



here she grows
2020 IMPACT REPORT

Our Mission

Garden Gate Ranch is a faith-based Christian organization providing safe housing and restorative and transitional services for sexually-exploited women and their children.

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Dear Friends,

We have so much to be grateful for amongst the challenges of 2020.

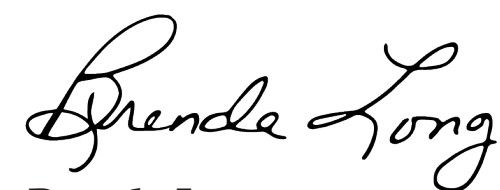
As you read this report, I invite you to celebrate with us all that GGR has experienced this past year as we worked for the love of each one. Enjoy the fruits of your labors of love—your every dollar given, item donated, and minute volunteered. Great is your reward!

Here are just a few things to celebrate with us: Our doors opened April 1st, 2020, and, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, we welcomed new staff, new residents, and new babies. Many new skills were learned by residents, including cooking, cleaning, laundry, crocheting, making apple butter, living with others unlike themselves, and growing to know the truth about themselves and their creator. Some saw the beauty of nature for the first time, realizing that God makes the most beautiful artwork of all each and every day—every sunset appreciated when it had never been noticed before. They experienced a tranquil environment that they didn't know existed and discovered that bees like flowers (a lot) and snakes like the warm sun in the courtyard.

We've had many laughs and many tears, many carefree moments, and many hard conversations. Through it all, we are all growing to become a better version of ourselves—residents and staff alike. Our residents have a new perspective of men, after experiencing the healthy, honoring husbands of our staff members, and now desire a godly relationship for themselves in the future. One resident was shocked that all staff were married and that some have been married to the same person for 30-50+ years. They see that the possibilities are endless when God is the foundation of all you do.

Your support has made such an impact on sex-trafficked survivors by bringing them to GGR. Your prayers continue to help them walk a new path of freedom, and your faithfulness will give them and those yet to arrive more hope for the future they can now start dreaming of. Enjoy their stories in the following pages, and know that each is possible because of you.

Sincerely & For the Love of Each One,



Brenda Long
Founder & Executive Director



“I don’t ever want to go back to the way I was living before...”

“I love it here. I’ve been to other places that are Christian, but I have never learned more about God than I have while living here. I love the staff, how everyone comes around you and just loves you and shows you how God works. I don’t ever want to go back to the way I was living before.”

- A Ranch House Resident

“God doesn’t make junk...”

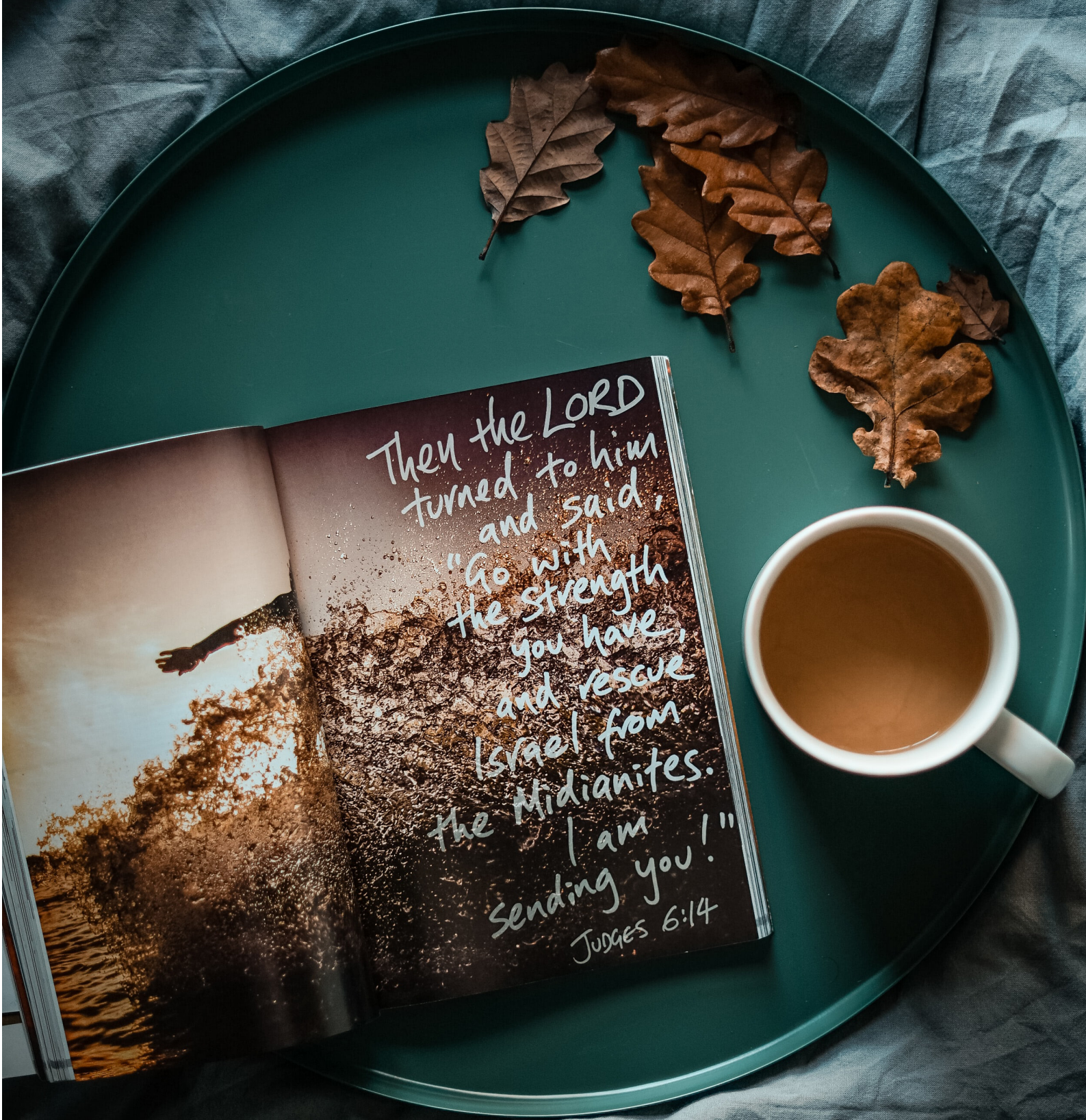
“I used to doubt God’s worth in me because of my ‘stuff,’ but the longer I’ve been here and I’ve grown in my faith, and not just heard religion, I’ve realized God doesn’t make junk.”

- A Ranch House Resident

Survivor Testimonials



Team Testimonials



“I love being a part of their protective team as God brings transformation...”

“Since starting at GGR, God has shown me that there is so much more to this ministry than a safe place for women to live. It’s a total transformation from the inside out! I can’t believe I get to have a front row seat as God peels back the layers of protection the women have built around themselves as a result of their traumas and abuse. God knows they won’t fully be healed until the inner core is reached. I love being a part of their protective team as God brings transformation.”

- Rachel, Direct Care Coach

“Working at Garden Gate Ranch has increased my faith...”

“Working at GGR has increased my faith as I experience God do the impossible. It has gotten me out of my comfort zone and helped me to be able to speak the truth in love. I’ve learned so much about God just by walking alongside these women as they study the Bible and go through book studies and devotions. I am forever grateful for this opportunity to partner with God and see lives transform—including mine.”

- Leah, Direct Care Coach



Prayerful Protectors

Garden Gate Ranch's ministry is founded on prayer and continually covered by a group of prayer warriors known as The Heard. Based on the way female elephants surround a sister in distress and kick dust into the eyes of predators, these faithful women kick up the dust of praise and supplication on behalf of each resident, shrouding her in God's faithful protection and thwarting enemy attacks. Every impactful moment of Garden Gate Ranch's ministry is ushered in by the Spirit through the power of prayer.

MINISTRY MILESTONES

OPENED THE RANCH HOUSE

After three years of research and planning, we officially opened our doors and began accepting survivors and their children.

APR
2020

RECEIVED A \$150K GRANT TO CREATE OUR EDUCATION CENTER

The Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc. awarded us a grant that fully funds the creation of our Education Center, scheduled to reach completion April 2021.

OCT
2020

Onward

MAR
2020

HIRED & TRAINED STAFF

We onboarded our Direct Care Coaches, who provide 24/7, strength-based, trauma-informed care. These same staff are still with us today!

COMPLETED THE HOUSE MANAGER SUITE

Our incredible volunteers transformed The Ranch House's basement into a separate home for our house manager.

JUN
2020

OBTAINED ECFA ACCREDITATION

We became an accredited ministry through the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

DEC
2020



Our Impact

Garden Gate Ranch's ministry is infused with Christ's transforming love and built upon a personal, strength-based, trauma-informed approach. Through a blend of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual care, mothers in this one year program are discovering a freedom that alters the trajectory of their lives, their children's lives, and the lives of generations to come.

IN HOME SUPPORT

THERAPY SESSIONS

NUTRITION & EXERCISE

PARENTING CLASSES

ACADEMIC TRAINING

SUBSTANCE USE COUNSELING

LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

PSYCHIATRIC CARE

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

PREGNANCY CLASSES

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

TRAUMA MANAGEMENT

RESIDENT GROWTH

■ Upon arrival
 ■ 2 months at The Ranch (of a 1 year program)

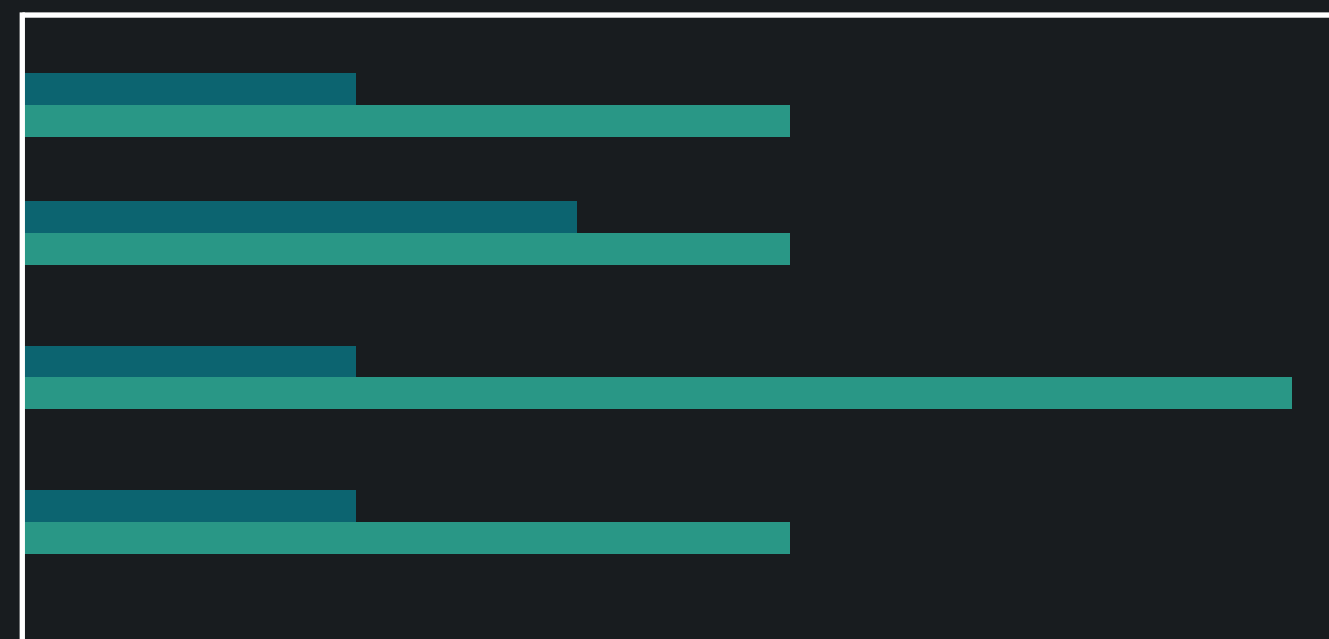
STRONGLY DISAGREE DISAGREE NEUTRAL AGREE STRONGLY AGREE

I feel positive about my life.

I feel my life has value, purpose, and worth.

I have the experience and knowledge necessary to be successful in the community.

I can overcome challenges.



*These statistics represent the responses of one resident and her growth from entering the program to only two months at The Ranch House.



According to the National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance's "National Practices Survey Report of 2017," the #1 reason among participating agencies for a woman to be declined from their program was that she had children in her custody. This accounted for 61.7% of the surveyed declines.

Garden Gate Ranch is one of very few homes in the United States that accepts both women *and* their children, filling a much-needed service gap.

Typically, ministries serving this population experience high turnover rates, but Garden Gate Ranch has been blessed to see the continued healing of every woman that has joined The Ranch House since its conception. Each mother continues to choose the hard work of healing, for the flourishing of herself, her children and the generations yet to come.

Letters from the Residents

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Sincerely,
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Dear GGR Supporters,

When I got pregnant, I didn't know what to do and I didn't want to believe it. I felt so lost and alone. When I found out I got accepted here, I felt so relieved. I've learned so much about God since being here. I can actually talk to staff about anything and not feel judged. I feel important for the first time in years! This is the first program I've been to where they show you grace instead of just kicking you out. I feel so at peace here and I love all their different personalities. We've cried together, sang together, ate together. They're like the family that I've always wanted and I actually fit in. I feel important for the first time in years! These women are so beautiful and unique. When there was no hope, they gave me hope. Thank you so much for your love and support.

Sincerely,
A Current GGR Resident

wink *wink* send all your chocolate ♡

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Dear GGR Supporters,

Many people have stated that 2020 was one of the worst years of their life. For myself, 2020 was just the beginning of my new life. 2020 started off with me being homeless and hopeless. I had isolated myself in my pain and didn't see any way out. When I found out I was expecting a child, I had already begun the search for a safe place to begin the healing journey from my traumas and unhealthy past. Garden Gate Ranch was one of very few programs accommodating pregnant women and children, and I am so grateful I was accepted into this program. Moving to Iowa was scary and took a huge leap of faith. I believe God brought together this uniquely qualified staff to love me until I became able to love myself, to walk beside me as I searched for a better relationship with Christ. Living at The Ranch House and focusing on myself, my family, and my future can be difficult, but I am blessed to have a safe space and loving support here at Garden Gate Ranch.

Love,
A Current GGR Resident

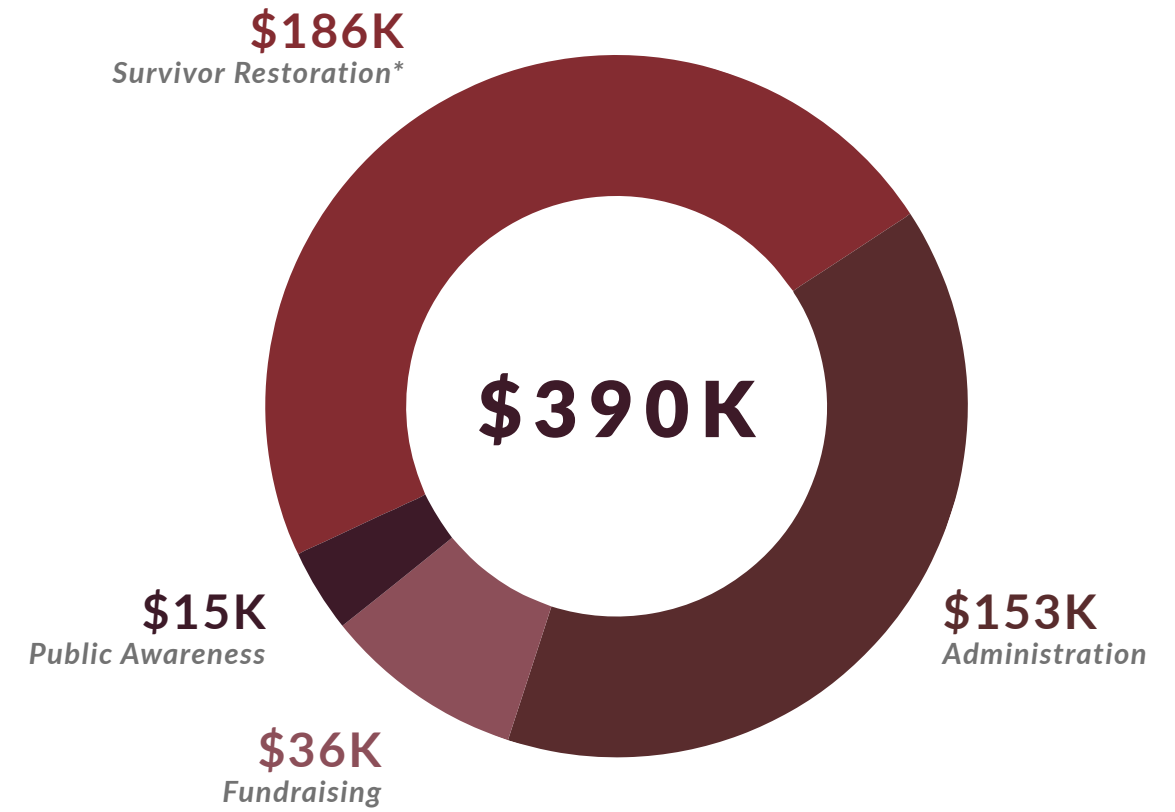
Financials

Garden Gate Ranch's ministry relies solely upon God's good provision through donor and community support.

Income and expenses are carefully tracked and planned by dedicated team members in order to make the best use of partner funds. Garden Gate Ranch is accredited for financial responsibility and stewardship through the Evangelical Counsel for Financial Accountability.

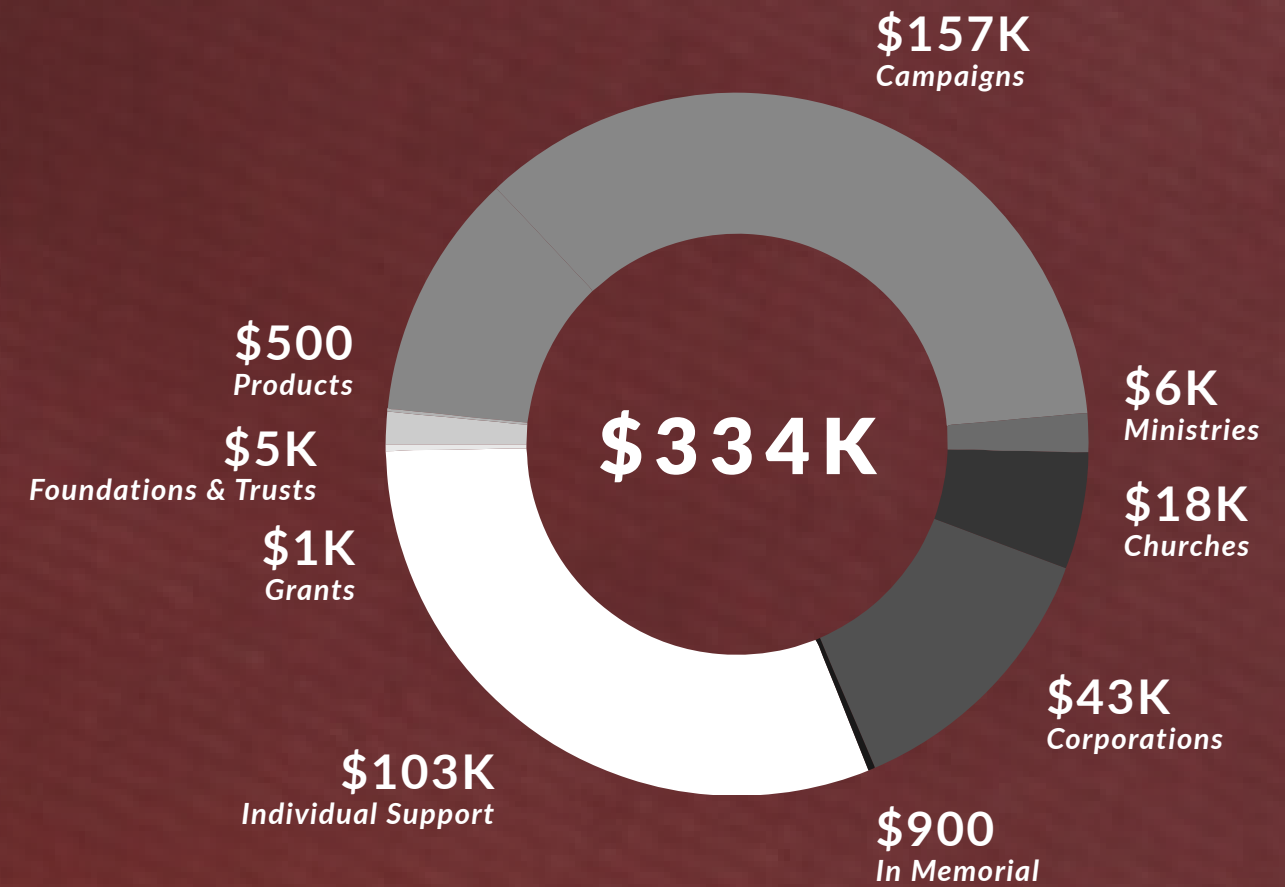


EXPENSES



In contrast to previous years, GGR experienced a net loss in 2020 due to Covid.
*Survivor Restoration funds cover April-December, 2020.

SUPPORT



In spite of every unforeseen obstacle of 2020, GGR remained able to open its doors and offer 24/7 care to women and children because of its remarkable partners.



Volunteerism

“While I’ve been a Christian for years, I’ll admit I’d fallen into the Western/American style of worship, where you attend church on Sundays, participate in a small group, do some prayer and devotion, and then get on with work, kids, bills, home life, extra-curricular activities, and the like. It was safe, and it was unfulfilling.

When I met Brenda, I saw a whole new approach to walking out my faith. Brenda’s relationship with God is not only inspiring, it produces results. Time and time again, I watched her get a vision, pray, and God showed up. I watched as she struggled with a decision or resources, only to have God show up. I couldn’t believe things were happening that (in my skeptical, small-minded brain) should *not* be happening.

Then I realized, I had God in a box. As long as I knew what the plan was and had a plan to make the plan happen, things were fine. But my faith was weak. Being a part of Garden Gate Ranch and watching God show up again and again has renewed my faith, deepened my own relationship with Christ, and allowed me to see what it looks like to really put my faith into action.”

- Barb, Volunteer

65

VOLUNTEERS

2,487

SERVICE HOURS



TRANSITIONAL COTTAGES

As Garden Gate Ranch's ministry and budget grow, 4 transitional living cottages will be added to the property, each a personal living space for The Ranch House program graduates. Here, each woman will begin reintegrating with society via work or school while maintaining the support of the coaches and counselors that she has come to trust. Multiple Ranch House residents have voiced their hopes of cottages ready for them upon graduation.

EQUINE THERAPY CENTER

As restoration work progresses, Garden Gate Ranch will add an equine center to its property in order to offer equine therapy to Ranch House residents. Horses are known to mirror the emotions of their human partners, providing therapy facilitators valuable insights into the inner workings of participants. This "mirror" aids introspection, giving both caretakers and resident the ability to name and understand the emotions within. The horses at The Ranch will be both challenger and friend, highlighting areas that need healing while loving each resident every step of the way.

Looking to the Future

"I've had the opportunity to meet with GGR residents since last summer. The work the Lord is doing through the staff at GGR is evident in every session with the women. God is showing Himself to the residents, wooing them, pouring his love out on them, and drawing them closer. I am humbled by a front row view.

This ministry is not just a job for the GGR staff and leadership. They live it. I have watched them weekly, for months. I can attest that the Lord is in this because He is truly in them. I have been overwhelmed by their kindness on so many occasions, I can't even list them all. They have been such a blessing to me during a year of hardship. Here I am, partnering with them to provide a resource for their residents, and they have sought me out and soothed a very weary and broken soul.

I praise God every time I pull into the driveway and look at what the Lord has done. I have been overwhelmed to the point of tears, some weeks, just looking at the home. What a constant reminder that the Lord is faithful to see through what he has called us to do!"

- Jessica, Substance Use Counselor



Get Involved

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

BECOME A PARTNER

JOIN US IN PRAYER

visit gardengateranch.com/get-involved

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CHUCK MELINE
BOARD CHAIR



BARB RANCK
BOARD MEMBER



CHAD RANCK
BOARD MEMBER



COLLEEN MORRISON
BOARD MEMBER



TERRY JOHNSON
BOARD MEMBER

Garden Gate Ranch Supporters,

When Brenda received the vision and call to start Garden Gate Ranch and fight sex trafficking, she asked my wife Judy and I to come alongside her and her husband Steve as they sought to fulfill the mandate. We have been close friends with the Long's for over 25 years and have learned to trust their walk with God.

GGR is one of very few non-profit, faith-based ministries in the U.S. that provides a safe environment for women with children and the opportunity to reenter society healthy and whole. We have an excellent group of staff who perform above and beyond what anyone could expect, as well as so many great volunteers. They are such a blessing to the call placed on GGR and to our residents, helping them to grow in the Lord.

We currently operate on a budget of \$450,000 and, with your help, have purchased a beautiful home on 14 acres with a large outbuilding, being converted into our education center. Our budget will grow to over \$1M very quickly, as we plan to build transitional living cottages on our property in order to provide continued safety and stability to our residents until they are ready to step out on their own. This year, we accepted women and their children into the home to begin their restorative journey. What a blessing!

We cannot thank you enough for your continued support in finances and prayer. We cannot accomplish what God wants done without your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles R. Meline".

Charles R. Meline
Chairman of the Board



Garden Gate Ranch

Garden Gate Ranch seeks to rally our communities to ensure that all women are free from exploitation and abuse.



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