Our Board of Directors recently conducted a Board Retreat for the primary purpose of creating the framework for a vision plan that defines where we want to be in the next 3–5 years. We spent time identifying the challenges that face our organization and we devoted even more time to discussing the opportunities that exist for the Double H Ranch.

As the team leaders of the breakout groups reported back to the full Board, there were many consistencies in regard to the key priorities that we need to always keep in the forefront. Our Long Range Planning Committee will take the lead role in creating the vision plan for our organization. This plan will insure that we maintain the highest quality in every aspect of our work and delivery of program services. We will continue to nurture the key variables that distinguish our organization as a leader in the not-for-profit sector. Maintaining the strength of our leadership and providing our community and investors with enhanced means of quantifying the impact we are having in the lives of others will be a priority.

However, there is no doubt in our minds, that the greatest resource within our organization is the giving spirit of our volunteers. The “art of giving back” in its purest form is through volunteerism. Simply stated, the Double H Ranch would not be in business if not for the countless number of volunteers who share their time, passion, talents and treasures.

We are excited to see the growing number of volunteers supporting our efforts and so many of you come back year after year. As ambassadors of our organization, you capture the true essence of the Double H Ranch. “It is all about the kids.” We are truly blessed for the support that we receive from the medical community and so many organizations/groups that participate in our community workdays. We have incredible volunteer leadership at the Board level and with our uniquely designed programs. Our corporate partners are increasing and the next generation of leadership is recognizing the critical importance of volunteering to help those in greater need. Our volunteers represent one of the key ingredients to our overall success and they provide the foundation of support that will insure our future sustainability.

We thank you for supporting the legacy of our Founders and most importantly, our amazing kids.

Victor Hershaft
Chairman of the Board
Tel: (914) 273-5395
Email: vhershaft@aol.com

Max J. Yurenda
CEO/Executive Director
Tel: (518) 696-5676, ext. 224
Email: myurenda@doublehranch.org
Volunteering at Double H is an incredible commit-
tment. It requires you to give not only your time and
experience, but to give a little part of you to the chil-
dren and families we serve. It means seeing beyond
the scary reality of illness to the child who longs for
the opportunity to be a kid.

A Volunteer Gift: The Umholtz Family
For many, our favorite family memories conjure up
images of long-awaited vacations and family picnics,
but for the Umholtz family they spend much of their
summer vacations and free weekends together
volunteering at Double H.

For the past 6 years, Colleen, Joe, Alexis, Morgan
and Taylor have been a part of the Double H
community. They have given the greatest gift of
generosity as a volunteer; giving of themselves,
their time, skills and infectious humor to help en-
sure that every child and family left camp stronger.
Through their work, every family was given a sense
of love and acceptance that would stay with them
long after their camp experience.

Colleen first learned about Double H as a Clinical
Nurse Specialist at Albany Medical Center. In her
role on the pediatrics floor, she saw many of the
children and families we serve at their toughest
moments in life, as they battled the physical and
emotional effects of a serious childhood illness. In
the summer of 2009, she volunteered as a nurse
and brought her family along for the ride.

The Umholtz family instantly each found their own
place at Double H. When Colleen began volunteer-
ing at Double H it quickly become clear that she
had become so important to the families from the
hospital. Colleen was a familiar comforting face,
who understood just how important camp was to
help heal the emotional tolls of living with cancer.
“Body Shop” Joe has grown to become a beloved
invaluable volunteer in any season and in any situ-
ation. Whether it is greeting a family on arrival day
or helping staff and campers find their way on a
scary hospital transport to AMC, Joe is there. Since
then their daughters have gone on to work and
volunteer in all seasons of program. In addition to
the summer camp sessions, Joe and Colleen and
their daughters have volunteered for fall, winter
and spring family weekends, as well as fundraising
events throughout the year. They have instilled in
their girls the value of giving back and Double H is
eternally grateful for all they do. Each one epitomiz-
es the magic we all talk so much about at Double
H. They give selflessly with the hope that Double H
will continue to serve as a place of comfort and joy
for those children and families in need.
Pat & Dom Martino

Being a part of the Double H community makes us all better. The children, the parents, the staff and volunteers inspire us all to focus on the positive and enjoy each moment life brings. There are two special people woven into every season at HH, whether it be as a nurse, talent show performer, ropes course assistant, lodge host or family pal, Pat and Dom Martino make an incredible difference in the lives of not only our children and families, but to us all. Thank you to Pat & Dom for giving so much of who you are to make the magic of camp possible. We are forever grateful for their commitment, compassion and ability to just be a kid- jumping in puddles or wearing a tutu.
The magic at camp is real. It is a surreal feeling of acceptance and love that many describe after any time spent at 97 Hidden Valley Rd. There is no secret the children at camp have a laughter and love of life so powerful it makes you better because of the experience. But a key secret success to the story of our Double H is the 1,500 volunteers who make our work possible and help to achieve our goal of helpings kids to realize being sick doesn’t define the person they are. Over 500 volunteers in our summer program gave one week or more to help children. They gave not only their talent as a nurse, doctor, teacher, counselor, but their love and encouragement as a friend. Volunteers helped make bracelets, lead trail rides, run our Gift Shop, register campers, staff our fundraising events and through these efforts the magic at camp was possible. Our volunteer community gave over 50,000 hours of support, which equates to approximately 2 million dollars in services. The value of volunteerism goes well beyond a dollar amount, as these individuals are the smiling faces the children look for as each bus pulls away and the kind helping hand each family turns to as they arrive for their first family weekend away at a Double H family retreat. They are the people who fixed your sink in the dining hall and taught your child to ski in the winter. Our volunteers are priceless and because of them, Double H continues to serve as a place of peace and respite, when life for a child with a serious illness loses any and all sense of normalcy. Thank you to all of our volunteers for giving the gift of childhood back to so many!

We are indebted to countless volunteers who make our important work possible!
Adaptive Winter Sports Program Volunteers

The Double H Ranch is looking for volunteers for our Adaptive Winter Sports Program.

The following opportunities are available:

- **Ski/Snowboard Instructor** — Volunteer instructors personally commit to PSIA (Professional Ski Instructors of America) based certified training, and teach Double H Ranch students how to alpine ski or snowboard with the use of appropriate adaptive equipment.

- **Lodge Host** — Lodge Hosts greet families, serve hot soup and snacks, staff the gift shop, play with kids, and help maintain the cleanliness of our lodge.

- **Family Pals** — On Family Sleepover Weekends, volunteers are matched up with a family, and accompany the family through daily programming. These weekends give students, siblings, and other family members the opportunity to participate in winter sports together. After a day of winter sports, instructors head home, and Family Pals sleep over at the Double H to help facilitate evening activities.

Visit our web-site for further information: www.doublehranch.org

Are you looking for a way to give back?

Do you love to ski, snowboard and be in the great outdoors?
New Directors Elected to Double H Ranch Board

Three new Board Members were recently elected to the Board of Directors. Join us as we welcome Charlie, Maureen and Elizabeth to the Double H Ranch family of supporters.

Charlie Crew
Charlie is a resident of Lake George, New York. He is a graduate of Villanova University. His 30 year career at General Electric Plastics Division focused on Executive Management, Sales and Marketing. Most recently he is the retired President/CEO of SABIC Innovative Plastics & Executive Vice President of SABIC Company. His interests include skiing, golf, biking and global travel. Charlie is a member of the Board of DuBois Corporation; Advisory Council Member of Villanova University and advisor to Autism Speaks. CEO Max Yurenda says of Crew, “Charlie possesses the necessary skills to add value to our organizational structure and strategic planning process which will ultimately result in positive outcomes for our organization.”

Maureen O’Brien Donovan
Maureen is a resident and native of Albany, New York. She is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, BA and New York University, MA. Her career has focused on new business development and government relations. Since 2007 Maureen has served as the Director of Government Affairs for Motorola Solutions Inc. Maureen’s son Gabe was diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis at 6 months of age and participates in the Double H Ranch Adaptive Winter Sports Program and Summer Camp. Maureen currently volunteers for the Children’s Tumor Foundation Endurance Team and is a member of the Neurofibromatosis Foundation Coalition. CEO Max Yurenda says of O’Brien–Donovan, “Maureen brings great energy and passion to the Double H Ranch and through her resources she will open many new doors of opportunity for our organization.”

Elizabeth Matthews McCarthy
Elizabeth is a resident of Manhattan, New York. She is a graduate of Lafayette College with a degree in Business and Economics. Her career focus is asset management and she currently is serving in an Equity Marketing role at the investment bank Credit Suisse where she works as a Vice President. Elizabeth spent seven summers at the Double H Ranch, four as a full-time counselor and three as a summer volunteer. While in Manhattan Elizabeth volunteers at the New York Foundling Hospital and Make-A-Wish Foundation. CEO Max Yurenda says of Matthews-McCarthy, “Identifying the next generation of leadership for the Double H Ranch is an important task and Elizabeth possesses the key qualities that will make her an outstanding Board member for many years to come.”

Gabe Donovan
Children with serious illness are faced with a myriad of physical and social challenges often resulting in isolation from peers, loneliness and limited personal growth. According to an evaluation conducted by the Yale Child Study Center, children with serious illness who attend Double H Ranch, A SeriousFun Camp showed improved confidence, higher self-esteem, a greater sense of independence and increased interest in social activities. The study also revealed that children's stress related to their illness decreased as a result of the camp experience.

More than 250 families from 12 of SeriousFun's U.S. and European–based camps, including Double H Ranch, were surveyed before and after the 2012 summer camp experience, examining the impact of residential camps on the lives of children and their families.

Significant findings from the study include the following observations from parents of children that attended a SeriousFun Camp:

- 83% reported an increase in confidence;
- 80% reported an increase in self-esteem;
- 76% reported an increase in maturity;
- 74% reported an increase in independence;
- 72% reported an increased interest in social activities.

In addition, the data suggests that resilience indicators such as possessing positive coping strategies, illness-related stress and happiness, were higher or showed significant improvement following camp. “Developing positive adaptive abilities for dealing with challenges such as illness is critical, especially for children, for their personal growth, development, and building a set of resilience-promoting skills,” said Dr. Linda Mayes, M.D., professor and co-principal investigator, Yale Child Study Center, Yale Child Study Center. “Our work with SeriousFun points to the impact of the camp experience on fostering these resilience-promoting skills and facilitating children’s ability to develop and maintain more positive, social connections important to their overall health and well-being.”
Save the Date
To register for any of these exciting events visit our web-site at www.doublehranch.org

**Thursday, January 16, 2014**
*Radio-Thon*
Listen on Adirondack Broadcasting Stations
Froggy 107.1

**Wednesday, January 22, 2014**
*Tuscan Dinner*
Glen Sanders Mansion, Schenectady, NY

**Saturday, March 1, 2014**
*Family Fun Day*
Crandall Park, Glens Falls, NY

**Friday, May 9, 2014**
*Annual Charity Golf Pro-Am*
The Sagamore, Bolton Landing, NY

**Friday, June 27, 2014**
*Annual Gala*
Great Escape and Splashwater Kingdom, Lake George, NY

Follow us on: [Facebook] [Twitter] [YouTube] [Instagram]
Fundraising by Friends!

Become a ‘Friend’ of the Double H Ranch and help raise funds to achieve our mission! Each year Double H receives generous donations from events that are organized by individuals, schools, businesses and organizations within the community. The money and awareness raised through these events makes a difference in the lives of our campers and families.

Examples of successful fundraising events:
• Golf Tournament
• Dress Down/Up Day at school/work pay to dress down/up
• Dance-a-thon
• Garage Sale, book sale, bake sale, plant sale, etc.
• Auction of items or services
• BBQ, picnic, family fun day, tea party
• Walks, runs, marathons, motorcycle runs
• Carwash
• Sports Tournament (softball, volleyball, basketball, bowling)

Our staff will work with you to find the right level of event support, and make sure you have the resources you need to represent the Double H. If you would like to organize a Fundraising by Friends event, please follow the guidelines provided before beginning any fundraiser or event on our behalf.

For further information on how to organize an event for Double H Ranch call TJ, 518-696-5921, ext. 269.
“Camp has helped my son develop self-confidence, compassion, and leadership skills. He looks forward to working with camps and organizations like this as an adult. He has developed new interests outside of the TV and Games!”

“He came home saying that he’s no longer scared of being by himself sometimes when he has to be hospitalized. Being away from home from all his family and friends showed him that as long as there are people around that he can talk to he can always find/ have help when he’s sick.”

“FREEDOM. Opening up to others, not feeling like you are the only one ALWAYS taking medicine, ability to make new friends and look past all the difference. My daughters came home CHANGED FOR THE BETTER. AMAZING EXPERIENCE!!!!”

“Double H provided my daughter a safe, comfortable, and supportive environment to try new things.”
Campers say....

One thing I learned about myself at camp was....

“that I can be away from my friends and family and not be scared.”

“that I have a lot to offer people.”

“I’m a lot friendlier than I thought. (Meaning I made friends easier than I thought I would.)”

“I can do things I’m scared of.”

“I can be brave and do things by myself.”

“I actually don’t stink at archery.”

“I can do more than I thought possible.”

“I am different and that is a good thing.”
The Facilities “Fix-it Team”

The Double H Ranch’s facilities team is responsible for maintaining a 320 acre facility with 34 buildings that are residential; provide medical treatments; housing for volunteers and staff; special activities; office spacing; storage and mechanical functions. Most of the buildings were constructed in the 1930’s and the dedicated facilities team works throughout the year to maintain and improve the overall infrastructure of the Double H Ranch. Projects run the gamut from replacing windows and renovating bathrooms to upgrading electrical heating and cooling systems to ensuring safety and code compliance to assisting with events and even making snow and grooming trails throughout the winter months for our Adaptive Winter Sports Program. Below is a list of NEW items needed by our Team to help with the upkeep of Double H Ranch. If you are interested in donating any of these items please contact our Facilities Director, Conrad Fleischmann at 518-696-5676 ext: 240

2014 Facility needs

- Paint brushes (2” – 4”)
- Tape measures
- 9 and 13 watt CFL light bulbs (or LED)
- 4’T-12 40 watt florescent bulbs
- 4’T-8 32 watt florescent light bulbs
- Assorted sawzall blades
- Work gloves
- Safety glasses
- Shop Vacuums
- Leaf rakes
- Snow shovels
- Extension cords
- 6’ and 8’ and 10’ A frame ladders
- Screw drivers, wrenches and small hand tools
- Drill bits and drill/driver sets
- Work lights
- Table saw (shop)
This Holiday Season Give the Gift of Magic

A gift to the Double H Ranch is a great way to honor a friend, family member or co-worker. The recipient will receive a special holiday card.

This Holiday Season Give the Gift of Magic!
A gift to the Double H Ranch is a great way to honor a friend, family member or a co-worker. The recipient will receive a special Holiday Card!

As 2013 comes to a close we are able to reflect on the success of this past year and begin to plan for the year ahead. The leaves may be falling and snow just around the corner but we are already hard at work planning for an amazing New Year! We invite you to help us make memories that will last a life-time.

The essence of the Double H Ranch represents a little bit of everything good in the world. From the inspirational children who touch our lives in extraordinary ways, to the thousands of volunteers who give their time and talents, we are constantly reminded that those affiliated with our mission represent the core of our existence.

During this season of giving please consider making a difference in the life of a child by sponsoring one of our unique end-of-year opportunities. Your donation will help support our year-round programming and ensure that magic continues to happen here at the Double H for our campers and their families.

Wishing you Health and Happiness this holiday season!

Max Yurenda, CEO/Executive Director

Please visit the Double H Ranch’s website at www.doublehranch.org to learn how YOU can Give the Gift of Magic this Holiday Season.

Call the Development Office at (518) 696-5921 or email rdemattos@doublehranch.org or visit the Double H’s website at www.doublehranch.org.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Donation amounts reflect only a portion of actual costs

★ Sponsor a Family Programming Weekend $2,500
★ Sponsor Paul’s Body Shop $1,500
★ Sponsor Camper Transportation $500
★ Sponsor a Summer Counselor $400
★ Sponsor a Camper Cabin $300
★ Sponsor the Aquatics Program $200
★ Sponsor the Archery Program $150
★ Sponsor a Wish Boat $50
★ Sponsor a Snowflake $25

Double H Ranch
97 Hidden Valley Road
Lake Luzerne, New York 12846

The Double H Ranch is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.