking and an end to the sex trade.
- Grants to help us pay for ranch expenses.
- People to embrace our mission and give of their time, talent and treasure for success.
- The Lord's protection and strength for David, Jo and their family.



Partner with us Financially:

- Donate land for the ranch.
- Give money for the purchase/upkeep of land.

Give by mail (check made payable to):

Blazing Hope Ranch
745 4th Avenue
Dayton TN 37321

Give online: gofundme.com/blazinghoperanch

Thank you for your tax-deductible gift!



BLAZING HOPE RANCH

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WHERE HOPE RUNS FREE

A PLACE CALLED BLAZING HOPE

- 501(c)(3) Non-Profit
- No Cost
- Faith-driven
- Trafficking Survivor Aftercare
- Equestrian Therapy
- Horse Rescue
- Community Ranch Activities
- God Exalting



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.

Psalm 146:7,8

www.blazinghoperanch.org