

Connecting Lives. Instilling Hope.

Check out our new website and learn how you can...

- Volunteer
- Mentor
- Donate

Donate to Bridge Builders for Kids...

- On-line at www.bridgebuilders.cc
- Mail a check to:

Bridge Builders for Kids
P.O. Box 63436
St. Paul, MN 55164

To learn more about volunteer opportunities...

- Call us at (888) 345-5441
- E-mail us at info@bridgebuilders.cc

Learn more about Bridge Builders For Kids at our new website:

www.bridgebuilders.cc

THE BRIDGE

A Newsletter from Bridge Builders For Kids Spring 2008



Spring 2008

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Going Deeper vs. **Going Deep**

Toward the end of 2007, I shared how we felt God wanted us to "go deeper". At first we didn't know what that would look like. Initially, we thought it meant God wanted us to take our programs deeper. However, we soon realized "going deeper" meant much more. In 2003, we had focused on Luke 5:1-6 where Jesus told Simon to "Put out to deep water, and let down your nets for a catch". We felt we had done that, but looking back, we realized we had gone deeper, but not "deep".

Bridge Builders for Kids has relied heavily on grants from secular foundations. With the reopening of Coyote Ridge Christian Ranch, many of these foundations now see us as too "religious" and will not consider us for funding. This change in our funding forced us to make two decisions. First, how are we going to portray ourselves? Do we pose ourselves as a Christian organization focused on restorative justice, or are

we a ministry, whose ultimate goal is to see kids come to know Jesus Christ? Secondly, how do we respond to this change in funding? Do we scale back our programs to just focus on Rochester, the Twin Cities or Coyote Ridge; or do we continue operating in all three areas.

Through much prayer, fasting and time spent in The Word, two things were impressed on me. One, God wants to be glorified and two, don't retreat. On March 14th, our Board of Directors voted unanimously to give God the opportunity to be glorified by holding our position on all fronts. It was decided, we are not going to hide who we are to put us in a better position for funding, and we are not going to retreat from areas we have been serving out of fear of funding.

As we aggressively pursue other funding sources over the next few months, we may need to hold off on making more mentor matches. However we remain committed to

continue supporting our current mentor matches. During this time we will also be laying some additional pieces to our organization's foundation so that we are prepared to support the anticipated "catch" mentioned in

Luke 5:4:

"When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."



Jeff Bremer
Executive Director

bridgeBUILDERS
for kids



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Coyote Ridge Christian Ranch

Coyote Ridge Christian Ranch is a camp of Bridge Builders for Kids remotely located on 200-acres in the scenic hills outside Lake City, Minnesota. Coyote Ridge is a safe place where children of prisoners can experience healing, renewal and transformation through Jesus Christ expressed through one-on-one relationships with caring adults.



How to help at Coyote Ridge:

Volunteer Opportunities

- Attend 4 days of summer camp as an adult volunteer (40 people needed!)
- Groom trails
- Teach a specific skill/craft every morning for 4 days
- Shovel snow (just kidding!)

Meet Our New Camp Program Director



Heidi Olson, Coyote Ridge Camp Director

Heidi brings with her over 16 years of camp experience and has served as a program director at various Christian camps. She recently helped organize a Christian camp in Romania for children and teens living in the state orphanage system. She is also involved in helping lead a Christian outreach in Rosemount with at-risk and underprivileged children. We are so excited and blessed to have Heidi on our team! Welcome aboard Heidi!

Fun with a Purpose

Coyote Ridge Christian Ranch is preparing for a summer of FUN! And just not any old sort of fun - fun with a purpose! Imagine exploring in the woods and discovering a cave or learning how to paddle a canoe for the first time or completing a woodworking project, all along side a caring adult friend who really likes you! This is what Coyote Ridge summer camp is all about! Coyote Ridge will provide a safe place where children of prisoners truly belong - where they are loved and celebrated by the adults that are around them. Camp days will be packed with creative fun, adventures along side friends and the thrill of success while learning new skills. Each camp session will consist of 10 campers and 10 adult volunteers which will ensure that each camper will have quality one on one time



with caring adults - which they so desperately need. Through these strategic relationships, campers will experience the love of Jesus in a tangible way. In the safety of this sincere love, campers will be able to share the difficult and confusing feelings that arise when a family is broken because of incarceration. Through the love and safety

created in this Christian environment, we believe God can and will heal broken hearts. Coyote Ridge Christian Ranch is an ideal setting for children of prisoners to revel in childhood fun as they experience the freedom that comes in knowing the love of God the Father and the value He places on their lives.



Upcoming Events

Coyote Ridge Work Day	May 24
Coyote Ridge Camp Dates	
Girls camp (ages 8-11)	July 9-12
Boys camp (ages 8-11)	July 16-19
Girls camp (ages 12-15)	July 23-26
Boys camp (ages 12-15)	August 20-23

Visit www.bridgebuilders.cc for more information

Supplies Needed

- Sports equipment
- Gas cards
- Personal flotation devices
- Tether ball
- Flagpole
- Archery equipment

For more ideas visit:
www.bridgebuilders.cc