



Digital Double H



March 2009

Volume 1, Number 2

In This Issue

- Interviews!
- Welcome Aboard
- Year-Round Position
- Development Updates
- Special Events
- Campers We Adore You

Staff and Volunteer Links

[Double H Facebook](#)

[Double H Staff Application](#)

[Double H Volunteer Application](#)

[Double H Year-round Staff](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Contact Us

www.doublehbranch.org

97 Hidden Valley Rd
Lake Luzerne, NY 12846
(518)-696-5676 phone
(518)-696-4528 fax

Employment & Program Questions

[Jacqui – Director of Operations](#)

[Kate – Camp Program Director](#)

[John –Assistant Director of Operations](#)

Interview Season has Begun!

Greetings from the Double H Ranch! Interviews are under way to build another amazing team for 2009. If you are interested in applying, please visit www.doublehbranch.org and complete an application. In-person and telephone interviews are available. If you have any questions regarding the interview process, please call Heather at x221.

Building A Strong Foundation for 2009



Returning staff bring so many skills to the ranch. Pride in the program, responsibility, dedication and the [ability to create a human pyramid while wearing sequins](#) comes to mind.

As a veteran of camp sharing the magic of Double H with a friend is so rewarding. Now it's time for us to thank you for all you do to build a great team. Starting in 2009, any current staff member who has referred a friend that we have hired will receive credit at the Double H gift shop. Refer 1-3 hires, receive \$20 credit. Refer 4-6 people, receive \$50 credit. Refer more than that, we will sell bobble heads that look like you in the gift shop. Just kidding.

C'mon, who doesn't love a double h magnet, sweatshirt or nalgene bottle?

Now get out there and recruit!

Thank You Evan

It is with great appreciation and sadness, that I announce that Evan will be officially resigning from her role as Volunteer Coordinator effective mid April. Evan has spent the past few years working effortlessly to improve the quality of life for our volunteers, while always advocating for the incredible children and families we serve. She will pursue her graduate degree this fall in Boston and also spend some time hiking through Spain this spring. I want to thank her for the tremendous hard work and commitment that she has displayed

[Chris \(Pezz\) – Program Associate](#)

Employment Application Questions

[Heather – Office Manager](#)

Volunteer Questions

[Evan – Volunteer Coordinator](#)

Medical Questions

[Emo – Nursing Coordinator](#)

Admissions Questions

[Tara – Admissions Director](#)

[Caroline – Admissions Coordinator](#)

For More Information

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during her time at HH. She will be missed, but the good change she brought to our volunteers will remain! She will hopefully continue to be a part of our summer experience in a different capacity, but I will keep you updated on this potential. Evan will assist me with the hiring process for this position and I will update our team as the process develops. Many thanks to Evan and please wish her well on her next journey!

Working year-round at Double H is a rewarding and challenging career. For questions regarding this position, please contact Jacqui Royael at jroyael@doublehbranch.org or at x225.

How You Can Help

- Post printed materials on campus or in your community
- Host the key team at your school for an information session
- Encourage your friends to visit the website www.doublehbranch.org or to call 518-696-5676 X223 to apply for 2009
- Bring a friend with you to volunteer for a weekend program. Make it happen by contacting Evan Priestley at volunteer@doublehbranch.org or at X241.
- Create a fundraiser at your school that names Double H as the recipient of the proceeds. Contact Kim Checchia in development for further details at kchecchia@doublehbranch.org or by dialing x239.

Welcome Aboard

The Double H Ranch Volunteer Department has been enhanced by the addition of Skidmore College intern, Alyssa Chrobuck!

Hello all! My name is Alyssa Chrobuck and I am a senior social work major at Skidmore College. I am here at the Ranch until May helping out Evan with all of the necessary work to ensure that we get the best volunteers possible! I am from Seattle, WA where I have lived my whole life until moving to Saratoga Springs. I've loved living up here but these winters are enough to drive me right back to my slightly drizzly, yet temperate hometown. I am just learning how things work around camp so please bear with me as I get my feet wet and begin to understand this place that you all hold so dearly. See you around the ranch!

Feel free to drop Alyssa a line or two at achrobuck@doublehbranch.org



Mark Your Calendar

Winter Weekends

Winter Weekend 3 February 19-21

Winter Weekend 4 March 7-8

Winter Weekend 5 March 21-22



Spring Weekends

Diabetes Weekend April 24-26

Bravehearts Weekend May 1-3

Autism Family Weekend May 8-9

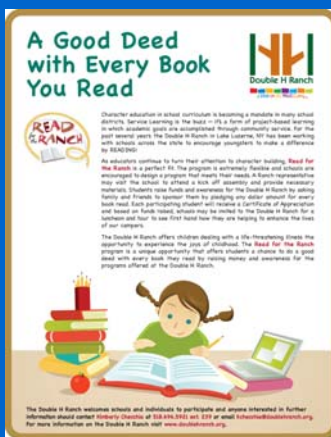
Cindy's Comfort Camp May 15-17



Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Evan Priestley to RSVP at volunteer@doublehbranch.org or at x241.

The Moment We Have All Been Waiting For...

The All New www.doublehbranch.org is set to launch Mid-March 2009!



**Be A
Development
Superstar!**

There are numerous ways that you can continue to help the Double H Ranch. One way is to help us to find funding for our \$3million operating budget.

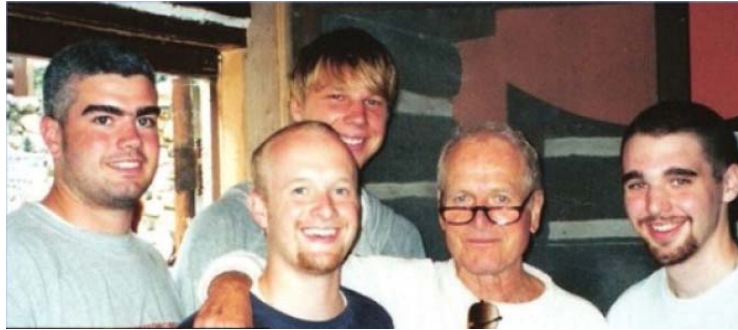
As you know all of our children attend our programs completely FREE OF CHARGE. The Ranch receives a majority of its funding from foundations and you might be able to help us out! Are you aware of any private, family or corporate foundations that are interested in funding children's organizations?

Types of grants that we are looking for are:

- Camper Scholarships
- Capital Needs
- Program Area Support

Contact Eileen at:
enash@doublehbranch.org

A Healthy & Happy Brotherhood



*From Left, Front Row: Mark Doyle, Kevin McCaffrey, Paul Newman, Brian Stevens
Back Row: Grant Sporny*

Paul Newman believed in the strength and influence of fraternity. As a Phi Kappa Tau, he fervently believed in the principles of youthfulness and of being a good citizen, as described in the fraternity's creed. This spirit is evident each summer, as Phi Taus from all over the country serve the Hole in the Wall Camps mission as volunteers and counselors. In 1998, Mark Doyle, RPI class of 2001 and proud Phi Kappa Tau brother, joined the staff at the Double H Ranch. The following letter details the impact that fraternity and many summers at the ranch had on who he is today.

I am extremely proud of my association with both the Double H Ranch and the Phi Kappa Tau brotherhood. They both have given me so much, and helped shape the person I am today. Through each, I have been able to meet, work with, and learn from some of the most generous and loving people on the face of the earth, staff and campers alike!

To tell you the truth, its difficult to separate being a Phi Tau from being a member of the Double H family. Phi Tau is part of the reason I came to Double H in the first place, and since then, my experiences through camp have played a very significant role in my growth and maturity. Being a brother in Phi Tau and knowing the rich history of service and philanthropy with the Hole in the Wall Gang was a source of pride for me. Being able to meet Phi Taus from all over the country took an amazing experience to the next level. Plus, I was also forced to remember the secret handshake that Kevin McCaffrey grilled me about the first time I met him, just to make sure I was a brother. Of course, I couldn't comment on being a Phi Tau without mentioning the man who made all of these blessings possible, brother Paul Newman. He remains an inspiration to me for his selfless attitude, generosity and genuineness. He brought a lot of people Health and Happiness. One of my favorite memories of camp was having a Phi Tau picture with Paul, Kevin, Brian Stevens, Grant Sporny, and myself (see above photo), and was honored when the photo ran in The Laurel's (Phi Tau magazine) memorial piece on Paul's life and legacy.

At the end of March, I will graduate with my lovely wife Ali - yeah camp love! from medical school. We feel very fortunate to have received a quality education from Ross University, yet I would be lying if I said Ross was the

only place that taught us what it takes to be an excellent physician. I am truly indebted to Double H for exposing me to aspects of medicine that you can't just read about in a textbook. For example, continuous reinforcement that it's not just the patient you treat, you treat the family, who are all an extension of the patient (or camper!). Also understanding that when a child left camp or a hospital, they didn't stop having an illness. Treatment and management has to continue out of your sight. Cabin Chats sometimes were not only tear-jerking, but very educational. The answer to the question what is your biggest fear from a kid with 1 or 2 years to live, or less, really tends to put everything into perspective. It taught me that someone may not say what you expect them to say, and if you want to know what a patient is really feeling, you need to talk to them, and more importantly listen.

As my 30th birthday is rapidly approaching (tear), I have been taking a lot of time to reflect on my turbulent 20s. One of the things that I take tremendous pride in is the fact that both Phi Tau and especially Double H have provided me with rich experiences, lasting relationships, life lessons and future opportunities. It has made me a better husband, friend, brother and son, and will go a long way in shaping the way I practice medicine. I feel blessed to have had such a wonderful and meaningful experience be so influential in my life, and am excited to know that it will never stop, that Double H will be in my life forever.

Health + Happiness,

Doyle

Your Relationship with Double H Can Last A Lifetime

No matter how many years removed some of us become from the ranch, the spirit and memories of our summers at camp stay with us forever. Many former staff members and volunteers wonder how they can remain involved with camp, while still balancing the important parts of their lives long after their days of cheering, splashing and making bonds at camp have ended.

The Alumni Association is a great way to stay involved with the future of the Double H Ranch. As an association member, you will have the opportunity to have your voice heard in regards to improvements, programming ideas, fundraising strategies, and the overall success of the services we provide.

We are looking for passionate and interested individuals in helping to co-chair this exciting committee. These individuals will help to assist Double H in the hosting of future alumni events and creating opportunities to build awareness of the Double H programs. Our goal is to keep that HH spirit alive in all of our communities long after our days of piggy back rides and cabin chats. To receive more information on future events and how you reach out to fellow HH alumni, please contact [Director of Operations, Jacqui Royael](mailto:jroyael@doublehranch.org), at jroyael@doublehranch.org or by phone at 518-696-5676 x223.



**Alumni
Association**

Campers We Adore You

This winter, the Double H family said goodbye to three beloved campers. Amanda Perotta, Matthew Klapp and Cooper Rieman will be missed, but their spirits live on here at camp each day.



[Video Tribute to Matt](#)



Cooper (seated) with his Beaver buddies in '08.



["Amanda's Journey"](#)