31 Miracle Stories

Miracle Lodge
Retreat and Conference Center

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION!

August 21-23, 2009

www.miracelodge.com
“Miracles Happen”

I was injured in a construction accident in 1973 leaving me paralyzed from the waist down. In 1976 I was involved in starting the Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch; a youth and family camp now serving over 20,000 people yearly. In 1986, I had the ‘dream and passion’ to start the National Wheelchair Sports Camp for physically challenged kids and adults. We started the camp knowing that many would choose not to attend because our housing and lodging were dormitories with little privacy.

The building of the Miracle Lodge was definitely entering unchartered waters, defying all common sense, and would not receive high marks from any ‘financial planner’. Having completed 100 marathons in my wheelchair, I knew the importance of getting to the ‘starting line’. We started with the canvas black and the colors endless. The miraculous way this lodge was built over the past nine years can only be attributed to the blessing of God, and one thousand ‘DREAM MAKERS’ from the community and across the country.

DREAM BEGINNS!

Before we began construction or any architectural work we were reminded of some of the giant “Mt. Everest” tasks we would face, not to mention the staggering funds that would be needed. The tasks included: three-phase electricity ($100,000), a 12,000-gallon water tower, 19 conditions we had to meet to get our permit, a 700-foot commercial well, and a completely new infrastructure.

I shared this dream in our Ironwood Fall 2000 Camp Newsletter. I appealed for donations of $20,000 to sponsor one of the 30 rooms. To my surprise, two families approached me and said, “Bob, that is a fantastic mission, we would like to sponsor a room.” They each handed me a check for $20,000. Being in a wheelchair was a bonus as I didn’t have far to fall! (Ha). That was the financial beginning which for the next eight years spread across fourteen states and 1000 people who ‘caught the vision;’ donating over two million dollars and volunteering over 43,000 hours.

DREAM REALIZED!

“If God is in your dream, no request is too extreme’

This Old Testament verse gave me the confidence, inspiration and courage to get started and then go forward. I claimed this verse for building the lodge knowing it speaks of the building of the temple in 960 B.C. which involved 150,000 stone cutters, 550 construction managers, used 4,000 tons of gold and had a twenty-one day dedication celebration.

The lodge named itself as we witnessed one miracle after another. A miracle is something that happens outside of human possibilities. A sign posted in our camp office reads: “Due to economic uncertainties, the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off until further notice.” God, “in His time,” has honored that Old Testament verse and I can say His faithfulness has prevailed. The Miracle Lodge is now open for miracles to happen in the lives and hearts of people.

Spreading JOY-changing lives!

The Miracle lodge is home to:

• Operation Welcome Home for soldiers
• Wounded Warrior weekend for soldiers
• Camp Jornada (Kids with cancer)
• National Wheelchair Sports Camp
• Others: Reunions, corporate conferences, retreats, workshops, quilters, as well as individual families.
Our Celebration Musicians...

Paul Bogart

Born into a music-loving family, Paul Bogart heard his mother playing the old hymns on the piano in their home. When Paul was eight years old he received a harmonica for Christmas and was encouraged by his parents to learn “Amazing Grace” so he could play it at church on a Sunday evening. That was the beginning!

Besides music, Paul competed in team roping, and by the age of twelve during the summers he was found competing in the United States Team Roping Championships, and winning. Paul moved to Nashville in May of 2005 to pursue a music career. His music has been greatly influenced by the rodeo world, Christian values and the great old country classics.

Tony Melendez

Tony Melendez, who resides in Branson, Missouri, was born without arms in Nicaragua. Musically, in high school he began playing around with the guitar and harmonica. He never let his handicap get in his way.

Tony has traveled across the United States and forty foreign countries, making countless television appearances, and he was honored by singing the National Anthem for the fifth game of the 1989 world series.

The title song of Tony’s latest album is “Hands In Heaven,” a beautiful tribute to those who have helped him along the way, and shares deeply-rooted insights into the life and faith of Tony Melendez.

The Link Family

The Link Family is one of our two Bluegrass bands performing this weekend. Here is a true family band, featuring Dad, Mom, five children and two in-laws from Lebanon, Missouri. They are having the “time of their lives” sharing their music in churches, bluegrass festivals, theaters, Silver Dollar City, US Military bases, R.V. parks and misc. events. The family consists of Rachel (21), Kyle (20), Benjamin (13), Aaron (10), John (9), Becky (Mom), Lance (Dad), son-in-law, Landen Keeler and daughter-in-law, Ashley Link.

The Alzen Family

The Alzen Family is coming to us from Roberts, Wisconsin. In presenting their Bluegrass style of music, their main focus is honoring God with their talents. They present the Gospel in song, but also entertain with fun songs and melodies that are enjoyed by all with the catchy tunes and rhythms from their voices and instruments. You will be drawn into their program with their smiles and the fun humor they present!

Side One

From southern Minnesota comes a band bringing you a variety of music from Lite Country, 50’s - 60’s, Gospel and Contemporary. The group started in May of 2003, and the members have extensive musical backgrounds that now blend into what they enjoy doing today!

Booker Mini Foundation Band

The Booker Mini Foundation Band is located in Rochester, Minnesota. The mission statement of the band tells their purpose in music: “Raising funds to assist families dealing with life-threatening diseases that significantly impact their financial security.” Through various fund-raising efforts they have raised over fifty thousand dollars over the last two years.
**Miracle Lodge Dedication**  
Saturday, August 22, 2009 • 1:30 pm

**Leader:** The Miracle Lodge has been built as a tribute to God and the community. The overwhelming amount of sacrifice, hard work, financial gifts, and perseverance has all contributed to the completion of the Miracle Lodge. The purpose of the lodge is to provide a premier facility for retreats and conferences all to the Glory of God.

**Audience:** We will do our best to help sustain, support and pray for the Miracle Lodge. We will spread the word and use our influence to promote the Miracle Lodge and its worthy mission.

**Testimonials**

**Prayer:** Mike Olson, Lake Elmo, MN (Rockpoint Church).

**Donor Recognition:** Those who have helped build the lodge will be given a commemorative cup.

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**A Special Tribute to**

**Dick Jacobson**

Dick is a long time supporter of the ranch and especially the Miracle Lodge. Dick was diagnosed with ALS in 2007 and is now waiting to see his Lord and Savior. Dick being a retired farmer also took a special interest in our farm land and helped over the years. He recently published a book, “Alone with God”, which reflects on his life and faith in hopes that his doing so will convince others to turn to God.

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**Reasons to have Never Started the Lodge:** (Printed in 2005)

- Accept the status-quo and forget the vision
- Comply with a conditional use permit of 19 conditions.
- $100,000 needed to get 3-phase electricity and a 12,000 gallon water tower.
- CAVE people – Citizens against virtually everything.
- Estimated 3.5 million dollar project.

**Reasons to Stop Now:**

- Our funds from the community and mailing list are exhausted.
- We are tired, progress is slow and volunteers are scarce.
- We have gone beyond our anticipated completion date.
- Too many natural disasters needing donations.

**Reasons to Keep Going:**

- Nearly 600 people and 40 businesses /contractors have ‘caught the vision’.
- Thousands of lives will be changed and encouraged through using the Miracle lodge.
- Many people miss out on their goals and dreams, not due to lack of inspiration, need, time, planning, or even money; but rather perseverance. Don’t Quit.

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**There are three kinds of people:**

1. Those who make it happen,
2. Those who plan to make it happen,
3. Those who wonder what happened.
BIG DREAM, BIG GOD, BIG COMMUNITY!

Some amazing facts that made the Miracle lodge a reality!

- Nine years of planning and construction!
- 43,000 volunteer hours donated
- Nearly 1000 people and 120 companies from coast to coast donated approximately $2 million dollars in materials.
- 5,500 meals were served to the men and women who worked on the Lodge.
- The entire 33,500 sq ft. are heated and cooled by geo-thermal using water from our boiling spring.
- The only hotel in America with every room being wheelchair accessible.
- This $5 million dollar facility was built for approximately half the estimated value.
- 700 gallons of paint and 3,500 sheets of sheetrock.

Some sayings that keep the dream alive:

- Many of our greatest accomplishments come to us only through perseverance.
- God’s delays are not God’s denials.
- DreamMakers make the dream work.
- Ships were not made to stay in the harbor but sail on the high seas.
- God is not limited by nickels, noses and numbers.
BUILDING COMMITTEE
Bob Bardwell, Joel Bigelow, Kane and Johnson Architectural Firm, Ken Boyer, Arlen Heathman, Eleanor Crane, Roger Connaughty, Otto Wondrasch, Lloyd Johnson, Adolphson and Peterson Construction, Stan and Rick Maass, Al Einburger, Waterfront Pools, Quality Mechanical, Ron Peterson, Rusty Fiek, Clay Ruggles, Roger Hagen, Don Schroeder

GENERAL CONTRACTORS
Bob Bardwell
Arlan Walton
Dick Bedney
(whoever showed up for work that day)

RED – Indicates an estimated donation of over $50,000
BLUE – Indicates an estimated donation of over $10,000

GENERAL ARCHITECT
Kane and Johnson - Rochester, MN

CIVIL ENGINEER
Ken Boyer - Rochester, MN

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
Arlen Heathman - Rochester, MN

MECHANICAL ENGINEER
Stan and Rick Maass – Engineered Concepts Inc. - Rochester, MN

GENERAL INSPECTOR
Construction Management Services – Rochester, MN

SURVEYING
Brand and Massey – Kasson, MN

ENVIRONMENTAL
Lawler Environmental – Rochester, MN

ELECTRICAL
L & M Repair - Claremont, MN
Hamilton Electric - Rochester, MN
Mr. Electric - Dodge Center, MN
Marti Electric – Kasson, MN
Al Stork-Stewartville, MN
Leviton – Little Neck, NJ
Carlon Corp. – Cleveland, Ohio
Cummins Power – St. Paul, MN
Throdsen Oil – Rochester, MN
Lithonia Lighting – Atlanta, GA
Square D Foundation
Local 343 I.B.E.W. – Rochester, MN
Rosemount Electric – Rosemount, MN
Dale Meyer Electric – Rochester, MN

PLUMBING
1st Class Plumbing - Rochester, MN
Superior Plumbing - Rochester, MN
Gander Plumbing – Rochester, MN
Delta Corporation – Indianapolis, IN
Genova PVC – Davison, MI
Tonna Mechanical – Rochester, MN

FIRE PROTECTION
Olsen Fire Protection – St. Paul, MN

FRAMING and TRUSSES
Bigelow/Lennon - Byron, MN
Olmsted County Lumber Mart – Byron, MN
Lunn Construction – Rochester, MN
Wood Assemblers - Pine Island, MN
Turri Crane Service – Rochester, MN
Radcliffe Homes – Stewartville, MN
John Steele Farms - Sargeant, MN
United Rental – Rochester, MN
Truss Specialties – La Crescent, MN
Dave Olson and Sons – Faribault, MN
Tori Keefe Construction – Stewartville, MN
 Larson Construction – Rochester, MN
Bearwood Homes – Rochester, MN
Hilti (Steve Larson) – St Paul, MN

STEEL
McNeilus Steel – Dodge Center, MN
Hawk and Sons Crane Service – Rochester, MN
Dick Bedney – Byron, MN

LOW VOLTAGE
Venture Connect - Rochester, MN
All Systems Installation – Rochester, MN

FIRE AND ALARM SYSTEM
Custom Alarm – Rochester, MN

WINDOWS AND SHADES
Andersen Windows – Bayport, MN
Mary Hartzell – St. Charles, MN
Smidt Companies – Racine, MN

LOG SIDING AND LOG RAILINGS
Meadow Valley Log Homes – Mather, WI
Ryan Siding – Rochester, MN

CONCRETE
Rochester Ready Mix – Rochester, MN
Gage Brothers Inc. – Sioux Falls, SD
Cross Country Transportation – Rochester, MN
Knutson Construction – Rochester, MN
Elcor Construction – Rochester, MN
Country Concrete – Altura, MN
Koball’s Poured Walls – Rochester, MN
**EXCAVATION and BLACKTOP**
Rochester Sand & Gravel – Rochester, MN
Mathy Construction/Milestone Materials – LaCrosse, WI
Bucknell Construction – Stewartville, MN
Laures Trucking – Stewartville, MN
H & H Underground – Kasson, MN

**WATER TOWER**
Dairy Farmers of America – Zumbrota, MN
Hawk and Sons Crane Service – Rochester, MN

**SEPTIC**
Wieser Precast Co. – Stewartville, MN,
Bucknell Construction - Stewartville, MN
Laures Excavation - Stewartville, MN
Freedom Plastics - Janesville, WI
Century Plastics – Hayfield, MN
Minnesota Pipe – Rochester, MN

**TILE (Floor & Ceiling)**
Dal Tile Company - Houston, Texas
Averitt Trucking – Bolingbrook, IL
Strobel Inc. – Rochester, MN
Gordy Hall – Oronoco, MN
Joe Gillaspie – Dodge Center, MN
Parabond Southern – Simpsonville, SC
Home Design Studios- Rochester, MN

**WELL and WATER**
Thein Well Co. – Rochester, MN
Rochester Ready Mix – Rochester, MN
Kinetico Water Conditioning – Rochester, MN

**PLYWOOD**
Ainsworth Lumber – Vancouver, B. Columbia
Dave Raygor Trucking – Stewartville, MN
Laures Trucking – Stewartville, MN
Valley Trucking – Grand Meadow, MN

**SHINGLES**
Certainteed Shingles – Shakopee, MN
Bargen Incorporated - Mountain Lake, MN
United Products – Rochester, MN

**SPA**
Waterfront Pools – Rochester, MN
Leisure Aquatic Products – Byron, MN

**COUNTERTOPS**
Armar Corporation - LeCenter, MN

**MIRRORS**
Hengtes Glass – Rochester, MN

**WAINSCOTING**
Deerwood Lumber – Deerwood, MN
Country Millwork – West Concord, MN
Fred Kirtz and children – Elkton, MN
Shady Haven Tree Farm – Oronoco, MN
Alamco Wood Products – Albert Lea, MN
Edgewood Lumber – Elgin, MN
Erding Sawmill – Fillmore, MN

**DOORS**
Greene Doors and Hardware – Dodge Center, MN
Wade, Joyce, Ryan and Ally Fitschen – Racine, MN
Gene, Jeannette, Chelsey and Hannah Ramaker – Spring Valley, MN
Knutson Construction – Rochester, MN

**DRYWALL**
Heim Drywall – Rochester, MN
Jim Smith – Rochester, MN
Harry Short – Rochester, MN
Roy Gisler – Stewartville, MN
Tamarack Materials – Rochester, MN

**PAINTING, POLYURETHANE, STAINING**
Roger Hagen – Rochester, MN
Pompeii Painting – Rochester, MN
Struve’s Paint – Rochester, MN
Sherwin Williams – Rochester, MN
Schroeder Log Home Supply – Grand Rapids, MN

**BLOCK FACING**
Rockwood Retaining Walls – Rochester, MN

**INSULATION**
Home Improvement Professionals – Byron, MN

**BEDDING and FURNITURE**
Slumberland Furniture - Rochester, MN
Lakeland Mills Log Furniture – Edmore, MI
Furniture Warehouse – Faribault, MN
Encompass Textiles – St. Paul, MN
Tuohy Furniture – Chatfield, MN
Joe Wagner – Little Fork, MN
Ken & Ardie Johnson – Stillwater, MN

**GEO-THERMAL (Heating and Cooling)**
Chris Derr Plumbing - Racine, MN
Haley Comfort Systems - Rochester, MN
Terra-Therm – New Richland, MN
McQuay Corporation - Minneapolis, MN
Cambridge-Lee Inc - Reading, PA
Tonna Mechanical – Rochester, MN

**FLOORING**
Root River Hardwoods – Preston, MN
Knutson Construction – Rochester, MN
Trinity Evan Free Church – Lakeville, MN
Precision Technology Inc – Memphis, TN

**MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY**
Melanie Miland – Rochester, MN
Waste Water - D Gartner & J Harrison - Stewartville, MN

**SIGNS and PHOTOGRAPHY**
Foster’s Woodshop – Rochester, MN
Davies Printing – Rochester, MN
Mike Meyer Signs – Mazeppa, MN
Rod and Marg Welch – Chatfield, MN
Vetsch Hardwoods – Rochester, MN
Wayne Blagsvedt – Rochester, MN
OTHER MAJOR VOLUNTEER GROUPS:

- St. Andrews Lutheran Church – Mahtomedi, MN
- Hope Reformed Church – Spencer, Iowa
- Lighthouse Community Church – Rosemount, MN
- North Heights Lutheran Church – Arden Hills, MN
- Emmanuel Covenant Church – Shoreview, MN
- IBM
- UPS
- HIP Home Improvement Professionals
- Evergreen Church – Hastings, MN
- Trinity Evangelical Free Church – Burnsville, MN
- Zumbro Falls Community Church – Zumbro Falls, MN
- Evangel United Methodist Church – Rochester, MN

Jacob's Meeting Room Sponsor
Dick Jacobson - Stewartville, MN

Marathon Meeting Room Sponsors
100th Marathon Sponsors

Saint's Room Sponsor
Ann Bardwell - Bemidji, MN

Riverside Meeting Room Sponsors
Dick and Rita Bedney - Byron, MN
Brogan’s Hardwood Floor - Rochester, MN
Custom Communications - Rochester, MN
North Heights Lutheran Church - Roseville, MN
Peer Power Communications - Rochester, MN
Root River Hardwoods - Preston, MN
Trinity Evangelical Free Church - Burnsville, MN
Tuohy Furniture - Chatfield, MN
Venture Connect - Rochester, MN

PRIVATE ROOM SPONSORS!

Bigelow/Munson - Mantorville, MN
Eleanor Crane - Sun City West, AZ
Dave and Teresa Deming - Afton, MN
Roy and Carol Gisler - Stewartville, MN
Merl and Marilyn Groteboer - Rochester, MN
Richard and Bev Hexum - Rochester, MN
Franklin and Bonnie Kottschade - Rochester, MN
Ferman and Doris Lanning - Plainview, MN
Clay and Virginia Ruggles - Frontenac, MN
Dennis and Rita Semerad - Rochester, MN
Arlan and Kaye Walton - Rochester, MN
Wayne and Pam Wesala - Scottsdale, AZ
Bargen, Incorporated - Mountain Lake, MN
Bigelow/Lennon Construction - Byron, MN
Bucknell Construction - Racine, MN
Camp Jornada Foundation - Rochester, MN
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation - Short Hills, NJ

Cross Country Transportation - Rochester, MN
Greene Doors & Hardware - Dodge Center, MN
Home Improvement Professionals - Byron, MN
Kane & Johnson Architects - Rochester, MN
Lunn Construction - Stewartville, MN
Mathy Construction - Onalaska, WI
McNeilus Steel - Dodge Center, MN
Mobile Construction - Rochester, MN
Olmsted County Lumber Mart - Byron, MN
Olmsted Holding Corporation - Rochester, MN
Potlatch/Ainsworth - Vancouver, BC
Rochester Ready Mix - Rochester, MN
Tee It Up For the Troops - Burnsville, MN
Thein Well - Rochester, MN
UPS Foundation, Inc - Atlanta, GA
Wells Fargo Foundation - Minneapolis, MN
Radcliffe Homes - Stewartville, MN
Pauline Castner - Byron, MN
Individual “DREAM MAKERS” – Who Caught the Vision!

Wallace and Lorraine Aarsvold - Kasson, MN
Tim and Shirley Abbott - Decorah, IA
Russell and Phyllis Ahern - Stewartville, MN
Rhonda Akkerman - Austin, MN
Lois Aldrich - Owatonna, MN
Bill and Irene Anderson - Rochester, MN
Bob and Debbie Anderson - Rochester, MN
Eric and Carla Anderson - Rochester, MN
Eugene Anderson - Waltham, MN
Gary and Judith Anderson - Rochester, MN
Gloria Anderson - Austin, MN
James and Gretchen Anderson - Rochester, MN
Jarvis and Judith Anderson - Plainview, MN
Lowell and Faye Anderson - Austin, MN
Tom Anderson - Sargeant, MN
Di Anna Arthur - Tripoli, IA
Robert Ashcraft - Rochester, MN
John and Jodene Avant - Grand Meadow, MN
Mary Babler - Rochester, MN
Robert Bailey and Lynnette Brown - Stillwater, MN
Lillian Baker - Rochester, MN
Bob and Kristal Ball - Eagan, MN
Phillip and Leann Bamford - Minneapolis, MN
Darwin and Thelma Bang - Rochester, MN
Jeanne Bardwell - Winter Haven, FL
Tom Barry - Newport, MN
Greg and Julie Bartel - Mantorville, MN
Jack and Susan Bass - Claremont, MN
Kenneth and Elaine Bauman - Rochester, MN
Cecilia Beato and Maryan Gisler - Stewartville, MN
Don and Constance Beck - Rochester, MN
Rodney and Beola Beistad - Grand Meadow, MN
Lee Bellrichard - Stewartville, MN
Ted Bellrichard - Grand Meadow, MN
Matt and Jacqueline Beran - Lime Springs, IA
Kay Berg - Kasson, MN
Sharon Bernard - Chatfield, MN
Todd Berst - Waucoma, IA
Brent and Kiersten Bielenberg - Northfield, MN
Glenn Bies - Laurel, MT
David and Beverly Birch - Coon Rapids, MN
Jeffrey and Michelle Birchard - Rochester, MN
Don Birzer - Milwaukee, WI
Wayne and Marian Blagsvedt - Rochester, MN
Dan and Joan Blaisdell - Dodge Center, MN
LaVerne Boe - Rochester, MN
John and Kathy Bondy - Mantorville, MN
Maynard Bostrom - Rochester, MN
Jason and Stacy Box - Chatfield, MN
Ron and Bonnie Braasch - Rochester, MN
Roberta Bradford - Kasson, MN
David and Juliene Brady - Stewartville, MN
Peter and Deanna Brandt - Excelsior, MN
Bill and Jerry Braun - Fort Gordon, GA
Ardell and Judith Brede - Rochester, MN
Dick Bredemus - St Paul, MN
Larry and Marsha Briggs - Greenville, SC
Cynthia Brown - Rochester, MN
Boyd and Lois Brue - Rochester, MN
Gail Buckingham - Owatonna, MN
Sidney and Kathleen Buffington - Ham Lake, MN
Conrad and Tania Buhr - Little Canada, MN
Alberta Burns and Adelia Roesler - Lakeland, MN
Gary Campbell - Derby, KS
Dick and Gen Carlson - Hudson, WI
Dave Carnisch - Rochester, MN
Mark Carolan - Stewartville, MN
Bethany Carr - Grand Meadow, MN
John and JoAnn Case - Rochester, MN
Walter and Sharon Caskey - Burnsville, MN
Don and Angela Charlson - Rochester, MN
Jeremy Childs - Rochester, MN
Vic and Peggy Ching - Plainview, MN
Dean and Ardis Christen - Rochester, MN
Betty Christensen - Rochester, MN
Heidi Clapp - Apple Valley, MN
Arik Clark - Austin, MN
Ed Clark - Rochester, MN
Vernon and Jane Clark - Rochester, MN
Alfred Clement - Stewartville, MN
Dennis and Sally Conroy - Hayfield, MN
Lee and Barb Cornelius - Corcoran, MN
Scott and Sheri Crowley - Hayfield, MN
Othelmo and Jennifer Da Silva - Rochester, MN
Marion Dahlheimer - Chaplin, MN
Bob and Lorie Dahlstrom - Rochester, MN
Lyle and Helen Danielson - Rochester, MN
Kris and Dolores Davis - Rochester, MN
Wayne and Ruth Deckert - Rochester, MN
Eric DeCook - Byron, MN
Todd and Pattie DeMars - Rockford, MN
Don Denouden - Stewartville, MN
Robert and Rebecca Dick - Rochester, MN
Marjorie Dickie - Rochester, MN
Alex Dietz - Minneapolis, MN
Steve and Yvonne Distad - Racine, MN
Ivahn and Carolyn Dockter - Rochester, MN
John and Tracie Donaghy - St Paul, MN
Curt and Joan Dotzenrod - Racine, MN
Greg and Jill Douglas Family - Spring Valley, MN
Larry and Martha Dover - Edina, MN
Arlene Draeger - Mantorville, MN
James and Faye Drescher - Rochester, MN
Joseph and Genoveve Ebertz - Hudson, WI
Jeffrey and Sharon Eldeman - Maple Grove, MN
Richard and Jeanne Emery - Hayfield, MN
Andrew Engebretson - Clearbrook, MN
Bill Engen - Golden Valley, MN
Kent and Dawn Erdman - Lewiston, MN
Curtis and Avis Erickson - White Bear Lake, MN
Dave and Marilyn Erickson - Hayfield, MN
Ken and Ruth Exner - Medford, MN
George and Helen Feil - Zumbrota, MN
Dawn Feirer - Rochester, MN
Owen and Lorraine Ferguson - Blooming Prairie, MN
Brian and Yolanda Fiek - Rochester, MN
Dale and Ruth Fiek - Rochester, MN
Dennis and Geraldine Fiek - Rochester, MN
Beverly Fish - Rochester, MN
James and Dawn Fish - Fort Walton Beach, FL
Jerry and Kelly Fitzpatrick - Rochester, MN
Michael and Denise Fogarty - Rochester, MN
Tom and Lisa Folz - Afton, MN
Justin Forehand and Jeff Flores - Rochester, MN
Jerry and Ann Fox - Osceola, WI
Kip Frick - Rochester, MN
Judy Friesen - Madelia, MN
Gary and Elaine Froiland - Stewartville, MN
Patricia Gangel - Mantorville, MN
Tom Garber - Montoursville, PA
Bud and Lois Gebhardt - Waltham, MN
Tim and Mona Geise - Rochester, MN
Gene and Janet Ramaker and girls - Spring Valley, MN
Edward Gerads - Rochester, MN
Gail Gillitzer - Champlin, MN
Marjorie Ginn - Rochester, MN
Kevin and Susan Gislur - Stewartville, MN
Scott Golicher - Stewarville, MN
Dale and Nancie Grabow - Lakeville, MN
Kevin Gray - Spring Valley, MN
Karin Greeman - Ramsey, MN
Leon and Linda Gregg - Rochester, MN
Gerald and Mary Ann Griffin - Rochester, MN
Randi and Tamara Gronseth - Sargeant, MN
Charles and Lucille Grosch - Minnetrista, MN
Gene and Sharon Gulbransen - Hayfield, MN
Gil and Mary Gutknecht - Rochester, MN
Gregg Hagen - St Paul, MN
Roger and Janet Hagen - Rochester, MN
Tom and Melissa Halgrimson - Byron, MN
Charles and Theresa Halsey - Lyle, MN
Donald Halver - South St Paul, MN
Gerald and Phyllis Hammes - Rochester, MN
Peter and Christina Harms - Owatonna, MN
Allen and Erleen Hartleip - Byron, MN
Nick and Lisa Hauck - Vining, MN
Mildred Hawkins - Rochester, MN
Kenneth and Joyce Hays - Rochester, MN
Dewey Hebl - Stewartville, MN
John and Nellie Hedeman - Rochester, MN
Martin and Cathy Hedstrom - Zumbro Falls, MN
Juanita Heikes - Rochester, MN
Matt and Laura Heikes - Hastings, MN
Alfred and Dorothy Heil - Owatonna, MN
John Henderson - Rochester, MN
Janice Hepker - Le Roy, MN
James Hetrick - Dodge Center, MN
Phil and Sherry Heydt - Hayfield, MN
Lauren and Barbara Hillquist - Green Valley, AZ
Dennis and Cynthia Hinds - Machesney Park, IL
Mike and Molly Hintz - Stewartville, MN
Scot and Deb Hollarneck - Atlanta, GA
Kristi Holmquist - St Paul, MN
Danny, DJ and Dan Homann - Farmers City, IL
Dennis and Judy Hovelson - Lewiston, MN
Dale Hoverman - Rochester, MN
RM and June Hovland - Rochester, MN
David and Barbara Howesons - Blooming Prairie, MN
Jami Hunt - Rochester, MN
Pat and Dorothy Hurley - Stewartville, MN
Robert and Susan Hyland - Lake City, MN
Michael and Elizabeth Illies - Goodland, MN
Beth Irlbeck - Rochester, MN
Jolene Jackson - Minneapolis, MN
John and Kelly Jacobsen - Stewartville, MN
Doug and Becky Jax - Hayfield, MN
Stephan and Sheila Jenneback - Rochester, MN
Arnie Jensen - Rochester, MN
James and Ruby Jensen - Sargeant, MN
Curtis and Sally Jeske - Wykoff, MN
Rebecca Johnson Repinski - Austin, MN
Allan and Rhonda Johnson - Mantorville, MN
Diane Johnson - Rochester, MN
Lowell Johnson - Waltham, MN
Mark Johnson - Hopkins, MN
Michael and Gayleen Johnson - Rochester, MN
Mildred Johnson - Stewartville, MN
Neil and Lillian Johnson - Sargeant, MN
Peter and Marcella Johnson - Rochester, MN
Robert and Barbara Johnson - Rochester, MN
Shirley Johnson - Rochester, MN
Stan and Sandra Johnson - Larkspur, CO
Wayne Johnson - Waltham, MN
Wayne Johnson - Hector, MN
Wesley Johnson - Brownsdale, MN
Dean and Joyce Jorde - Stewartville, MN
Suzanne Keist - Austin, MN
A & B Keith - Wells, MN
June Kestner - Elkton, MN
Joseph and Karen Keyes - Rochester, MN
Russ and Becky Kidd - Grand Meadow, MN
Kenneth and Margaret Kirchner - Dexter, MN
Eugene and Fern Kispers - Owatonna, MN
Remona Kisrow - Rochester, MN
Richard and Linda Kettelson - Blooming Prairie, MN
Kathleen Klaustermeier - St Cloud, MN
DJ and Susan Kline - Mason City, IA
Larry and Kari Klocke - Hayfield, MN
Anthony and Linda Knauer - Rochester, MN
Loren and Janice Knott - Burnsville, MN
Ketti Kohlmann - Dayton, MN
Eugene and Therese Koehler - Ramsey, MN
Chuck Kohlmeyer - Chatfield, MN
Geraldine Kohlmeyer - Chatfield, MN
Betty Kolb - Rochester, MN
Dan and Janelle Korpi - Finlayson, MN
Jerry and Marlyce Koskovich - Byron, MN
Doug Krohn - Waconia, MN
Bruce and Becky Kurg - Kasson, MN
Roger and Karen Krull - Owatonna, MN
Jeffrey and Linda Kuhn - Winona, MN
Kimberlee Kups-Benson - Montour, IA
David Kurtzhals - Rochester, MN
Pete and Julie Kyllo - Hayfield, MN
Blake Lahren - Bismarck, ND
Jim and Carol Larson - Sun City, AZ
Ralph and Lorraine Larson - Rochester, MN
Terri Lawler - Rochester, MN
Jerome and Joan Lee - Dexter, MN
Robert and Barbara Lee - Rochester, MN
Steve and Susan Lee - Hayfield, MN
Richard and Judith Lien - Rochester, MN
Mr and Mrs Daniel Linbo - Sargeant, MN
Beverly Lloyd - Oak Park Heights, MN
Ervin and Grances Loewen - Mountain Lake, MN
Mikal and Trisha Lovhaug - Rochester, MN
Tom and Harriet Lovhaug - Rochester, MN
Vernard and Donna Bell Lovhaug - Rochester, MN
Edward and Anne Luby - Mounds View, MN
Lawrence and Allene Luke - Rochester, MN
Linda Luoma - Owatonna, MN
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Todd and DeeDee Machin - Blooming Prairie, MN
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John and Susan Magnuson - Rushford, MN
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Robert Major - Alma, WI
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David and Lois Marris - Rochester, MN
Don and Linda Marti - Kasson, MN
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Paul and Elinor Mathison - Preston, MN
Carol McCaleb - Rochester, MN
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John Medicraft - Hayfield, MN
Donna Melin - Rochester, MN
Gary and Eileen Melin - Rochester, MN
Harriet Menard - Northfield, MN
George and Wilma Menshik - Stewartville, MN
Edwin and Jill Michael - Maple Grove, MN
Andy and Julie Michaelis - Chatfield, MN
Allan Mickow - Rochester, MN
Thomas and Christine Mielke - Golden Valley, MN
Thomas and Catharine Miller - Rochester, MN
Jerry, Dawn and Allie Moen - Chatfield, MN
Mark and Donna Moenning - Hayfield, MN
Mauricio Morales - Cedar Rapids, IA
Kris Morgan - Owatonna, MN
Russel and Brenda Moritz - Rochester, MN
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David and Carol Mount - Spring Valley, MN
Ralph and Shelly Moy - Stillwater, MN
GL Muehlhausen - Fergus Falls, MN
John and Jodi Muenkel - Rochester, MN
Steven Mulholland - Rochester, MN
Charles Muralt - Wahpeton, ND
Paul and Wanda Myers - Lake City, MN

Ben Nagan - Shoreview, MN
Dave and Barb Nash - Bismarck, ND
Mauricio and Faith Nava - Vadnais Heights, MN
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Jerry and Nancy Nelson - Rochester, MN

Shirley Nelson - Rochester, MN
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Frank and Gertrude Neuvirth - Rochester, MN
Stacy Nichols - Hutchinson, MN
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Jeffrey and Ann Olson - Stewartville, MN
Mike and Luann Olson - Lake Elmo, MN
Sean O’Neill - Rochester, MN
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Barb Orth - Dexter, MN

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William Pencille - Rochester, MN
Dan and Teresa Penz - Rochester, MN
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Gordon Peterson - Grand Meadow, MN
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Mary Powers - Maple Grove, MN
Larry and Connie Pratt - Matthews, NC
Paul and Julie Prof - Owatonna, MN
Howard and LaDonna Puder - Rochester, MN
Garry and Phyllis Purvis - Kasson, MN
Jerry and Gwyneth Pyle - Stanford, KY

Mark and Susan Rader - Spring Valley, MN
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Vincent and Madeline Riccioli - Rochester, MN
Ron and Julie Richardson - Stewartville, MN
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ABC Water Conditioning Service - Rochester, MN
Adolfson/Peterson Construction - Minneapolis, MN
Autumn Ridge Church - Rochester, MN
Bamber Valley Development LLC - Rochester, MN
Best Buy - Rochester, MN
Blooming Prairie Lions Club - Blooming Prairie, MN
Boehnke Waste Handling - Marietta, MN
Brist Chiropractic - Champlin, MN
Calvary Hill Baptist Church - Stanford, KY
Cemstone Products Co - Eagan, MN
Chafoulias Mgmt Co - Rochester, MN
Chattanooga Christian Comm Foundation - Chattanooga, TN
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Country at Heart Gospel Singers - Spring Valley, MN
Cresco Community Chapel - Cresco, IA
Crossroad Community Church - Ellsworth, WI
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Diamond Vogel Paints - Rochester, MN
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Early Riser’s Exchange Club - Rochester, MN
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Evangelical Free Church of America - Minneapolis, MN
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Ferguson Supply - Rochester, MN
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GDM Sales & Service - Rochester, MN
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Gesche Family Trust - Merrill, IA
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Hofschulte Backhoe - Elgin, MN
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Home Federal Savings Bank - Spring Valley, MN
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Hunt Electric - St Paul, MN
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JM Builders of Central FL Inc - Haines City, FL
Kruegels - Spring Valley, MN
Mabel Lions Club - Mabel, MN
Mack Truck/Nuss Family Fund - Rochester, MN
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Meadow Lakes - Rochester, MN
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Nelson Anderson Webaloo - Stillwater, MN
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Northstar Stone and Masonry - Rochester, MN
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Peoples Services Inc - Spring Valley, MN
Pleasant Valley Men’s Club - Winona, MN
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Premier Bank - Rochester, MN
Quality Mechanical - Rochester, MN
Quality Pork Processors, Inc - Austin, MN
R & S Transport - Rochester, MN
R&C Enterprise - Hayfield, MN
Racine Motors Inc - Racine, MN
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Thompson Door – Rochester, MN
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Tronex International - Parsippany, NJ
Tubby Smith Enterprises, LLC - Minneapolis, MN
UPS Foundation, Inc - Minneapolis, MN
Valley Featherlight - Rochester, MN
Valley Street Machines - Rochester, MN
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program - Southeastern, PA
Vossen Pools - Prior Lake, MN
Wee Care Learning Center - Stewartville, MN
Werner Electric - Rochester, MN
Wieser Precast - LaCrescent, MN
Woodruff Company - Rochester, MN
Zion United Methodist Church - Sargeant, MN
During all stages of planning and construction, contractors would give me a list of materials. I proceeded to go on the internet and find manufacturers of the needed products. I would call to the company and persist through the many recorded phone options until I could talk to a real person. Each time, I would explain who I am, the Ranch’s mission, that I have a packet I would like to send out, and request a donation. I would then follow up in two weeks or so. Approximately half of the 100 packets that were sent out received positive responses. It took anywhere from two weeks to three years to receive donations from these exceedingly generous companies.

1. **THE DREAM!**

In 1986 we held the first annual National Wheelchair Sports Camp to give “physically challenged” children and adults an opportunity to come together and have the greatest time of their lives. In addition to all the fun, making new relationships, and participating in several sports, they are encouraged, given hope, and reminded of God’s love and plan for their lives. Some come with an “I can’t” attitude due to fears, inhibitions and embarrassment, but by the end of camp, their attitude has changed to “I can!”

Jim “Magic” Martinson, a friend I met at the Wheels of Fire in Seattle, Washington in 1985, wrote an article “Racing for God” in the Building Dreams magazine. I read his story and a year later I met Jim again at the Kaiser Roll in Bloomington, Minnesota. I shared my vision to start a camp for the physically challenged and Jim agreed. Jim is a double amputee from Vietnam and is the person I consider to be “the world’s greatest wheelchair athlete.”

My vision of a national wheelchair sports camp was that disabled persons would get out in nature, enjoy God’s creation, take a horseback ride, water-ski, road race, and play basketball, tennis, and softball. All total, we would offer 15 different events. Two quadriplegics arrived in their vans and electric wheelchairs to our first camp in 1986. After looking over our facilities they said, “Bob, we really can’t stay because you don’t have private rooms for us and our health care givers.” I assured them that someday, “Lord willing,” we would have a facility where anyone, regardless of their disability, could come and enjoy themselves.

After 13 years we decided it was time to get to the ‘starting line’. Twenty people responded to the dream – a completely accessible lodge that could accommodate our needs. We had three choices with this dream: 1) shoot at the stars 2) shoot into the stars or 3) shoot past the stars. We shot past the stars and voted to go forward with the dream. The architects reminded us that this 33,000+ square foot structure with three floors, 30 rooms, and a swimming pool, would cost 3-4 million dollars. Each year at the National Wheelchair Sports and Recreation Camp we “WITNESS SOME OF THE GREATEST TRIUMPHS OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT”. Bringing 50-75 people in wheelchairs together, you are certain to find someone with a greater challenge and disability in life than yours and this causes you to ‘count your blessings.’
2. **$20,000 PER ROOM!**

After the initial meeting of interested parties, we published our fall Ironwood newsletter where I shared the vision of this lodge. One way I thought we could raise funds would be to ask people/businesses to sponsor a room for $20,000. The donor’s name would be on the door and they would be able to use “their room” in off-season.

Later that fall I was in Minneapolis attending a meeting when a man named Dave came up to me and said, “Bob, my wife Teresa and I read over your newsletter and we think your dream of a lodge is just magnificent. What a worthy mission. We would like to sponsor a room.” I responded, “Dave, we don’t even know if we are going to build this facility.” “Yes, we are,” was Dave’s reply. About the same time, Eleanor Crane sponsored a room and the dream got started!

3. **ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY!**

Before you get too excited about a building project you must look into the feasibility of your infrastructure (waste water, well, etc). Lawler Environmental Services agreed to come and perform an environmental study. About a year and a half later, we received a twenty-seven page report from Steve and Pat Lawler. Steve handed me the report with a smile on his face and said, “Bob, based on our study you can go forward with your lodge. You have a million dollar field up on the south hill. Don’t sell it because it is going to be the future of your ranch. This field is perfect for your waste water, etc. Congratulations on your project. We wish you the best. Let me know if we can be of any other assistance.” Wow! What’s next?

4. **TOWNSHIP MEETING!**

No matter how worthy you feel your project is, there will always be objections. Our lodge was no exception. We had lots of support, but there are always those who I call CAVE people -- Citizens Against Virtually Everything. It seemed each time we wanted to proceed we faced another obstacle.

A public hearing at the town hall was scheduled for September 2002. Anyone for or against your project was invited to come express themselves and decisions would be made. I placed several phone calls that week and the night of the meeting we were second on the agenda. Approximately 50 people filled the town hall clear to the back door. I had no idea what was going to happen. The man behind the bench up front called the meeting to order and began talking about the project in a negative tone. Everyone is listening and not really knowing what is going on. The township board was discussing our prints and seemed pessimistic about everything for the next 45 minutes. This was the first meeting my wife, Jode, had ever attended. She chose to drive separate thinking she would not survive the whole meeting and would go home early.

Finally, Gary Boyum, a local grocer in Stewartville, stood up and said he would like to go on record that he was in favor of this lodge and appreciates Ironwood’s contribution to our community and those we serve. The ranch’s employees are just fantastic in their service to others. Gary expressed his belief that this building project is necessary, and voted in favor of it. He recommended that the township board stop tabling this project and give the go-ahead tonight. With that, Gary sat down. That started the ball rolling and probably 20-25 others then spoke up. Neighbors have an impact on what you can and cannot do. Tom, a neighbor to the north who was seated in the front of the town hall, stood up and told that his best time of the year is the summertime. “I get to sit out on my porch and listen to all
those kids and families at the Christian Ranch having fun, singing and enjoying themselves. I know good things are happening and I am all in favor of this building because it can impact more people for the good.” Tom sat down. Another neighbor, Steve, stood up. Steve actually lives closer than Tom and he said, “I am the closest neighbor and I will be able to hear the hammers pounding and all the things going on and I appreciate what Ironwood Springs is doing not only in the community, but for my family and all our neighbors.” Steve sat down. There is silence as the clock nears 11:00 pm.

From the bench came one more question: “Bob, how many parking spots are you going to blacktop?” Of course I am hoping all of them, because wheelchairs don’t do well in mud, rocks and dirt. I turned the question to Dewey is standing at the back door and runs a blacktop crew for Rochester Sand and Gravel. Dewey’s reply, “Whatever it takes.”

The man at the table took his gavel and said, “I make a motion we let the ranch proceed with the lodge project, do I hear any objections?” Hearing none, the motion carried. Everyone clapped and cheered. You could hear it throughout the whole building. “Miracles Happen!”

5. **PERMIT!**

The permit: I almost forget. Truth be told, in Olmsted county, when you get your permit your project is 90% complete (or so it seems!). This was one of the many Mt. Everest size challenges. The hoops to be jumped through seemed overwhelming and humanly impossible. After meeting with the township board they said we would get a letter in the mail. Shortly after, we received a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) with nineteen conditions to be met before we would get the permit. One of the conditions was an inspection of 75 wells within a certain radiance of the ranch property. We had to call farmers, contact the county courthouse and get well records, all for contamination purposes. Inch by inch, well by well, I plodded through this process. With all nineteen conditions finally met, we were now ready to put the “shovel in the ground”. Or maybe not! You know the song, “Just when you get it all worked out, that’s when the changes come.”

6. **WELL!**

With the conditions of the permit met, we were soon to begin. Maybe not: I got a call from the township saying they had been talking this project over and wanted us to drill the 700-foot well before breaking ground. I responded that I had never heard of this requirement, that it was not in our prints, nor was it in our conditional use permit. They implied that the Minnesota Health Department wanted the well drilled and they thought it was a good idea to do so. I knew it wasn’t an issue with the MHD, but rather than get defensive, I said I would look into it and get back to the township.

I called Mark at Thein Well Company and explained the situation. He thought it absurd because we wouldn’t need water for five years so why drill now? I asked Mark if there was any chance he could come out tomorrow and start drilling our well because we wanted to get going on the lodge. Mark said, “Bob, I can’t come out tomorrow because I have 22 wells to drill.”

I said, “Actually, you have 23 wells to drill and I think maybe God wants you to start backward.”

Mark chuckled, “Well, yeah maybe He does, maybe He doesn’t. I also don’t have the well pipe and would have to order the pipe before I could start.”

I asked what kind of pipe he needed and he gave me the number and specs and I said I would talk to him later and hung up. I spoke to Steve Sorenson at McNeilus Steel in Dodge Center and told him of my need. McNeilus generously donates all the steel we need to the ranch. Steve checked his computer and inventory and said they had the 700 feet of pipe in stock.

My next question to Steve was, “What are you doing tomorrow?” He checked with dispatch and confirmed that the pipe would be delivered the next day. You can probably guess who I called next. I told Mark the steel would arrive by noon the next day.

Out of generosity, Thein Well Company came the next day and started drilling our well. What a blessing. What an example of God’s guidance in moving this project forward. They also drilled a 25 foot deep shaft for the future elevator. I didn’t mention this need to Mark until they were nearly done with the well! Great job, Thein Well! “Miracles Happen!”

14
7. **ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING!**

An important faction in our building committee was the architects and engineers. Finally, after months of discussion we were told by Dave from the Kane and Johnson Architectural firm, we had to make a decision. As we questioned the circle of committee members, everyone agreed to put in all the amenities like the pool, do the geothermal heating, etc from the get-go and not try and piece-meal the project. Dave’s response was that there would be about a $240,000 architectural fee. It wasn’t long after we received a letter from Dave saying they would donate about $200,000 of the fees if we could pay $40,000 as the project moved forward. All the other engineers (civil – Ken Boyer, mechanical – Stan Maass, and structural – Arlen Heathman, etc) gave of their time and talents to make this all possible. Finally, a 25-page drawing was put into print ready for final approval. What a Mighty God we serve!

8. **10,000 CEMENT BLOCKS!**

Seventy-five truck loads of dirt and rock were hauled out getting ready for the lodge footings. Knutson Construction and Rochester Ready Mix provided all the labor and concrete for the footings. Koball’s Poured Walls had several ten-foot walls to pour before we were ready for the block to go up. Rochester Brick agreed to provide the block at half price. None of the local block layers wanted to tackle this project. I called Dan O’Connor, a commercial block layer. Dan came out and agreed to do the entire block job at a reduced rate. Six weeks later the walls were up, right on schedule.

9. **CONCRETE!**

Once the block was up, we had to cap it off with pre-stress concrete; a big cement slab that serves as the first floor. I had contacted a few companies that manufacture pre-stressed concrete, one of them being north of the Twin Cities. They wanting about $72,000 and said that was their base cost and they were not profiting from this. There happened to be a man on our lodge committee named of Don Schroeder. Don was foreman for the Downtown Plaza project in Rochester working for Adolphson & Peterson construction. One day he said, “You know Bob, I am doing business with a company over in Sioux Falls, South Dakota named Gage Brothers. They are doing a whole lot of pre-stressed concrete for us; well over a million dollars. I will stick your prints in with mine and see what happens.” I agreed and gave him the “go ahead”.

A couple weeks later I received a call from Terry Davis with Gage Brothers. He said, “Bob, we have been looking at your project and think it is fantastic. You have a worthy mission and our company is willing to do all the pre-stressed concrete for $40,000. This is $30,000 less than cost.”

It was November and Terry said they would produce the concrete over the winter and next March it would be sitting on their lot ready to pick up. I gave him the go ahead for the project and reminded him that we didn’t have any money at the time, but that we trusted God would provide. Terry called the next March saying the concrete was ready. I asked if the $40,000 included delivery and Terry said “not really.” I asked what he drove because I drove an El Camino (we had a little chuckle). A good friend, Steve Yaggy of Yaggy Transportation, has always been very generous in filling a need when it arises. I called Steve and asked if he was sitting down. “I have some pre-stressed concrete to haul from Sioux Falls. I was going to see if you might be interested in hauling it.”

Steve asked how many truck loads it would be. Gage Brothers thought it was about 16 semi-loads to haul back to Ironwood. Steve said, “Okay, when do you need it?”
I needed to check with the crane operator, Doug Mulholland, the man that was going to set it. Within three weeks all the pre-stressed concrete was hauled from South Dakota and set in place with big cranes right where it belonged. I asked Steve Yaggy how many miles they drove, and he responded about 9000. “Let us know when you need us again,” was Steve’s response. There were guys getting out of bed at 2:00am to drive to South Dakota, load the concrete and get it here on time.

Rochester Ready Mix has donated over 450 yards of concrete for walls, lower level floor and sidewalks. The miracles continue.

10. **BIGELOW BUNCH and ROOF!**

Joel Bigelow has been a friend and a member of the lodge committee. He has always been a strong supporter of the ranch and an important encourager of mine. Joel said his company, Bigelow/Lennon, in conjunction with Kim Enerson’s company, Olmsted County Lumber Mart, would be willing to frame up this building. There were over 20,000 square feet to frame up. Wood Assemblers in Pine Island, Minnesota, another Bigelow associate, would get all the lumber together, make the panels, and later that year deliver all the lumber to frame up the top two floors. Crews under the guidance of a terrific foreman named Jason, worked in excess of seven months. Anywhere from five to ten guys framed up this whole building. They did the trusses, floors, sidewalls, and put plywood on the ceiling, ready for the shingles. I believe this was somewhere around a $300,000 donation. It was magnificent watching this building go up.

Truss Specialties, a company in La Crescent, Minnesota gave us a huge discount on all the trusses. We are grateful for their contribution. Thanks also to Hawk and Sons Crane, Turri Crane and Mulholland Crane service, who gave so generously -- all the walls and trusses were complete.

Ed Lunn Construction from Rochester, Minnesota also provided a crew to help put up the first floor walls. In addition, Ed gave us use of a lift which we had for about six months. The lodge was all framed up just before the winter snow flew and springs rains came.

We had a huge snow fall early March of 2004 with 4-5 foot snow drifts piled up in the middle of this building! Snow covered our supplies so much so that we had to use our skid loader to push it over the edges of the building wherever we could. That winter we had a few ice storms and our daughters were ice skating on the slab during the winter. The next big need was for plywood and shingles. “Miracles Happen!”

11. **1000 SHEETS OF PLYWOOD!**

This is quite a dramatic and detailed story. When Bigelow was framing up the building in August, Jason estimated that they would need about 1,000 sheets of plywood around Thanksgiving; 600 for roofing and about 300-400 for flooring. The plywood we needed was anywhere from $15-$20 per sheet, making this a $20,000 request. I went on the internet, and found Potlatch, one of the world’s biggest suppliers of plywood. I drove to different lumber yards, writing down names and phone numbers I found on pieces of plywood and looked up their websites. This technique has resulted in some fantastic donations. Potlatch’s home office is in Vancouver, British Columbia and at the time, they had a plant in northern Minnesota. After six phone calls, I was able to talk with a real person who transferred me to human resources where I listened to a recorder. After a few weeks, someone made the mistake of picking up the phone and I was able to talk to Mark Turcotte. I explained my need to Mark asked if I could send him a packet requesting a donation. “Drop it in the mail, Bob,” Mark said.

I called to follow-up a few weeks later but Mark was on the road for a week, so of course I left a voice message. We talked a couple weeks later and Mark indicated they really liked our mission and felt we had a worthy project. Mark and I talked back and forth from October 5th to November 9th.

On November 9th Mark called with some bad news. He informed me that Potlatch had been sold that day to Ainsworth Lumber and the donation was now in question as everything was frozen due to the sale. Meanwhile, Jason and his crew were busy building the lodge and were on schedule for needing the plywood in about two weeks.

Mark apologized and said he would continue to work on it, but that we were back to square one; he would do all he could to get the donation.
A few days later Mark called again and suggested I contact Ron Salsbury in the Bemidji plant and that Ron could make a final decision. On November 15th, Ron’s voicemail said he was out of town for the week.

The following week I called Ron and he told me to call Nick Ausman the following Monday. As instructed, I called Nick on Monday. Nick asked, “What can I do for you?” I explained that Ron Salsbury had indicated that Ainsworth is willing to donate the plywood for our project.

“Sorry, Bob, Ron is no longer with the company, so you will need to talk to Mike Pelton.” I finally reached Mike and he knew very little about the donation. I took a few deep breaths, and started over one more time. On December 2nd, Mike called back and said the plywood was in stock, weighing 57,000 pounds, but I needed to talk to Blair Magnason at the main office in Vancouver.

One December 6th, I spoke with Blair in person and he said the final decision was in the hands of Catherine Ainsworth in Vancouver, “If she approves it, she will call you.”

Back at the ranch, Jason and his crew were telling me the plywood would be needed soon. I received a call from Catherine Ainsworth’s office the next day. “Mr. Bardwell, we understand you have a project and here is what we would like you to do: send your packet out via FedEx. Here is our FedEx number -- go to your local FedEx airport get send your packet overnight. It will arrive in Vancouver and we will check it out.”

On December 10th I was in a staff meeting at about 8:30 a.m. and the phone rang. It was Ainsworth Lumber saying, “Your donation has been approved, here is the gentleman to call up in Northern Minnesota. He knows about your project, and is expecting your call. They are open 24/7. You can just call ahead and go pick up your plywood anytime. We are glad to assist in your project.” Wow. Another Miracle in progress.

Next I needed to find two semi-truck drivers willing to drive to Bemidji to pick-up the plywood. For three or four months I had been talking to some drivers who would be willing to donate their time. I called Jeff and Kevin Laures, my neighbors, who are truck drivers and they said they would go. I called my other driver Dave Raygor, who was in Chicago. I explained I would like to leave at midnight that night. He called about 6:00pm from Winona, Minnesota where he was having truck trouble and said the trip was off. He called back about 9:00pm and said the truck was fixed and he would be in Stewartville about 11:30 pm. At midnight, I was loaded into Dave’s truck and we (the Laures, Dave and I) were headed for Bemidji to pick up 1000 sheets of plywood. We pulled onto the scales at 7am as the snow was coming down and soon got the truck loaded. After a nice tour of the plant we were back on the road headed home. The plywood arrived at 6:00pm Saturday night, ready for the carpenters on Monday. “I have everything under control”—God.

12. SHINGLES!

It became urgent to get shingles on the roof to protect from the rain and the weather. I called Mike Clements who works in Human Resources at CertainTeed Corporation out of Shakopee, Minnesota. Again, the packet was sent and like most, he thought the lodge a very worthy mission. I drove to Shakopee and met with Mike. Mike said, “You know, Bob, this is a big project needing a lot of shingles, enough shingles for five, six, maybe seven houses. It would be a lot easier if this was a Habitat for Humanity project.”

I replied, “Mike, that’s exactly what this is: it’s called ‘Habitat for the Physically Challenged Humanity.’”

Mike said, “You’re right. We will get you those shingles.” He signed some papers and it wasn’t long until all the shingles were hauled down to the ranch. Brad Bargen and a couple other shingle companies rolled out the paper and put on all the shingles, 170 squares, I believe. United Products chipped in on some of the supplies as well. What a celebration when the shingling was done!

13. ANDERSEN WINDOWS!

Knowing we needed lots of windows, I made a trip to Andersen Windows in Bayport, Minnesota and talked to Human Resources. Bob Prell from Adolphson and Peterson Construction accompanied me. I presented my packet as they listened intently. They graciously expressed interest in our project, but also had a stack of 100 requests from other worthy missions. With no guarantees, they said we would hear back from them. In the meantime, we continued to persevere with the lodge. About a year later Jay Sandgren called from Andersen Windows. “I have some good news to share with you and I am on my way to Iowa tomorrow. Could I stop in and meet with you then?” The next day Jay shook my hand with a smile on his face and said the good news is that Andersen Windows will supply all the windows for your entire lodge including several of the doors. This was a donation of $130,000 to $140,000. Andersen’s eventually got our blueprints and later that year, when the time was right, they hauled all the windows and doors to Ironwood. Thank you, Andersen Windows! “Miracles Happen!”
14. **WATER TOWER!**

We were told an 12,000 gallon water tower was needed for the sprinkler system. This is one of the many Mount Everest requests. I shared this need with a group of men who were retreating at the ranch. Afterward, Renny Smith came up and said there was a chance he could help; he worked for a company that manufactures tanks. On his way home that day he spotted a large abandoned tank on the ground at the Zumbrota Cheese Factory. Renny stopped in, measured the tank and talked to the company. After a couple months of thinking it over, they decided to donate this large tank (stainless steel inside). Thanks to Rochester Sand and Gravel for hauling this tank to the ranch and Hawk and Sons Crane Service for setting it on the slab. Once the tank was filled with 12,000 gallons of water, Olsen Fire Protection performed the major pump work and the miracle was finished.

15. **ELEVATOR!**

I had contacted about five elevator companies; all the major companies that provide elevators for commercial buildings. The price tag was always in the $70,000 - $80,000 range. My research took about a year.

ThyssenKrupp Elevator is a German company with an office in Rochester. I sent them out a packet and they responded quite favorably, saying they would come out and take a look at our project. A gentleman by the name of Brian Elliot paid us a visit to look at the lodge and was amazed with what he saw. He was pleased with our mission. He indicated that ThyssenKrupp might have more interest than just building the elevator; they may provide a donation as well. Approximately a month later, after they’d had a chance to talk it over and haggle just a bit, they agreed to drop their price to $45,000 which was a bit below their cost. The elevator would be manufactured in Memphis, Tennessee and would be shipped to the ranch. In January, 2007 two gentlemen arrived from northern Minnesota and did a magnificent job of installing this elevator. Several times they commented how pleased they were with the size of the elevator we chose to install and that we would never regret it. Most people install the smallest elevator they can to just get by. They also asked why we opted to go with ThyssenKrupp as their company is the most expensive on the market. I shared about the donation with the installers and then they understood! “Miracles Happen!”

16. **BLACKTOP!**

After four years of driving through mud, potholes and rocks and getting stuck even with 4-wheel-drive, we were looking forward to getting this whole parking lot blacktopped. Rochester Sand and Gravel is owned by Mathy Construction out of LaCrosse, Wisconsin and has been a very generous donor to the ranch for many years. I had been talking with them about blacktopping the lodge lot in about two years. Finally Pat came out and said Bob it is about 60 truckloads of blacktop and is about a $50,000 donation, if would get someone to help us we will see what we can do. Well time past and another year past and all this time the dirt is getting packed better which is to our advantage. Of course in the fall every contractor is way behind his construction work and they were no exception. I talked to them in October and it wasn’t looking real positive but you never know. November 1st I went up to the office and it was a fairly nice day and I saw a big truck sitting up on the hill. Dewey Hebl and Pat Peterson and here. They had gotten approval from their boss and had a little window of time between jobs. About three days they hauled out the soft dirt and hauled in about 20-30 loads of crushed rock. Randy Severson graded it all and then 60 truckloads of blacktop arrived. It is just magnificent, what a great improvement and we are so grateful for their contribution. Thank you, Rochester Sand and Gravel. “Miracles Happen!”
17. **COPPER!**

We were getting started on the geo-thermal and Chris Derr stopped into the office and said, “Bob, I need about $15,000 of copper pipe.” I told him I should have had the materials list months ago so I could work on getting the copper donated. I went online and found the website of a company in Pennsylvania that manufactures copper. I made a call and was finally able to speak with a person rather than to a recorded message. The gal on the other end recommended I send my packet to their president Ed Arends… out goes another packet!

About a week later the most amazing thing happened. When I made my follow-up call, I dialed right into Ed’s voicemail because I knew the correct spelling of his last name. I got his voicemail and left him a message asking if he had received my packet. About an hour later I got a call from Ed saying their company had looked at the packet and that rather than sell Ironwood the copper at cost, they were going to donate it because they liked our mission and wanted to be part of this wonderful project. He told me of a representative in Minneapolis who I should call and that this rep would tell me what to do next.

About two hours later I called Minneapolis and the rep said, “Yes, Bob, I’m working with a company in Rochester, I think it’s close to where you are – the company is called Woodruff Company. Give them a call at about 1:30pm and talk to Scott; he knows about the donation.” By 4:00pm I had called Scott and my big trailer was loaded with about $17,000 worth of wonderful, very expensive copper pipe. Thank you! “Is it time to start your dream?”

18. **LOGS AND LOG SIDING!**

The lodge’s log siding would fill about two semi-trucks. I had seen a billboard on I-90 and contacted this log siding manufacturer out of central Wisconsin. After an initial call and trip to the post office with my packet, a gentlemen named Dave called me back – Dave was the general manager. He was very interested in our lodge project and expressed a strong interest in our Christian mission as well. Dave gracefully got back to me and said they would provide all the siding for the lodge for approximately half price or less. For the next three years we hauled about two semi-trucks worth of siding back from Meadow Valley Log Homes in central Wisconsin. Thank you, Dave Stutzman and Meadow Valley Log Homes for all this beautiful siding.

The stain for the logs was donated by Schroeder Log Home Supply from Grand Rapids, Minnesota. I can’t tell you how many five-gallon buckets of stain were applied to the logs!

The large logs that make up the car port and all the decorative log work on the inside came from a neighbor down the road. For twenty years I had been kidding John about cutting down his 30 huge pine trees so I could build more buildings. John always reminded me that they were his windbreak, and I would tease him about how ugly they were! God’s perfect timing was obvious in these pines becoming our lodge car port… I got a call from the DOT (Department of Transportation) saying that they would be re-doing County Road 6, past the ranch, the summer of 2003. Unfortunately for neighbor John, the trees were in the new right-of-way. Of course John jokingly thinks I am on the committee. A few months later John gave the ok to come get the trees and over the next year these pines were transformed into beautiful trusses and log structures. Thanks to Dick Bedney for spending six months and over 1500 hours making the trusses.

19. **DOORS AND HARDWARE!**

This lodge would need about 100 commercial doors. In 2000 I called up Phil at Greene Doors and Hardware because they had always been very generous in providing doors to the Ranch. I told Phil I would need the doors in maybe five years; giving him time to start collecting. Once again, the generosity continues and brothers Phil and Steve of Greene Doors and Hardware in Dodge Center collected the doors, frames, and hardware we needed over the next several years. We are grateful to Wade Fitschen, Gene Ramaker and Gene’s family for installing these frames, doors and hardware!

20. **WAISSCOTING!**

If you tour the lodge and peek into the rooms you will see an awful lot of wainscoting. Every room has wainscoting; in fact, one room has seven different kinds of hardwood. All this wood came from several different companies. A few of the suppliers were Country Millwork from West Concord, MN and Shady Haven Tree Farms near Oronoco, MN as well as a farmer in Iowa who had seen our project on
the news. He called and said he had a pole barn full of dried black walnut that had been sitting for over ten years. If we could use it for
the lodge we should come and take a look at it. I made the 45-minute journey and there it was: a pole barn full of beautiful dried black
walnut. We chatted a little, I said it would be marvelous to use the walnut in our lodge and he asked for a token of a price. Now, what
to do with all this black walnut that needed to be milled down, sanded, and made into wainscoting? I called John Foreman at Alamco
Wood Products in Albert Lea and explained the situation. John asked me to bring it right from the farm on a semi-truck and they would
transform this rough-sawn lumber into wainscoting. This process would happen over the next year or so. When you see all the wood on
these walls, remember, it’s there thanks to many different companies.

21. **QUILTS, SHEETS AND PICTURE FRAMES!**

Fay Drescher from Rochester generously offered to make a quilt for every bed in the lodge. Knowing she would need to make
75 quilts, she collected fabric from friends and got to work. She did not want compensation for her time nor the materials, she
would gladly undertake this monumental task of decorating each bed with a lovely homemade quilt. One by one, this wonderful
lady with a huge heart made 75 quilts. Amazingly enough, these quilts coordinate beautifully with the wallpaper borders chosen
by the room sponsors for each room!

Rodney Welch helped adorn the walls of the lodge by making 90 picture frames which showcase photos from the past 30 years of
Ranch history. Many people have been pleasantly surprised to find their smiling face on the walls of the lodge!

While speaking at a church in the Twin Cities I met a gentleman named Tom Folz and his wife, Lisa. Tom works for a company
that manufactures sheets and because I had mentioned the quilts being made for the lodge, Tom said maybe his company would
be willing to provide the sheets! About one year later in rolls a truckload of sheets, pillowcases and blankets, valued at $70,000,
for the ranch from this company in St. Paul, MN.

22. **COUNTERTOPS!**

Every bathroom needs a countertop and we have 33 of them! The countertops alone can be a big expense. One day I was waiting outside
Struve’s Paint for Jode who was working with Sheri on border donations (another wonderful story), and all of a sudden a big semi truck
rolls by that says COUNTERTOPS. I need countertops, but I couldn’t get the phone number from the side of the truck, so I quickly
backed out onto the street and caught up with the truck in about three or four blocks. I took down the phone number and called them:
Armar Countertops near Le Center, MN. The glad recipient of my packet this time was a gentleman named Gary. My follow-up call
was received by a lady who said Gary had expressed interest in being involved. I called him back 2-3 days later and he said, “Bob, this
is a fantastic project, let me talk to my supplier and we will try to donate all the countertops for that lodge.” Wow, that is amazing. We
sent the blueprints and he made every countertop throughout the entire lodge and they even delivered them! It was a marvelous miracle
from Armar.

23. **INSULATION!**

Not to be overlooked is the huge amount of insulation that would be needed. You can only imagine how many trucks loads and how
many thousands of dollars of insulation this 33,500 sq ft. facility in Minnesota would require. There is a generous company in Byron,
MN called Home Improvement Professionals (HIP). Mike Thom, the CEO said, “We are committed to that lodge and our company
would donate all the insulation for the entire building as well as the installation.” Mike has been such a tremendous blessing to this
project, coming over with his trucks, employees and insulating every time we called. I cannot imagine the amount of money and time
he has donated. Thank you very much Mike Thom and Home Improvement Professionals. “Is it OK to start your dream?”

24. **SHEETROCK!**

We didn’t do so well with the sheetrock. We needed more than 3300 sheets of 5/8” – 4’ x 12’. I had been working with USG out of Iowa
and after about a year I gave up. They had some changes in personnel and eventually it was time to move on. I called Home Depot, Men-
ards, and went all around the circle. I called Tamarack, a sheetrock supplier, and they were about $13 per sheet. Then I called Menards
and they dropped it down to $11.50 per sheet. Next I called Home Depot and they would take 25% off Menard’s price. So for about
$10 a sheet we purchased all the sheetrock. When I asked them who their supplier was, they said Tamarack. Well, that was an interesting
circle, because Tamarack wanted $13 which was at cost and now we were getting it from Home Depot for less than that. Go figure!
Several people have helped with taping: Jim Smith, Roy Gisler, Harry Short and Jay Tieskoetter just to name a few. It has taken seven hundred gallons of paint to cover the walls -- all of which has been donated.

25. CERAMIC TILE!

Every bathroom and the main lobby needed tile which would cost over $30,000 if purchased on the retail market. We needed about one semi-truck load. I contacted a number of different companies and Dal Tile Company from Houston, TX expressed a bit of interest in our mission. A gal by the name of June Berry was on the other end of the line when I called one day and I could tell she was interested in this project. She had seen the packet and she was going to do all she could to help us get the needed tile. I could see she was interested because she would answer the phone even though she knew, by caller id, that it was me calling requesting a donation! Time went on and months went by and finally the day came when her boss had given the approval to donate the tile for the entire lodge. The tile was in the Bolingbrook, near Chicago, in a warehouse. I thanked them greatly and proceeded to looking for someone to make a run to Chicago to pick it up. It wasn’t anything urgent but probably two or three weeks down the road I got a call from the warehouse in Bolingbrook.

They said, “We have this tile sitting out here for what is called the National Wheelchair Sports Camp and they just happened to have semi truck looking for a load. We need something to do tomorrow and think we will load all that tile on the semi and probably arrive at the Ranch around noon. The next day, in pulled a big semi-truck loaded with tile. Thank you, Dal Tile Company. “My God shall supply all your need...”

26. HARDWOOD FLOORS!

All this time I had been dreaming of putting hardwood floors in the fireplace room, which would be about 2,000 square feet. I had been talking to Andy Ball from Root River Hardwoods in Preston, MN for about two years. Andy would return about every tenth phone call saying he was still thinking about it and that he would come over for a tour someday. Eventually, Andy Ball drove in, looked over the lodge and said “This is a magnificent project. I would like to be a part of it. Root River Hardwoods will donate all the hardwood for this floor. When do you need it?” I told him we’d like it by the end of the summer. Thank you, Andy.

Now I had to find someone to put down the subfloor. I contacted Marv Stafford with Knutson Construction and he said they would send out a couple of guys to put down the 2000 square feet of subfloor. Next I need to find someone to install the hardwood.

In the month of the May there was a group of around 60 men on retreat at Ironwood from the Trinity Evangelical Free Church in Lakeville, MN. I was giving them a welcome and thanking them for all being here. I especially wanted to thank the men who brought their trade trucks. I could tell it was their first time here because surely they wouldn’t have driven their trucks with phone numbers plastered on the sides if they’d been here before -- that is how I built the Ranch over the last 30 years… driving around taking phone numbers off trade trucks. The truck that caught my eye this weekend was the one that said HARDWOOD FLOORS. The gentleman who had the hardwood floor truck didn’t have his phone number on it… I took down the license plate instead! Long story short, Dean Almquist came up to me afterwards and said, “Bob, I would be glad to take care of that hardwood floor.” Dean and ten men from Trinity Evangelical Free Church gave up two Saturdays, some Fridays, lots of time planning and effort hauling equipment and did a magnificent job of laying the entire hardwood floor… they even laid a cross in the middle. After all that, Brian from Brogan’s Hardwood Floors did a fantastic job of finishing. What a Shine!

27. FURNITURE/MATTRESSES!

In 2002, I talked to Calvin Hunt, owner of Lakeland Mills, a log furniture company in Edmore, Michigan. We spoke again in 2005 about our mission and the furniture needs for this lodge. Calvin graciously agreed to provide all the log furniture at a 50% discount. Several truckloads of beautiful log furniture really help give the lodge that rustic feeling.

After the beds and furniture come the mattresses and bedding. Thanks to Slumberland’s owners Lou and Sue Grimalde for providing the mattresses for the bunks and all of the queen-size beds. They donated half and sold us the other half at cost. Lou and Sue have been very generous donors for several years. Here’s my commercial: if you need some furniture, shop at Slumberland in Rochester.

28. GENERATOR/ELECTRICAL!

We needed a huge backup generator for the lodge which would normally $50,000 or more for emergency lighting. After talking about it for three or four years and having only a few leads that all fell through, a lady named Colleen from the Cresco Community Church
mentioned the fact that she had a brother, Tom, who could possibly help. Tom runs a mission project in Pennsylvania where he collects old generators, refurbishes them and sends them out to third world countries as his work for God. Little by little, after two years we landed the right generator and they hauled it all the way to Minnesota in conjunction with a visit to see Colleen in Cresco, Iowa. God and Tom supplied this generator for just $10,000. Special thanks to I-Tech owner, Tom Garber, who delivered the generator, Turri Crane for setting it in place, Throndson Oil for donating the fuel, and Cummins Diesel for getting it up and running.

I had been trying to get three phase electricity at the ranch for about ten years, but the cost would be about $100,000. When we got a call in 2003 about County Road 6 being re-done, the electric cooperative said that they had to install all new highline poles and wire. The cost suddenly dropped from $100,000 to $10,000. The gentleman on the phone asked about coming out to visit Ironwood, have a tour and lunch. He asked about the cost and I said, “If you bring 10 people, it is $1000 per person, 20 people it will be only $500”. I am still waiting for them to make the visit. (Ha).

29. GEOTHERMAL/PLUMBING!

We have a natural spring by the staff house and I had always wanted to use it for something special. Now we had the opportunity to pump this water to the Miracle Lodge for our heating and cooling. The spring has a capacity of 100 gallons per minute which was just the amount needed. The spring water is piped underground and goes into the lower level and supplies water to all the heat pumps before returning to the river. What a miracle.

The Woodruff Company, Goodin Company, Gander Plumbing and Ferguson Company have generously supplied many of the sinks, toilets, and fixtures. Delta Faucets from Indianapolis, IN supplied the faucets. Thanks!

McQuay is commercial manufacturer of heating and cooling equipment. I went to their main office in Minneapolis and actually met their president. They were very favorable toward our project and ended up bringing their price down about $30,000, which came down to about $40,000 for the fan coil units in every room. “Miracles Happen!”

30. SENTENCE TO SERVE!

We owe a real debt of gratitude to the people of Sentence to Serve and Many Rivers in Rochester and the County Community Corrections for all the young people and leaders that have worked and to the officials for allowing the juveniles to perform their work/service at the Ranch. There are so many places that need help and we estimate these young people through community corrections have work around 900 hours on this lodge. The work they have done is magnificent! I want to thank the young people and their staff for all the hours and miles they have put in to help complete this lodge.

31. 700 OF THE 43,000+ VOLUNTEER HOURS!

Volunteer hours of 43,000 is a story all of its own. Sacrifice, hard work, money, and commitment are just some of words to describe the volunteers who came as individuals or groups from across the country.

I must tell the story of the First Baptist Church in Stanford, Kentucky. Jerry Pyle has been a friend of the Ranch for 20 years. Ironwood touched the life of his family in the 1980’s; they have never forgotten it and have always shown their appreciation. Recently, Jerry and Gwyneth moved to Kentucky; back to their roots. He called and said he wanted to bring some volunteers to work on the lodge in the summer of 2007. We planned to stay in touch and keep them in our prayers. This would be a really big mission. Jerry called back in the spring and said they would be coming the last week in July and wouldn’t you know, 22 adults were convinced to leave their families, put their vacations on hold, get on a bus and ride 16 hours to Ironwood Christian Ranch. Over the next six days, these 22 people put in 700 volunteer hours, bringing that lodge to “I don’t know if we will ever get it done” to “wow, look at the light at the end of the tunnel – I think it’s getting brighter and brighter!” Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

The Kentuckians got back on their bus and headed home. They had the nerve to call me and say, “Bob, we got more out of coming to Minnesota than you got from our labors.” Now you figure that out. Only God can put together that kind of mission trip.

*The “Miracles” stories were written as happened from memory. Some of the names and dates may not be accurate.
Acknowledgements:

Donations from Food vendors:
• Perkins
• Old Dutch
• Gedney Pickles
• Zumbrota Dairy Farmers
• Ye Old Butcher Shoppe
• Pepsi
• Famous Dave’s
• Fareway Foods
• Great Harvest Bread Co.

Media:
• Post Bulletin
• KXLT Fox 47
• KAAL TV
• Stewartville Star

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Doug & Diane Mulholland
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PERSEVERANCE
“A race is won not with the wheels, but with the heart.”

To contact Bob for speaking at your conference, church, school, banquet or business; or if you are looking to get involved in a ‘worthy mission’ that is spreading JOY and changing lives:

Bardwell Communications
507-533-9516 or
bob@ironwoodsprings.com.
(You can watch Bob’s 5-minute DVD at miraclelodge.com)
Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took her boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted an old friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually found his way through a door marked ‘NO ADMITTANCE’. When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that the child was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”. At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, went to the piano and whispered in the boy’s ear, ‘DON’T QUIT, KEEP PLAYING’. Then leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in the bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child, and he added a running legato. Together, the old master and the young boy transformed what could have been a frightening situation into a wonderful creative experience. The audience was so awe struck they couldn’t recall what else the great master played. Only the classic, “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”.

Perhaps that’s the way it is with God. What we accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren’t always graceful flowing music. However, with the hand of the MASTER, our life’s work can truly be beautiful. The next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You may hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, ‘DON’T QUIT, KEEP PLAYING’. May you feel His arms around you and know that His hands are there helping you turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces. May God bless you and be always with you!
MIRACLE LODGE WORD SEARCH

Complete this word search and become eligible for a drawing for a two-overnight stay in the Miracle Lodge. Mail it or drop it at the office.

The drawing will be held on September 7th, Labor day.

ANDERSEN
ARLANWALTON
BARGEN
BIGELOW
BUCKNELL
CASTNER
CMS
COUNTRY CONCRETE
CRANE
DEMING
DICKBEDNEY
FORTYTHREEK
GAGE
GISLER
GREENE
GROTEBOER

HENTGES
JACOBSON
JORNADA
LANNING
LAP
LUNN
MARATHON
MCNEILUS
MRELECTRIC
MULHOLLAND
OLSEN FIRE
ONB
PENTAGON
READYMIX
RIVERSIDE
RUGGLES

SAINTS
SAND AND GRAVEL
SEMERAD
SOLDIERS
STRAND
SUPERMAN
TEEITUP
TERRATHERM
THEIN
TONNA
UPS
WELLSFARGO
WESALA
YAGGY

Miracle Lodge 7291 CR 6 SW, Stewartville, MN 55976
MiracleLodge.com
Friday, August 21

7 am Contractor’s Breakfast
Noon-3 pm Guided Lodge Tours
1 pm Governor Tim Pawlenty “Family Night”
5-9 pm Food by Vendors
5:30-6:30 Family Movie (Chapel)
(Weather permitting, or Saturday)
7-9 pm Booker Mini Foundation Band
6 pm Hot Air Balloon Rides
6-9 pm Ice Cream Social

Saturday, August 22

7-9 am Breakfast (Pancakes)
8:00 am 5K Run in Dining Hall.
“Over the River & Through the Woods”
9:00 am 5K Bike Ride (same trail)
10-5 pm Food by Vendors
10-4 pm Food by Vendors
Noon-7 pm Kid’s Carnival
1:00 pm Military Salute
(Ending with Color Guard. Visit the Pentagon Room!)
1:30 pm DEDICATION
Donor Recognition • Testimonials • Prayer
3:30-5 pm The Link Family (Stage)
5 pm Side One Band (Chapel)
5-7 pm Hog Roast
7-8 pm The Alzen Family (Stage)
8-10 pm Paul Bogart (Stage)

Sunday, August 23

7:30-9 am Breakfast (Dining Hall)
9 am-3 pm Classic Car & Truck Show
10-Noon Tony Melendez (Stage)
(Weather permitting, or Saturday)
Noon-4 Noon-4 Food by Vendors
1-2 pm The Link Family (Stage)
2-3 pm The Alzen Family (Stage)
4 pm Event Ends – Lodge Tours to Follow

To God be the Glory!