

The truth behind the top 5 misconceptions about the Double H Ranch

Misconception 1

Given we serve children with life-threatening illnesses, the Double H Ranch is a depressing place.

Truth: Again and again, our kids call the Double H Ranch 'the happiest place on earth.' Our winter program is often referred to as 'Disneyland of the North Country.' The families that come for spring and fall family weekends say



their weekend at the Double H is the weekend they most look forward to all year. Paul's Body Shop is a full medical facility, but it is most often used for distribution of medicines

and daily treatments. In the summer months we average 10 overnight stays by our campers in Paul's Body Shop. The majority of our children are outside taking part in summer camp activities, and at any given moment, you might forget that you are at a camp that serves children with life-threatening illnesses. The kids are upbeat; they are at their happiest—it's that normal.

Misconception 2

We are a seasonal summer camp and close up the facility for the spring, fall and winter.

Truth: We're incredibly busy in the summer with our nearly 1,000 campers. Summer camp is just one of the 3 programs we offer throughout the year. You've never seen a busier place than Charley's Chalet, nestled at the base of a mountain on-property any given Saturday morning 10:00am during the months of January, February or March. On an average 25 students, 30 family members, 50 volunteer instructors, 3 National Ski Patrollers, 2 volunteer lodge hosts and 4 staff members are working diligently on getting the students paired up with a qualified volunteer instructor, dressed and appropriately fitted with equipment, and out onto the chairlift and up the mountain. The concentration is powerful, and it all happens with an outpour-



ing of jokes, love, warmth and affection. There's nothing quite like it. Our spring and fall weekends are fully booked with 12 family retreats each year; alive with an average of 80 children and family members each weekend who look forward to coming to the Ranch to spend time with others in similar places as their own, be it having a loved one recently diagnosed with Cancer or a child living with a Bleeding Disorder. Annually we serve over 1,775 children and family members.

Misconception 3

You have to pay to attend camp, to ski or participate in a retreat weekend.

Truth: It is written in our mission established by Charley Wood and Paul



Newman 17 years ago—we will not charge for our programs and services. The children attend summer camp for free, the only thing we don't provide

them is transportation. The winter students and families ski, snowboard and snowshoe for free, and all equipment, facilities, meals, etc. are provided on Family Sleepover Weekends. The groups that we partner with to provide our Family-based Programs in the spring and fall are not charged. It's our mission. It will never change.

Misconception 4

We are financially sound and do not depend upon our constituency or community for funding.

Truth: Each year we begin with a blank slate, and need to raise every cent towards our annual operating budget, this year that number is \$3.1 million. You will note that nearly half of our support comes from individuals, then foundations (co-founders support—Charles R. Wood Foundation and Newman's Own reflected here), next corporations and local businesses, and finally, organizations, many being the schools that participate in our Read for the Ranch Program.

Misconception 5

he only way to give is by making a monetary donation.

Truth: A monetary donation in support of our \$3.1 million annual operating budget is just one way to give; there are so many others. Volunteering is one. Our 1,500 volunteers contribute over \$1 million worth of time annually to the Double H. Summer and year-round volunteer opportunities include nurses and doctors, cabin counselors,



volunteers in support of a specific program, i.e. Happy Barn (if you love animals!) or Arts & Crafts (if pottery is your thing). In the spring and fall, we welcome community

support in readying the facilities for the next season from local businesses, organizations, like the Rotary and Scout groups, and individuals. In the winter we are in need of ski and snowboard instructors, National Ski Patrol and lodge hosts in support of our Adaptive Winter Sports Program. Whatever your interest, we'll find a place for you. In-kind gifts and services are another way to give—donating an item off our Wish List or providing your business expertise and service—account for 13 percent of that \$3.1 million. Be an ambassador and share your story about the Double H Ranch to your family and friends.

SOURCE OF FUNDS BY CONSTITUENT
3 year average

