



Exciting Updates from the Director · June 2019



Susan & Michael Synek

Have you ever seen God work so specifically in your life? God is a detailed God and I am so grateful for His calling to me to be a part of the wonderful ministry of Joy Ranch. I knew God had called me to Joy Ranch and it was a true leap of faith for me. He has been so faithful, and I have learned so much.

As most of you know, I have been blessed to be the Director and Residential Care Director for almost 4 years. I have truly been blessed, because I have had the privilege of serving with some of the best, God-loving people I know. I have been honored to meet wonderful people from churches all over the United States: people who donate to Joy Ranch, people who come out and help us on the grounds, building buildings, cooking meals, remodeling, music, vacation bible schools, answering phones, serving in our clothing closet... the list goes on and on. I am so humbled to work with such wonderful people.

I have been working remotely for Joy Ranch since I got married in October. I talk with the staff many times daily through video chat and then my husband and I have been on campus at Joy Ranch one week out of each month. I had such confidence it would work because the staff are an amazing group of people who love God and feel called to be here. At the end of June however, I will be finalizing my transition out of the role of Executive Director. Joy Ranch will still be a part of me - I will now be one of you - a donor, and someone that can come in and help, volunteer and most importantly pray for all the children and staff. I cannot tell you how much knowing you are lifting us up in prayer means to us. It feels like this wonderful surrounding of God's love. Thank you for praying for me during my time at Joy Ranch, and for our staff as well.

This brings me to exciting news! I knew when Michael and I decided to get married and I would be leaving Joy Ranch that he was going to send a wonderful person to lead the ministry. I knew it would be someone that loved God, knew the ministry, and felt called to serve here. God was so detailed with this as well!

New Director, Dan Austin, Begins in June

Dan Austin and I have been friends since we met 3 years ago when the Chesterfield Baptist Association visited and gave of their time, talents and treasure. This mission group has been a true blessing and we will be joining them on a mission trip this summer to Kentucky- so our kids can know what it means to give back and to serve.

God worked out all the details for Dan and his family to know this is where God is leading them. They will be joining Joy Ranch in June and I cannot wait for you to meet them!!! Dan is a wonderful, truly godly man. He has been a mentor and like a brother to me. I know where his heart is, and I know he is where God wants he and his family to be.

In the next few months you will be hearing more about Dan and He will be sending you a letter about himself and his family in early August. I know you will love him and support him in the ministry here. I have no doubt that he will stay true to our belief to be good stewards of Joy Ranch, and to leave it better than we found it.



Dan & Charlene Austin



Peter & Lynn Pratt

Peter Pratt Celebrates 25 Years at Joy Ranch

It's hard to imagine that our Facilities Maintenance Director has been at Joy Ranch for 25 years! Peter and his wife Lynn have raised their four children Ethan, Olivia, Alaina, and Hunter on our campus; all the while selflessly devoting their time to service to our ministry. Peter has watched the campus change and put in so many hours of sweat equity during his time here. Thank you for your devotion to your calling of keeping things running at Joy Ranch!

Ruby Handy Industrial Arts Complex:

The outside of this building will be complete in June- from hitting water and having to move the building to another spot on campus, to being delayed by hurricanes and snow, the outside is almost done and the inside is moving along!! We could not do all the work we have done with this building without volunteer help. The Chesterfield Baptist Association has been at the forefront for getting this building completed. We will be having a dedication for the completion of the outside of the building and then a time of prayer as we move forward on completing the inside of this building. Soon, we will be fixing the on-campus vehicles, teaching kids automotive and construction trades and giving volunteers a place to come and help around the campus with maintenance projects. Our prayer is that by introducing our kids to these trades they will gain confidence in what they can do for a career and what God can do in their life.



How you can help:

Pray for the continued completion of this building, and for entire building to be operational soon.

Bring a group from your church. We need volunteers with construction experience!

Give specifically to this project. You can visit our website at joyranch.org to donate.

The Educational Resource Center:

I have been blessed to be a part of the Rotary Club of Hillsville. Together with the help of the club and Mayberry Presbyterian Church, we were able to procure a Rotary District Grant to open an Educational Resource Center. This center will be a place where our kids can come after school and get tutoring from volunteers. We will be able to work with volunteers in the community and have our kids learn interview skills, resume writing, and prep and learn about careers. There are so many things we will be able to offer our kids! They will have everything they need to succeed academically. Did you know that right now our kids average over a 3.0 GPA? We work hard with the local schools to ensure our kids are getting a good education and The Educational Resource Center will help our kids continue to achieve academic success.

How you can help:

Pray: Pray for help in the ERC and for our kids to begin to have a clear direction of what they would like to do as a career. Pray for them to feel confident in their academic success and the importance of a good education.

Volunteer: We are already looking for volunteers who would like to help in our ERC helping students with reading and homework. Go to joyranch.org/volunteer to apply or call 276-236-5578.

Give specifically to this project.



Joy Ranch

A Christian Home for Children

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Miller Cottage:

We are midway in our renovation of Miller cottage, but we need volunteers to help us complete the work. The two apartments are completed but the house itself is about 50% finished. We are so grateful to groups that have come and helped us so far. Miller will be used as a partial independent living and foster home. Our desire is to complete it by the end of the summer.

How you can help: Pray God would send the right people at the right time to help us finish this cottage.

Volunteer: If you have a church group or a group of people with light construction skills, come join us. We would love to have you.

Give: You can donate specifically to this project.

I have been so blessed and humbled to have been part of this ministry. Thank you for praying for us!

There is so much more going on. God is so good. Kids are flourishing: they are being kids, loved by adults, loved by God, surrounded by love from you.

Blessings, Susan Synek