

Cedar Creek Cattle Company



Cedar Creek Cattle Company and New Beginnings Youth Ranch are changing the social landscape with their program for young people from around the Big South Fork area and Tennessee.

Taking a non-traditional approach to handling troubled teens and young adults; Mike Archambault and his Mom, Joan, are transforming today's youth by bringing them to the ranch, and allowing them to work with wild mustangs. Mike and his Mom have ground rules that all coming to live there have to abide

by. They believe in the youth, instill morals, and teach them about character, the value of hard work, love of the outdoors, appreciation of family and church with amazing results. Many of today's troubled teens are for the most part, the result of non-traditional home environments, neglect, abandonment, gaming (XBOX, video games, TV and internet) and hours upon hours of being alone with no social interaction. Playing outside is a thing of the past for most children as well as is sitting around a dinner table for a home cooked meal with their parents and family talking about the day's events. Most children, teens and young adults today spend more time in front of the TV, video games and the computer than they do in school and play time together. This is having an adverse effect on our children's health with obesity soaring in America and their emotional state being very fragile. Most teens act out in a cry for attention and love. This is evident at "New Beginnings", a program that Mike and Joan started several years ago. I "Annie" had the privilege of witnessing the tremendous effect that

love, faith, hope and hard work have had on these teens. After speaking to several of them, the general theme is that they thank "Mr. Mike" and "Grandma Joan" for taking them in, believing in them and teaching them the skills that they learned with the wild Mustangs that they each adopted. Each participant in the program is matched with a suitable wild mustang. These mustangs are their charge to care for and teach/tame. The children and the horses have a lot in common. Neither has learned to handle their emotions and often have anger and trust issues. Through the program, they both learn to trust, understand, and control their emotions. All of this positive energy will carry on for the rest of their life. One young man had been in 43 foster homes in a thirteen year period and had a lot of anger issues. Most of these teens come into the program when their parents and/or social services have given up hope. They have tried all the traditional programs and are on several drugs to "fix" the problems. New Beginnings believes in the power of "JESUS". They come off the medications, some cold turkey; some are weaned off and are put into a ranch/working family environment where all help to keep the ranch and farm operational. Mr. Mike and Joan do this as a labor of love, not for money. Most of the teens that live at New Beginnings come with just the clothes on their back and do not



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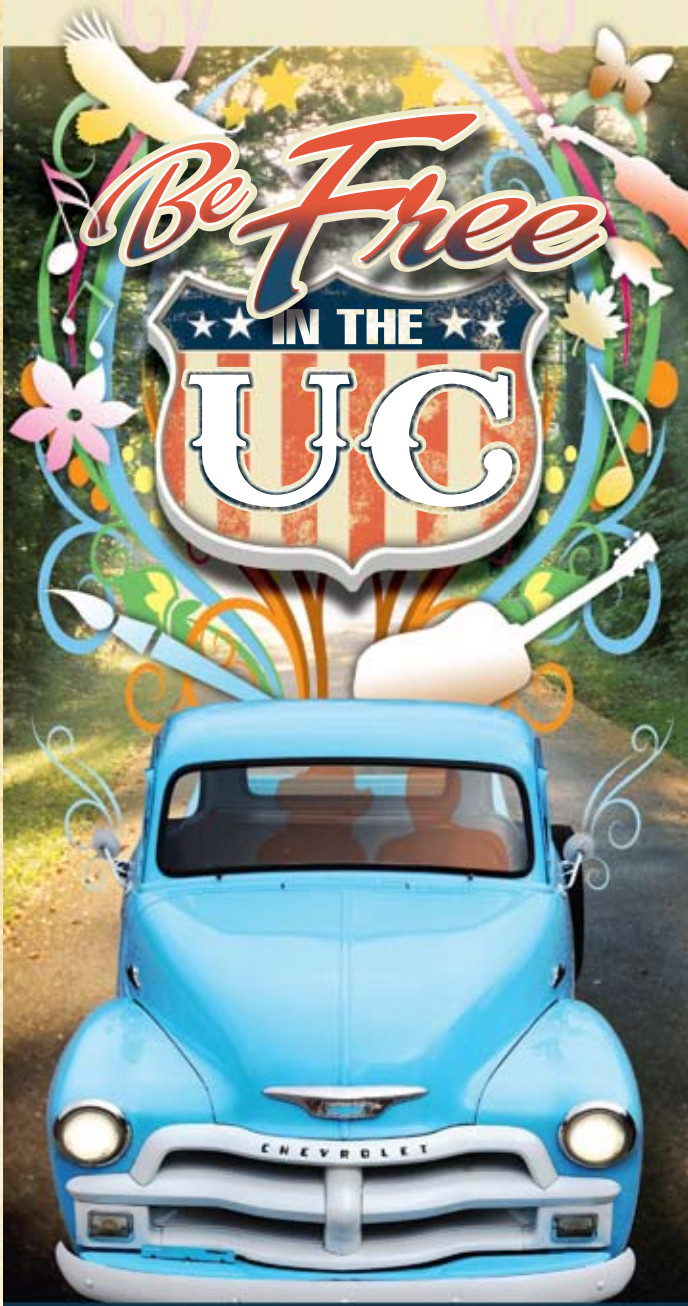
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pay tuition, due to financial situations. Shockingly, today there are over 2.3 million homeless teens or teens that really don't have anywhere to call home. New Beginnings is "home" for these teens. They learn social skills, the power of hard work, respect, compassion and patience, and the beauty of having a loving family with unconditional love from Mike, Joan, and the Lord. Mike and Joan moved into the Big South Fork area many years ago to operate their Black Angus cattle breeding facility. The project was larger than they anticipated, causing a need for horses to help in maintenance. Then, Mike started giving riding lessons, breaking horses and taking folks out on trail rides. There are many trails that lead out from Cedar Creek Cattle Farm and New Beginnings. These days, the ranch kids from New Beginnings all help in saddling up horses, keeping the horses groomed and their stalls clean, and helping "Mr. Mike" with the guests that want to ride, learn how to ride and have a great day out on the many groomed trails that meander through the woods/forest, along creeks and over rivers. The young people love being a part of the New Beginnings "family".

Mike's biggest regret is that he cannot take in more teens, due to space restrictions. He hopes to raise enough money to build a bunkhouse for ten more teens in the near future. If you feel led to this ministry or would like to learn more about New Beginnings, contact Mike Archambault by phoning him at 931-260-1650, or visiting their website at www.cedarcreekcattlecompany.com or www.newbeginningsyouthranch.com. Give teens a chance by teaching them old-fashioned, tried and true skills that seem to have been forgotten with the new technology and the ever changing global world. I believe there is a saying that "Less is more" and this is a perfect example of how these teens have flourished with less materialistic things and more of the simple things in life. Hard work, good meals, lots of unconditional love, family and God.

