

McCrossan Boys Ranch Annual Report



Our Mission: Providing “New Hope for a Better Life”

Nearly 70 years ago, it was the vision of Melinda Bell McCrossan to help at-risk boys in need to grow up to be “the finest of young men.” Through unrelenting dedication to those relying on us, we strive to live up to her faith in this organization.



McCrosan continues to provide a safe, structured environment for young men struggling in their home, school, and community settings. With our variety of services and programs, McCrosan continues to offer hope and opportunity in the ever-changing landscape of residential care and treatment. We have seen more trauma, truancy, depression, and mental health issues in the youth we serve. We continue to recognize the importance of teaching skills to our youth to best serve getting them back into their homes and communities as safely and as soon as possible. Our programs, with numerous service offerings, are committed to meeting the needs of our youth and their families in staying true to our mission.



Program Options:

- Group Care
- Transitional Services
- Independent Living Preparation Programming
- Short-term Assessment
- Community Reintegration (short-term Group Care)
- Crisis and Respite Care



Services Offered:

- Accredited, year-round school
- Individual therapy (qualified mental health professionals)
- Chemical dependency services
- Psychiatric and psychological care
- Spiritual and Cultural offerings
- Livestock, 4H, Equine therapy programming
- Recreation, interscholastic sports, and intramural sports
- Community service, world of work, and paid work opportunities



From our boys

We recently asked the boys what helps you the most? What have you learned? How do you feel at the Ranch? Here are just a few of the things they had to say:

- My therapist helps me with my tough situations and the emotions I go through.
- I am able to talk to someone about how I am feeling.
- Learning to cope with my anger issues.
- Going to the barn and rec and doing things I like.
- Being able to sleep.
- I have somewhere to sleep.
- Talking to my therapist.
- School.
- I struggle between trying to do good and wrong, but most of the time I try to do the right thing.
- Getting me back on my feet.
- Opportunities.



- The staff are pretty much always kind and respectful. They do a great job at trying to keep peace and they can make some pretty good therapists at times.
- Coping skills, support, therapy, and staff.
- I like it here.
- I feel safe.
- It helps me a lot, I don't know if it's me or the Ranch, but I feel pretty good about myself.
- It helps me to talk to someone and get things off my chest and talk without being judged.
- (Group) helps me do the right thing when I drift.
- Educational opportunities.
- Counseling.
- Support.
- It gives me a chance to start over.
- Learning how to get out in the real world and on your own and how to stay out of trouble.
- Learning to be kind.



A Story of Success

Eli came to McCrossan Boys Ranch almost two years ago. He was born in Texas but was removed from his biological parents at age 14. He was angry and aggressive. When he was misbehaving, his parents would lock the door and keep him outside regardless of his age, time of day, or weather conditions instead of teaching him how to manage his emotions. He was eventually removed from their home for neglect, and parental rights were terminated. Eli was placed in foster care and shortly after was adopted by a family in South Dakota. Eli had his ups and downs behaviorally and found himself in residential placement in South Dakota because his adoptive parents could not manage his behaviors and needed help. Eli completed his first program, but by then his adoptive family did not want him to return. This was heartbreaking for Eli (this happens all-too-often with adopted children). He no longer had a place to call home. Eli had heard about McCrossan and felt like it was a better fit for who he was and who he wanted to become - a rancher. McCrossan felt that Eli would be a good fit, and Eli was able to receive a scholarship from the Ranch for his placement! It did not take long before staff knew it was a good fit and that Eli had a lot to offer.

Eli was placed in Haven Cottage for three months learning the rules and expectations. He felt like he had more choices and freedom to learn and grow. He started to find his footing and was able to build his self-worth and self-confidence. He was moved to the Transitional program in Sioux Cottage for a short period and then to Independent Living where he has spent a majority of his placement. Eli attends school daily. There are days that are harder than others, but he is getting the work done. He will graduate in May of 2024 with his high school diploma. Along with placing importance on education, Eli has a strong work ethic. He has been employed in Sioux Falls for almost two years and has earned close to \$40,000! He is proud of this accomplishment!! He says the Independent Living staff have taught him how to budget and save money along with many other important life skills.

Education and work come first for Eli. However, he has also been involved in many different activities

on- and off-Ranch. He has been a member of the Hitch Crew working in the barn with all the animals, helping with petting zoos, wagon rides, the rodeo, and many work crews. Eli has been a member of the 4-H group and has attended Achievement Days, County Fairs, and State Fairs showing halter class and driving draft horses. He loves spending his free time in the barn. If he is not in the barn, he is in the garden. This past year Eli, along with a couple of staff, has taken charge of the garden to plant, weed, and harvest the garden. He has put many hours into the garden all spring and summer long! The produce has been divided and delivered to our kitchen, to staff, to a Farmers Market, and then finally to Feeding South Dakota and other non-profits in need of food. Eli is also an active member of the Student Council helping plan activities on- and off-Ranch, reviewing issues within the resident living units, and being a role model to his peers.

When asked how McCrossan makes him feel, he said "liberated" and shared three life lessons staff have taught him. It's okay to live day by day. It hurts to look back sometimes but good to plan for the future. Another big life lesson he learned is that if it doesn't work the first time, try again. Lastly, he learned that "Patience is the Key!" He went on to say that staff have told him that he is a hard worker, quiet, stays busy, and works to correct his mistakes. In our eyes, Eli has found his home with us at McCrossan Boys Ranch.



McCCrossan Makes a Difference...

91%

of youth served recorded a reduction of trauma symptoms according to CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths) trauma data after their stay at McCrossan.

100%

of McCrossan staff who work directly with youth receive specialized training.

83%

of youth served felt they were learning to be successful after discharge.

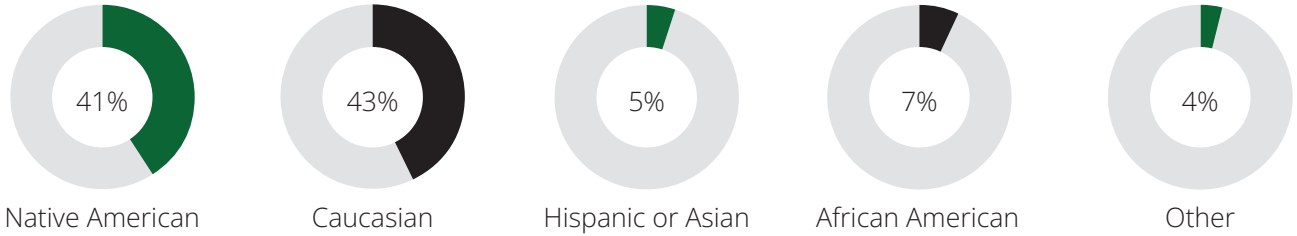
97%

of youth served had contact with their family or support system.

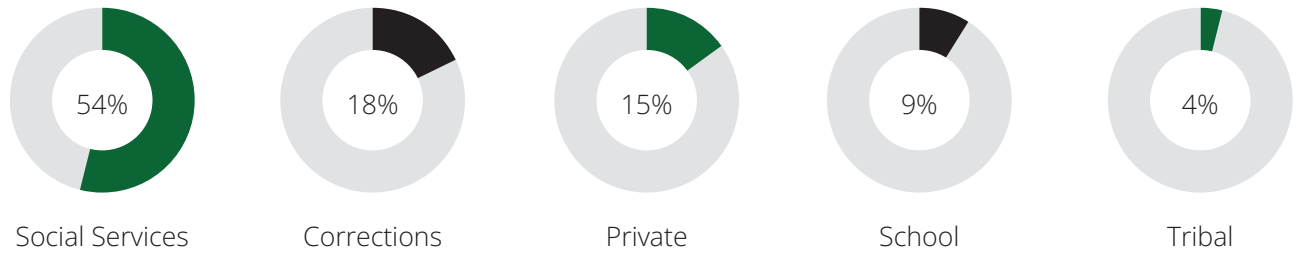


Who we serve...

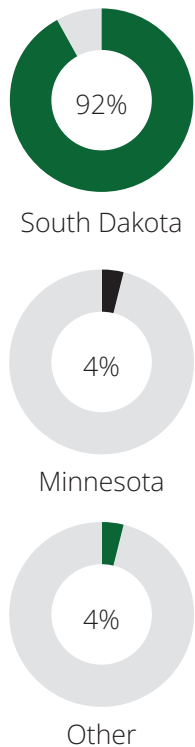
Racial Composition:



Referral Source:



Where do our boys come from?



Number of Residents Graduating High School

2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
11	11	8	9
2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	
16	15	17	

***All Statistics above from July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023**

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Average Score: 5.4 (out of 10)

Anyone with a score of four and higher generally have more social and mental anxiety, stressors, trouble in their lives, drug, and alcohol abuse, out of home placement and the scariest risk - early death. As you can see McCrossan serves many kids with significant trauma.

***Statistic based on current resident population**

From the Business Office

Due to the Spur Success capital campaign the ranch ended this year with an income of \$630,000 due to income received for the capital campaign project. The Foundation ended with a positive return averaging 8.69% between all three accounts with a net income of \$1,860,000. The Foundation's net income includes unrealized gains of approximately \$1,298,000, recouping some of last year's unrealized losses.

The 2022-2023 operating budget projected an average daily census of 53 and our actual average was 49. The school was budgeted for a daily census of 47 and we ended up at 43.7 students in the school. Intakes were lower and discharges higher than expected due to state trends. We received many referrals that were above our level of care.

The annual audit was completed in August 2023. Copies of the audit are available upon request.

NORTH SCHOOL ADDITION (EXTERIOR)

- 1 BUILDING EXTERIOR TO MATCH EXISTING SCHOOL
- 2 TIE IN NEW CONCRETE SIDEWALK TO EXISTING
- 3 NEW REPOSED PAVING BENCHES
- 4 NEW LANDSCAPING TO MATCH OR EXCEED EXISTING
- 5 EXISTING SCHOOL BUILDING IN BACKGROUND



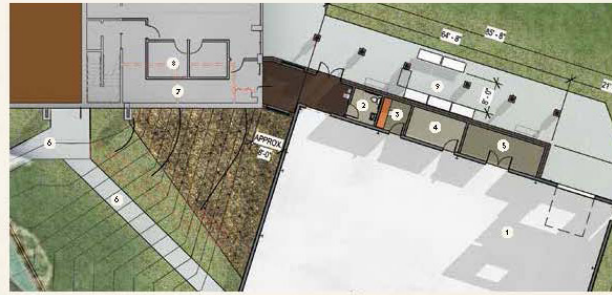
NORTH SCHOOL ADDITION (INTERIOR)

- 1 ART CLASSROOM
- 2 SCIENCE CLASSROOM
- 3 STAFF OFFICES
- 4 STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM
- 5 STAFF LOUNGE
- 6 MECH/ELECTRICAL
- 7 SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSROOM
- 8 LANGUAGE ARTS CLASSROOM
- 9 LIBRARY ROOM
- 10 MATHEMATICS CLASSROOM
- 11 TITLE/DUPPLICATOR SCIENCE CLASSROOM
- 12 SPECIAL EDUCATION ROOMS
- 13 DASHED RED LINES INDICATE DEMOLITION



SOUTH SCHOOL ADDITION

- 1 50' X 40' CLEAR OPEN PAVILION AREA
- 2 REST ROOM
- 3 PHYSICAL EDUCATION OFFICE
- 4 MECHANICAL/ELECTRICAL
- 5 STAIRS
- 6 REAR WOOD DECK/CONCRETE STEPS TO CHAPEL BASEMENT
- 7 DASHED RED LINES INDICATE DEMOLITION
- 8 EXISTING BUILDING ON EXISTING LOWER LEVEL PISCINA
- 9 EXISTING EXTERIOR PATIO TO SERVICE COVERED BANQUET AREA



ATHLETIC COMPLEX

- 1 HEN HOUSE, CLANE BY BEE KID TRACK SURFACE
- 2 DECORS AS SHOT PUT THROWING CIRCLES WITH ENCLOSURES
- 3 8000 SQ. FT. EQUIVALENT STORAGE SHED
- 4 FOOTING REED FACILITY/LOCKER ROOM
- 5 PERMANENT TRACKING COMPLEX
- 6 EXISTING 200' X 50' BAY ALUMINUM BLEACHER SYSTEM WITH COLLAPSE REEF
- 7 EXISTING CONCRESSION/REST ROOMS BUILDING
- 8 EXISTING PARKING LOT WITH CHEER BOY/ITTE
- 9 EXISTING DESIGNATED GRAY/BLACK PAVING
- 10 EXISTING CONCRETE SIDEWALK CONNECTION TO CAMPU



From the Development Office

Funds Raised 2022-2023

TOTAL: **\$2,460,466**



Spur Success:

\$1,540,390



Endowment/Bequests:

\$12,403



Chaplain Fund:

\$7,866



Sponsor A Child:

\$222,288



Memorials:

\$16,473



Annual Fund:

\$52,030



General Fund:

\$206,937



Hitch Fund:

\$17,640



Education/Scholarship:

\$3,175



Events:

\$219,776



Christmas:

\$70,404



Restricted grants and donations:

\$10,462

In-Kind Donations Raised 2022-23:
\$480,555

Total Cash/In-Kind Donations:
\$2,941,021



Spur Success Campaign Underway



Total gifts/pledges:
\$3.5 million



Goal:
\$4.5 million

Ground was broken in early May on our new school addition and renovation on the McCrossan campus. The 8,000 square foot addition along with the renovation of the current school building will enhance the educational opportunities for our boys and increase classroom sizes and provide the boys with more hands on learning space. The new addition will be outfitted with a nicer art room with sinks and space to create and a CTE (Career and Technical Education) Hub/Science Room with an area for hands on learning. Conference rooms for educational or IEP conferences for parents and other educators will also

be new to the building as will a special teachers lounge and area for our faculty. The core classrooms such as English, Math, Social Studies, Computer Sciences, the Library and more will also be expanded. A new multi-purpose area will also be added for physical education, classroom activities, labs and more. The boys recently moved out of the school building and a former cottage on campus has been retro-fitted into a make-shift school while construction takes place. The project is scheduled to be completed in April 2024.

We are still in the final phases of our fundraising for the school and athletic complex project. Our hope is to be able to break ground on the track in the Spring of 2024. Plans are currently being developed and preliminary work is being completed. We are grateful to the nearly 80 volunteers that have helped us push towards the finish line making this project possible.



Highlights from this year

We had 8 boys graduate from McCrossan High School. A few were the first in their families. One of our workers said this was the first kid on her caseload to graduate from high school.

We had residents make it to State in cross country and track! This is a huge accomplishment.

We had residents make it to the State in 4-H showing draft horses and driving teams. A few residents also showed cows again!

We had 100% of our group care residents participate in equine therapy to learn how to manage anxiety and anger more effectively.

We added Avera Adolescent Addiction Services, MRT weekly groups, and had a Children's Connection therapist run an anti-bullying 6-week group with our younger residents this past summer.

We implemented new programming for our residents to build in more education about trauma, resilience, and anger management.

Our boys completed hundreds of hours of community service on and off ranch. We help with Lion's Pancake Days, Rake the Town, Food Truck, Feeding SD, The Banquet, along with set up/tear down of many community events throughout Sioux Falls.

Our boys also put hours upon hours into hitches, wagon rides, and petting zoos both on and off Ranch.

We started construction on our new school addition- very exciting!

We added an EAP (Employee Assistance Program) therapist to come out weekly to help support our staff face-to-face. We also provide additional training for our staff to work with the population of residents we now serve.

