



- developmentally focused
- family involved
- relationship based
- trauma informed
- competence centred
- ecologically oriented

## Unveiling Fieger House

In May, Ranch Ehrlo celebrated the naming of Fieger House, recognizing longtime board member and community leader Greg Fieger for his outstanding contributions.

Greg joined the board in 2013, serving as chair from 2019 to 2021. His leadership guided the agency through key milestones, including COA recertification, a new strategic plan, the launch of a Family Addictions program in Moose Jaw, and the challenges of the pandemic.

While naming homes after board chairs is tradition, this honour reflects Greg’s lasting impact beyond his board service. A familiar face at events like Awards Night and the 3-mile race, Greg remains active in the agency through Ehrlo Sport Venture’s Monday Night Football League.

“Greg’s dedication and humility have left a lasting mark,” said CEO Natalie Huber. “His focus has always been on the Ranch’s accomplishments—not his own.”

Fieger House, now home to five adult participants and supported by a team of caregivers, will continue to reflect Greg’s values of compassion, inclusion, and community.

## Youth ready to fly

A participant at Ranch Ehrlo’s Matheson House in Prince Albert has grown into a



Greg Fieger and his family at the unveiling of Fieger House

determined young woman, ready to spread her wings and explore all that the world has to offer.

Tasha\* is a resilient young woman who has become a role model for her peers. While it hasn't been an easy path, it's opening doors to new possibilities. Tasha's remarkable growth, demonstrated by unwavering dedication and perseverance, has led to opportunities greater than she could have ever imagined.

Tasha's academic success over the past year earned her an invitation to the University of Saskatchewan's STEM camp. There, she had the opportunity to connect with fellow students, engage with faculty, and explore experiences beyond her own community.

Opportunities continue to unfold for Tasha, who was nominated to attend the Students Commission of Canada Youth Conference in Toronto this year. She fearlessly travelled alone to partake in the conference, gaining insights and connecting with people from all walks of life.

Tasha continues to flourish in all aspects of her life: developing and maintaining healthy relationships, strengthening her cultural identity, and aligning herself with positive community supports.

We're proudly cheering Tasha on through every experience, accomplishment, and challenge she faces. Her progress reflects the dedication she brings each and every day. She is a true inspiration and a powerful reminder that young people can lead the way.

\*Name has been changed to protect youth's identity

## Vance Heaney brings COA insights home

As a long-time reviewer for the Council on Accreditation (COA), Vance Heaney, Ranch Ehrlo's director of clinical services, brings



Vance

valuable perspective from across North America to his work here at home.

For more than 22 years — 12 as a team lead — Heaney has helped evaluate agencies seeking accreditation, reviewing files, touring programs, and interviewing stakeholders. He recently returned from a site visit in New York and shared how these experiences continue to shape his outlook.

“Every time I do a review, the focus is on the agency I'm visiting — but when I come home, I reflect on where I work and what we do here,” he said. “They always reaffirm the excellence of our programs and strength of our workforce.”

COA accreditation is both a rigorous process and a recognized mark of quality, reflecting adherence to industry best practice standards across all areas of an organization. Ranch Ehrlo has maintained COA accreditation since 1977 and remains the only COA-accredited organization in Saskatchewan.

With each visit, Heaney gathers new ideas — whether it's innovative training, service models, or assessment tools — and builds connections with professionals doing similar work across the continent.

Despite differences in size, location, or setting, he's consistently struck by one common thread: “I've seen incredibly passionate people doing amazing work, sometimes with very limited resources.”

## Happiness through art

Ranch Ehrlo once again partnered with Regina Public Library for the fourth annual Make a Mark art showcase, held throughout May at the George Bothwell branch's Creation Cube. This year's exhibit, Happiness, featured work by youth from Schaller Education Centre and young adults in vocational programs, each reflecting what happiness means to them. An opening event on May 2 welcomed visitors to view the art, meet some of the artists, and take part in interactive activities.



# Former youth returns to say thank you



L to R Scott Landry, Mike Deis, Kevin, and Karen Kitz

After spending much of his childhood searching for stability, connection, and a place to belong, Kevin Bligh recently returned to a place that helped shape the man he is today — Ranch Ehrlo Society.

Bligh came to Ranch Ehrlo at 14, after years of being shuffled between group homes throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Now at 35, he has had the opportunity to reflect on his childhood experiences, seeing his time at the Ranch through a new lens of appreciation. His experience at Ranch Ehrlo, he said, stands apart: it wasn't just a place to stay, but a place to grow.

"I remember my mom saying, 'You're going to a group home. You're leaving tomorrow — pack your things,'" Bligh recalled. "But I didn't want to go. I wanted to stay home."

The move was a turning point. Ranch Ehrlo became more than a placement — it was an opportunity. Through relationships with caring staff, community involvement, and opportunities for self-expression, Bligh began to find the stability and belonging he had longed for.

It was the little moments that made lasting memories: trips to the pool, being with friends at school, camp adventures, and earning his driver's license — simple experiences that were rare at the time for a child growing up in care. More than anything, it was the people who made the difference.

Last month, Bligh returned to the Pilot Butte campus and reunited with some of the staff who had supported him during those years: Karen Kitz, Mike Deis, and Scott Landry. He also mentioned others who shaped his path — most notably Brett Kuprowski and a former staff member named Joanna — both of whom he now considers lifelong mentors and extended family.

"That place was like home to me. There were a lot of things that I learned

that I may not have otherwise, because I didn't have anyone to teach me. Without them, I'm not sure how my life would have turned out."

Today, Bligh is a father, a husband, and a contributing member of his community. When he reflects on the life he's built, he credits much of it to the foundation laid at the Ranch.

To the youth at Ranch Ehrlo today, Bligh offers a message of hope:

"The Ranch is a safe place, and the staff are there to help you. Do what you need to do, better yourself, and move on with the rest of your life."

## Supporting northern wildfire evacuees

Amid ongoing wildfires in northern Saskatchewan, Ranch Ehrlo staff stepped up to support families forced to evacuate their communities.

Staff from the Family Treatment Program (FTP), art facilitators from Paper Crane expressive arts service, and clinicians from Ehrlo Counselling travelled to support families evacuated from Hall Lake and surrounding areas. They led arts and sports activities to give children and parents a chance to connect, relax, and feel supported during an incredibly stressful time.

Parents currently participating in the FTP also got involved, assembling care packages and writing heartfelt letters to families they've never met — offering kindness and solidarity from one family to another.

These small but meaningful efforts gave evacuees the opportunity to create, play, and simply breathe. While the challenges these families face are immense, our team's response aimed to offer comfort, distraction, and a sense of connection.

Staff across the agency were also encouraged to donate gently used clothing to the Salvation

Army or to drop off care package items at our Francis Street location, where Ranch staff ensured the items reached families in need.

## A dream come true



After nearly four years of planning, Kris — a devoted Sesame Street fan and participant in Ranch Ehrlo’s Supported Living Program, finally saw her dream come true.

With the support of her care team, community fundraisers, recycling efforts, and her own vocational earnings, Kris travelled to Sesame Place, a Philadelphia theme park dedicated to her favorite characters.

“It was so good,” she said, proudly wearing her new Sesame Street shirt. “Too much fun. I didn’t want to leave, I want to go for 10 more days!”


Kris set off on June 2 with caregivers Jacqui Wong and Kristen Watson for a five-day adventure she’ll never forget.

## Thank you to our sponsors and donors

Thank you to all of our donors and sponsors who helped Ranch Ehrlo in the past several months:

- KLM Ventures Ltd. \$10,000
- SaskTel awards night sponsorship \$3,000
- Cody Demaris - In-kind donation of his book

Explore the vibrant diversity of  
**Ranch Ehrlo Society's**



**8th annual powwow**

A celebration of cultural connection, tradition, and togetherness.

**August 28, 2025**  
Treaty 4 Territory  
Pilot Butte campus

Pipe ceremony at 8:30 a.m.  
Feast at 10:30 a.m.  
Grand entry at 1 p.m.

## Volunteer appreciation 3-Mile events



Ehrlo Sport Venture hosted a spring celebration to thank the nearly 100 volunteers who supported our sports leagues, lending library, and community events. We’re proud to recognize their passion, commitment, and care.

## New EELC location



We’re excited to announce that Ehrlo Early Learning Centre – Imperial is expanding to 51 spaces, including infant care, at its new home in Regina’s tawâw joint-use school — marking a big step in meeting the city’s growing childcare needs.

## Awards Nights



This May and June, we held our annual Awards Night events across the province, celebrating the unique achievements of our participants. Youth in the north and south and adults in Regina were recognized for accomplishments in academics, athletics, creativity, culture, and more — including the prestigious President’s trophies.



Staff and youth from both the southern and northern programs participated in the annual 3-Mile Race in May and June, a friendly competition that demands grit and gusto. Thank you to athlete Tarrant Cross Child from the Prairie Run Crew who joined both events, delivering an inspirational and personal story and swag for the youth.

