

November/December 2014

GROUP HOME GAZETTE

FREMONT COUNTY GROUP HOMES, INC.

~ ~ Serving Fremont County Families for over 35 years ~ ~

Mission Statement: Fremont County Group Homes' mission is to reunite families and to give youth every opportunity to become healthy and productive.

RIVERTON BOYS HOME
11 MINTER LANE
RIVERTON WY 82501
(307) 856-2643

Jeff Verosky, Executive Director
Betty Porter, Program Director

LANDER GIRLS HOME
2228 N. 2ND STREET
LANDER WY 82520
(307) 332-5490



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

As you know, Thanksgiving Day is November 27, but did you know that the 28th is You're Welcome Day. It's also Black Friday when the wise stay away from all shopping areas, but it's also Buy Nothing Day, so celebrate whichever one appeals to you. And don't forget November 30th as Stay At Home Because You Are Well Day.

December 4th is Santa's List Day, so maybe if you're extra good between now and then, you can make it back on the list. Celebrate our freedoms on the 15th – Bill of Rights Day.

CORRECTION

Our apologies go to Mike Kouris for misspelling his name in last month's newsletter. Mike taught Marketing and Distributive Education at Riverton High School/Career Education Center for 13 years. He was the Special Education Director and Alternative School Director for the Riverton School District for 23 years, and has now been retired for 3 years.

Mike's wife, Diana, who grew up on a ranch, is an author and has several books published and she is currently working on another one. Mike and Diana live in

Kinnear. Mike volunteers for AARP/IRS preparing taxes for senior citizens at the Lander Senior Center during tax season.

WE ARE THANKFUL

Fremont County Group Homes would like to thank First Interstate Bank and First Interstate Bancsystem for their generous donation of \$1,600 to the Group Homes for the purchase of a new storage shed at the Lander Girls' home. The donation covered the entire cost and delivery of the shed that was greatly needed to protect all of the outdoor equipment the home stores, especially during the winter months. Fremont County Group Homes appreciates the support First Interstate Bank gives to the Group Homes and looks forward to our continued relationship.



Pictured above: Sara Farrar and Kaya Reed from First Interstate Bank present Jeff Verosky, Executive Director at Fremont County Group Homes a check for \$1,600 for the purchase of a new shed at the Lander Girls' group home.

Every year, our kids begin to think about reasons they have to be grateful. We would like to share those thoughts with you. Some of these letters were very long and contained personal information and names. They have

been edited slightly, but we have tried to keep the content and meaning intact.

13 year-old girl: I'm thankful for my mother finally trying. I am thankful for my bro'z at Arapaho and other places. I am thankful to have an education, for music, for the ability to do things, and to at least try to be successful. I'm thankful for words, confidence and having a big brother and sister and younger siblings. I'm thankful for Christian, thankful for God, for better ways to help sickness, for food and that God gave people taste buds. I'm thankful for being brought into this world, for the most amazing words – love and hate, for friendships and relationships of all sorts, for the new people in my life, and for boys. I'm thankful for my dad, for people having my back and being in my life. I'm thankful for makeup and things that make you smell good, look good, and feel good about yourself, although now that I am thinking about it, I should have just said cosmetology. I'm really thankful for trees and nature.

14 year-old boy: I am very thankful for both of my families in Florida and Wyoming. I am thankful for the food I eat every day; I am thankful for being on this planet. I am thankful for breathing, for being a part of a family and for living in the United States. I am thankful for being a part of my 4H group, "barn bums" and thankful for being a part of school and everything I do at school. I am thankful for fun activities; being outdoors with my family; beautiful views of mountains and other country, being in a group home. I am grateful for having something to drink every day, having new experiences and thankful for riding my bike.

15 year-old girl: I am thankful for me, myself, handling all the bad things that have happened in the past. I'm also thankful for my people, everyone; just thankful for everyone and everything. I am thankful I have a family; my handsome brothers-they are great. You've just got to be grateful for everything and be happy. It's hard for me to

say right now, but all I can say is that I'm thankful for everything.

15 year-old boy: I am thankful for life, for a home, for school, for an education, and a world. I am thankful for my family, clothes, electronics, water, food and trees. I am thankful that I was made. I am thankful for animals, friends, entertainment, a mom and dad, a president, and food on my plate. I am thankful for fire, sports, television, my eyes, and space. I am thankful for science and math, movies, a reservation, dancing and arms.

15 year-old girl: The things I'm thankful for are food and water because without the whole water and food, we would not be on this earth. I'm thankful for my mom for still being here and that she has tried her best to help me in many ways, and that my family is so strong and try their best to keep a good living. I am thankful that no matter what happens, I will always have my big family whose love can never be broken. I'm most thankful for my Auntie L. . . who is the most amazing women I ever met in my life. She's like my mom. She was always there for me no matter how bad the situation was or how bad it could get; she took care of me, and I love my Auntie L. . . so much and her youngest daughter who is my sister. We have been through a lot together and have so many memories. I'm also thankful for my sister L. . . who is my other help and without all these people, where would I be.

16 year-old boy: I'm thankful for the clothes and shoes I wear because I never had clothes like this before. I was really poor and I was always told that the clothes I had were good enough, and I had those clothes for years, and they were all torn up and smelled like mold and cheese. I used to get made fun of because I smelled and I wore the same clothes every single day to school, and now I have clothes to wear. I am also thankful for having a roof over my head and a bed to sleep in, something I have not always had. I am thankful that I now have a family that loves me so much.

16 year-old girl: I am thankful for every single thing in my life. I am thankful for my family – some kids don't have as much family as I do in my life. I am glad I have family there just to see and talk to and love. I love being able to say I have a *really* big family. I have some family in different states, some I haven't even met yet. I am also thankful for brothers and sisters, because they teach me a lot, and I can teach them things I want them to know. I am really thankful for my body parts being able to work in the ways they are supposed to. I can't imagine what it would be like to not be able to walk, use my hands or talk. I am happy for money – it helps a lot now days. I am thankful for the help we get from doctors, cops, dentists, teachers, probation officers, judges, nurses, foster parents, treatment workers, day care workers and the group home workers. I am thankful for music. If it was not for music I would have lost my mind a long, long time ago. I am thankful for food – and a lot of it daily. I am thankful for water most of all. I'm also thankful for our native ways.

16 year-old girl: I am thankful for my life; I have no regrets of how I'm living it. I'm thankful for everyone in my life, because most of the people in my life helped be become the person I am now; especially my family. They were there to support me, love me, and accept me for who I am. I am thankful for food and water because they help me stay healthy and because they are kind of the main reason why I am alive right now. I just love food – it's so delicious – and water is so refreshing, and I like showering – the water is really warm. I am thankful for music; music is the connection – it's kind of my life. I don't know what I would do without it, and I'm thankful for the person who made it up, it's just wonderful. I'm am thankful for shelter and clothing; without it we all wouldn't be warm during the winter. I am thankful for education.

17 year-old boy: The most important thing I'm thankful for is my mom and dad, because some kids don't even have parents that support them through tough times.

However, my parents sometimes give me hope to go through life. Another thing I am thankful for is my dog, because my dog is always there with her companionship, and that makes me feel happy. My dog is like my world. I'm thankful for breath because if I could not breathe, I would not be alive; life is the biggest thing. If I were not alive I would not have the chance to meet new people and would not have had the hardships to learn from.

17 year-old girl: I am really thankful for this group home that welcomed me and gave me a place to go; also really thankful for all the good people I have met within the process of staying here. I made some good memories in the days gone by, but it feels good to be somewhere that keeps me sober and cares for me. I know the outcome of this will be worth it in the end when I'll be release. It's good faith to live life positively, and I'm truly thankful for all the generosity; thankful that people are so willing to work with me and help me get through this and for them to dedicate their time to me and many others is truly appreciated by I, myself. I'm also really thankful to be so able to wake up and live a healthy day; to wake up and see a sober day, then live it absolutely positively. I have seen a difference in life today because of how productive I have been living since the day I've been here. There are other things that I am very thankful for. Those things would be my life, my birthday, sobriety, having a job, and for having people that care for me (staff).

FCGH HAPPENINGS

The kids had a great time carving pumpkins for Halloween.



They also had a very imaginative idea for serving dinner.

Recently Greg and Kathleen Jarvis hosted a tour of Raspberry de Light Farms and donated raspberries. The kids really enjoyed their visit.

The girls went to the Pumpkin Patch for a day of fun. There were lots of activities; they enjoyed the hay pit and hiking through the field to pick out pumpkins. It was also an educational trip because they saw several different types of pumpkins and gourds and learned how they grew and what was involved in running a pumpkin patch. The girls have been involved in walking and grooming the dogs at the Lander Pet Connection. They really enjoy working with the animals and giving back to the community. This is teaching them the responsibility that goes into owning an animal and the love of working with dogs.

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

The Lander Girls' home is badly in need of shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes. As you can imagine, we go through these items very quickly. They also need new stove-top cookware, an electric fry pan, and a casserole dish. All of these were purchased many years ago and are wearing out.

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR
CARING AND GENEROSITY**

Enclosed is my donation of \$_____.
I would like my donation used for (please mark one):

General support ____

Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Fremont County Group Homes, Inc. is
An equal opportunity provider

