

## *The Jefferson/Onassis Awards*

Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch (CPYR) was nominated this past year for the Jefferson Award. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, U.S. Senator Robert Taft Jr., and Sam Beard, founded the Jefferson Award in 1975 in order to honor outstanding public and community service. The Jefferson awards are presented on two levels: Local and National.

On the local level KATU TV in Portland, Oregon was a sponsor of this award and invited the public to nominate the appropriate candidates. In April 2004, Kim Meeder was nominated for the Jefferson Award. In June, she and her husband Troy traveled to attend the Jefferson Awards National Celebration of Service to America in Washington, DC.

*"this is not about ME...  
let me share with you who  
it is truly about..."*

There were 276 national Jefferson Award winners. Only five Jefferson Award recipients are selected for the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (JKO) Award for Greatest Public Service Benefiting Local Communities.

After being honored by nearly the entire US Senate, Kim, Troy and the delegates were whisked away to Union Station for a formal gala dinner that would precede the announcement of the five JKO Award winners.

A brief intermission followed the evening's entertainment dinner. Kim and Troy made a quick dash to the restroom and weren't even back to their table when they saw horses on the two gigantic viewing screens. THEIR horses! Kim Meeder and Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch were chosen as one of the five National JKO Award winners!

By the time Kim reached the podium she was overcome. Everyone was on their feet. When she was able to speak, the first words out of her mouth were "Please, please sit down, this is not about ME... let me share with you who it is truly about...". Then she shared with all about honoring children, her husband and most of all her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Both Troy and Kim were profoundly overwhelmed by the events of the evening. Troy was heard to say many times "we're just simple ranchers... simple folks who love life, kids and horses."



## *A Day with Dr. Dobson*

On May 20, 2004, Troy and Kim traveled to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to tape a radio interview for *Focus on the Family* (FOTF) with Dr. James Dobson. Both Troy and Kim shared that the meeting with Dr. Dobson was like "spending the afternoon with your favorite uncle... truly one of the most warm, compassionate and stately men that we have ever known."

The original interview was split into two shows that aired September ninth and tenth. September tenth Amazon.com called Multnomah Publishers and asked "Who is Kim Meeder? Did she die? We are watching her book, *Hope Rising* spike from the 180,000 titles we carry to number 21... what's happening?" Focus on the Family happened!

Within a week the show "Healing with Horses" became the number one show of the year (to date) for FOTF. It is scheduled to re-air as part of their 'Best of the Best' series on December 30 and 31. We hope you can listen in!

SMILES ARE CONTAGIOUS  
AT CRYSTAL PEAKS  
YOUTH RANCH.  
KIM MEEDER AND  
LESLIE SHARE  
A HUG.

# Life and Death & Much In-Between

Isn't it like our Lord to use our deepest scars for His greatest glory? Our prior pain grown in the fertile soil of His healing grace turns into His power within us. Our scars become the very place where His hands have been... and by His grace will continue to be.

As many of you already know, before kids ride at the ranch they are required to help us with a small 'chore.' We have learned over the years that this is when we truly get to know what is going on in the heart of a child. Also, it is a perfect time for us to impart to them how much 'we need them' and how special they are to us.

It was during one such time that I met 'Angela.' At sixteen years of age, she was absolutely tiny. She could have easily passed for a twelve year old. It was her first time to the ranch and she seemed quiet and out of place. It was clear to me that what she needed most during our initial time was stress reduction. So, for our 'chore' I chose for her to help me groom a young horse.

With brushes in hand, I began the process of opening the door between us. I asked her many simple questions that she politely answered with a voice even smaller than her frame. Shoulder to shoulder we stood at the side of the horse... brushing. "Do you live in

Bend?" I asked. "Um hmm" she nodded. "So you live with your folks?" I gently continued. "Well, I used to live with my mom... but we got in a fight and she kicked me out." My heart clenched as I asked "Where are you living now?" We continued brushing. "My best friend invited me to live with her. It was OK until her husband tried to have sex with me... I knew that wasn't right so I left. I moved in with some other people... but I can tell that they don't really want me... I'm not sure what I'm going to do." Without thinking I stumbled on "Sweet girl, what about your dad? Can you live with him?"

I could feel my heart sink as I watched her response. Our brushing continued in silence as I saw her literally steady herself by placing her free hand on the horses back. She took a deep breath and just for an instant her eyes closed. What was about to cross her lips was so painful that she was reacting physically. I think my prayer was nothing more that "Jesus... Wisdom!" Mechanically, she kept brushing as her words began to flow, "I cannot live with my dad" she started. "Last year my

two brothers, my grandmother AND my dad was all murdered..." We continued brushing.

I didn't think, I just opened my mouth and let God's mercy come. "I'm so glad you're here today... I'm so glad that you're with me... I believe that I am the only one on the ranch who can truly say to you "I know how you

feel... You know something Girl?... I can tell you from experience that you're going to be OK... You're going to be just fine." I turned and looked at her directly "wanna know how I know? The day that my parents died, I asked Jesus for help... and since that day He has never stopped helping me. Even though I seemed alone... I never was because since that day He has never left me. What should have destroyed me... Jesus turned around to give me life. He can do that for you to Angela."

Her world flowed like water for the rest of the afternoon. We spoke freely of life and death and much in-between. As I hugged and kissed her goodbye, I couldn't help but be in awe of the God we serve.

*"...My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness..." 2 Cor. 12:8*

Moments like these happen on the ranch almost daily. What a gift it has been for us as staff to be the hands of Christ, gently drawing the broken to HIS side.

What a remarkable season it has been! Certainly this has been the most incredible, fun, difficult and challenging summer the ranch has ever known. Never have we worked with such remarkable children, never have we seen so much change in the ranch staff, never have we grown more through fire... and never have we been so blessed by YOU, our extended family.

— Kim Meeder, FOUNDER

ONE OF THE CPYR KIDS  
PREPARES FOR A RIDE.

Back row: Rose Jones, Jessica Canaga  
Kim Meeder, Kathleen Miller, Lynai M  
Front Row: Jenna Albin, Rachel Hanso  
Nancy Johnston, Kari Hochstetter





By Rose M. Jones, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

As you can see by this newsletter we have been blessed this past year.

In the coming year we look forward to accomplishing the following goals:

- Quarterly Newsletters - to keep all of our wonderful sponsors up-to-date
- Becoming fully computerized
- Having Staff Members become North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) certified
- Launch our Endowment Campaign

Our property remains at just about 9 acres, depending on the wind, but the administration staff has tripled. For the summer of 2005 we will have one of the largest staffs in our 9-year history!

These are some pretty big goals. I was just brought on staff last July to restructure areas of our organization, build a stronger donor base and to start our Endowment fund.

At Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch you are more than a staff member, you are welcomed into Troy and Kim's family with open and loving arms. Some very special members of our family include non-paid staff members called associates. Our associate staff show up week after week and embrace the fun and challenges that arise at the ranch. How blessed we are for their generous hearts.

One key associate is Forrest Wright. He is always steady with his near daily visits helping to keep water troughs scrubbed clean, filled, and ice-free. Forrest also mends fences, keeps gates opening smoothly and lends a hand wherever needed. Forrest is our magic man! He keeps things together literally.

Another associate is Lynai McCoy. This woman keeps me sane! She helped me unbury the office in April and rescues us continually from the mounting paperwork, tax letters and thank you notes that we send. Lynai appears like an angel out of the settling hay sent to help us finish projects on time and in order. Her grace is a gift to us all, and her insight is awesome.

Then we have Kathleen Miller. Last summer she commuted from Portland serving at the ranch three days a week. Kathleen and her family have made many sacrifices in order to serve us this season. She truly is a gift from above. It has been such a pleasure getting to know her, and she will be joining us again next season!



Troy Meeder,  
Coy, Forrest Wright  
n-McBride,

Yes! I would like to help Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch fulfill their mission

Please use my donation for:

- Where it is needed most
- Future Property Purchase
- Endowment Fund
- For the children
- For the horses
- Ranch Equipment
- Staff education
- Volunteer program

Payment Method:

A check payable to Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch CPYR for \$\_\_\_\_\_

Credit cards are accepted at:  
[www.crystalpeaksyouthbranch.com](http://www.crystalpeaksyouthbranch.com)

Send donations to: Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch,  
19344 Innes Market Road, Bend OR 97701.

You can also make your donation at  
[www.crystalpeaksyouthbranch.org](http://www.crystalpeaksyouthbranch.org)

Our current wish list is also available at our website

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## How Can We Thank You?

- U The retired WWII veteran who gave his last few dollars.
- U The nine year old girl who insisted on no birthday gifts, asked instead for donations to go to the ranch.
- U The retired school teacher who sent enough help to sponsor five children for the *entire* year.
- U The families that gave up something for themselves in order to sponsor a horse.
- U The 4-H group that gave *all* of their fundraising proceeds to help children in need.
- U The retired couples on fixed incomes who have plainly stated that their \$10 gift probably doesn't matter. *Boy were they wrong!*



- U The woman in downtown Manhattan whose gift purchased nearly *half* our hay needs for the entire year.

The first half of 2004 was the most difficult financial year Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch has ever known. But because of the tremendous generosity of individuals across our great country and beyond the ranch is continuing forward with a grateful heart and much enthusiasm for 2005. Thank you Dear Friends for your faithful shoulder to shoulder support of the ranch.

Your gifts go farther than you know.

HUGS ALL AROUND AT CPYR.

### CPYR Movie?

Our long time friend and fellow horseman Eric Close, co-star of the hit TV series "Without a Trace" has sought optioning rights for Hope Rising. What this means is that Eric's agent, Endeavor Corp., has obtained an option to potentially produce a full length feature film loosely based on the book Hope Rising.

Although this is a very slow process, we are excited for Eric and are joining him in prayer for wisdom, discernment and direction on this project. Hmmm... wonder if Robert Redford has any openings on his calendar?!