



## How Great is the Need

This year marks 8 years ago that this journey began for me to work with young men that had little or no hope. When I joined our founder, Dennis Blake, it didn't take long for me to know that I was called to serve young men that needed to know that they held value. What stirred my heart when I started, and still stirs me, is when I hear the stories of young men living with no hope, being moved from one home to the next, living in abuse and neglect, and never knowing that they are seen, known, valued, or loved.

Even more heartbreaking for me though was that they believed that this was normal, ... No child, youth, or adult should ever believe that living in fear is normal, that living with depression or anxiety is average, that it's ok to constantly feel like you just exist with no value because everyone feels like that. How can we expect them to know this isn't normal unless someone stands up and tells them?

What excites me is making sure that our boys know that they are treasured, and we consider it our privilege to serve them and their families. We are not "stuck with them" because they are "bad". We choose them because they are loved. We have overwhelming evidence that what changes our young men's character is an interaction with Christ through our staff, mentors, and donors.

***"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19***

When we first started, it was exciting to get phone calls and applications as we had room. Now we are turning away an average of 3 families per week because we do not have the room. Every family I turn away breaks my heart ... This heartbreak has turned into motivation to open a second house ... A sanctuary to young men that need the safety, security, and a temporary home to heal from a lifetime of hurt. This second house will allow us to work with 6 more families. God has opened many doors for this project and we know He will continue. A few doors He opened are the 6000 sq ft house; a grant that allowed us to put a new roof on this house; and, a volunteer group that will be spending 8 days at the ranch to help with renovations. We know that God is working at FGBR, and we can hardly wait to open this house and start telling families, "Yes we have room".