

**HOWARD CIRCUIT COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

ROBERT J. KINSEY YOUTH CENTER

701 S. BERKLEY ROAD

KOKOMO, IN 46901

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Lynn Murray, Judge

Dustin DeLong, Chief Probation Officer

Connie Burton, Asst. Chief Probation Officer

Susan Zody, Director
Narrow Gate Horse Ranch
13205 S. 200 W.
Kokomo, IN 46901

07/20/2018

Dear Susan:

I am writing to express our heartfelt thanks for the wonderful program that you and your staff provide for our clients at Howard County Juvenile Probation. We have seen wonderful improvements in our clients that have experienced your program, and can assure you that we shall continue to utilize your services based on the outstanding changes we see for the children in our charge. Indeed, my colleagues and director are unanimous in their praise as well as their desire to send more children to your ranch.

There are three aspects of your program that particularly impresses our officers. First, the degree to which your staff genuinely cares about the children is inspiring. Your program does not provide a simple "day programming" staff, but provides staff with real concern for our clients, personal connections, and professional skills. There is not a "clinical" feel to your approach, but a sincere love that demonstrates a personal commitment to helping our children thrive.

Second, the use of horses to getting our clients to open up about themselves is a sight to behold. Our first group of clients were girls, some of whom present as tough and difficult to establish rapport with. From day one the girls formed a bond with each of their horses, which was utilized by the staff to get the girls to open up and share their difficulties. Each session with this group built confidence, team work, selflessness, and a desire to better themselves. The results were noticed by our officers, who quickly looked into sending more clients your way.

Most importantly, I am grateful for the changes that we observe taking part in our clients. It isn't every day that we hear our clients speaking excitedly about the changes they want to make in their lives. It is gratifying to hear our clients sharing about wanting to change their lives for the better, and it is something we rarely get to experience. The hope that is kindled in our clients inspires our staff (our staff, who have "seen it all"), and we very much want to see more of this. We have programs around the state that we utilize, but your program provides changes we seldom see and does so right here in Kokomo. I couldn't provide a stronger endorsement for the programming and staff that you provide.

I hope that you will use any portion or all of this letter to express our department's strong endorsement of your ranch. Our gratitude for your ranch can best be expressed by our desire to help you get the word out about the amazing work that you do. With this endorsement I want to extend a very heartfelt thank you from each of my colleagues.

Most Sincerely,
Karen Barnes
Karen Barnes, Juvenile Probation Officer