

The Mission of Eagle's Wings Retreat Center is to serve Catholic and other Christian Youth

# Eagle's Wings

And to provide a Christ centered retreat facility and environment.

Volume 2 Issue 4

December 2006

## From the Desk of Katie Haffner President



Eagle's Wings has reached another milestone within our organization as we make a change of officers on our board. I'm happy to announce that as of January 2007, Joe Noonan has accepted the leadership role as President of the Board for Eagle's Wings as I move to the Vice President's position. This change has caused me to reflect on all that has been accomplished during Eagle's Wings' three year existence. It has also caused me to dream. **I would like to share my dreams for Eagle's Wings with you.** I dream of the day when more than 40 of our youth can come to Eagle's Wings Retreat Center to develop a closer relationship with God. I dream, that if money were no problem, we would build the main campus so as many as 200 youth could experience God in nature and in each other at Eagle's Wings. I dream they will have buildings to sleep in, a dining hall to eat pizza in, a meeting hall for performing crazy skits, a swimming pool to cool off in the heat of the summer after playing on the ball fields or in the sports pavilion, and a chapel to pray in, and for our Catholic youth, a place for them to receive the Eucharist. Since I'm dreaming, I'll keep going. I want to see an endowment fund so all youth groups can afford spiritual retreats regardless of their economic status. I am confident that the team of people that are already involved, plus the future team that God is sending, will carry out these dreams. Finally, I dream that youth and adults that come to Eagle's Wings will experience the love of Jesus and others. My wish for all of you is that Jesus be the reason for your Christmas season.

*Katie Haffner*

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## Main Campus Construction Update

One of our first steps in the construction of the Main Campus is the entire infrastructure needed for the main campus including water, waste water, roads, site prep and electrical. The Engineering Team is completing all the infrastructure design. The first week of December saw the very first real building activity on the main campus. Bruce Matous, who is a big supporter of Eagle's Wings, donated the Waste Water Treatment Plant and has started construction of the site that will eventually be our waste water plant. This is a fantastic step in our journey to create this wonderful place for our youth to enjoy and grow in their faith. As soon as we get the infrastructure installed then we can start adding buildings one at a time and just hook up to the system. Thanks to Bruce for making this first step a reality. A few more angels like Bruce and this first phase will be done and ready for buildings.



Matous Construction delivering heavy equipment to start on Waste Water Treatment Plant

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## Eagle's Wings Dinner & Auction

The Benefit Dinner & Auction was held October 28<sup>th</sup> at St. Thomas More. About 120 people from around the diocese attended the fund raiser for Eagle's Wings. An auction was added this year which was very well received and helped us raise nearly \$21,000 for the event. Fr. Joel McNeil from St. Williams in Round Rock was our auctioneer. He made the auction exciting and fun. Karen Lawson entertained us with her music. A big thank you to all of you who donated items for the auction as well as those of you that sent donations and attended the dinner. Also thanks to all the teens that were our servers again this year, your involvement made the event special.



Fr. Joel auctioning off a meal donated by Msgr. Elmer Holtman

## Eagle's Wings Volunteer of the Year

*By Katie Haffner*

A new tradition was started at this year's fundraiser. We are always saying at Eagle's Wings "We need more volunteers like Joe Noonan." So it seemed natural for us to create an award, thus the name **The Joe Noonan Volunteer of the Year Award**. The first recipient of this yearly award was none other than Joe Noonan himself. The award reads "Volunteer of the Year 2006, presented to Joe Noonan for being a living example of the gospel through his giving of time, talent, and treasure." *"Being the recipient of this award is a special treat for me but the real award is seeing our youth get closer to God."* Joe Noonan



Katie & Curt Haffner (left) presenting the Volunteer of the Year award to Joe Noonan with wife Melinda to his right

## Western Deanery Youth Rally

*By Chris Kubicek*



Fr. Gregory McLaughlin & Fr. Alphonse Anthony celebrated mass

On November 12, 2006, Eagle's Wings Retreat Center hosted the Diocese Western Deanery Youth Rally. The theme of the day was "Giving from the Heart". During the day 220 youth enjoyed live music, a mime and organized games. The day included hayrides, sand volleyball, guided meditation walks, and a talk on stewardship and making rosaries for the Kids 2 Kids mission in Guatemala. Canned goods were brought to feed the hungry. The day ended with a mass at the outdoor chapel followed by a hamburger dinner.

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## Father/Son & Brother Retreat



*Group at Marian Grotto*

### *Letter from Joseph Pearson*

Dear Curt,

Thank you and the other Eagle's Wings volunteers for putting together and giving the Father, Son and Brother retreat on the weekend of September 30<sup>th</sup>. As a father, this was a very special moment to share "faith" with my son.

For the fathers, sons and brothers on the retreat, all the activities were an uplifting and inspiring message for us to live up to the calling to be "Christian men." The presentations and reflective activities were insightful and delivered extremely well. Mass on Saturday evening with Monsignor Elmer Holtman was very cool – it was great to hear all those male voices bellowing out in song. Everything, from the beauty of Eagle's Mountain and the Stations of the Cross, to the great food, campfire chat and play time (football, frisbee, etc.) inspired all of us to fellowship each other and to a closer relationship with Jesus.

It was such great experiences that I hope you plan to do this again soon for other families of Christian men – and women too.

*Contact Curt or Katie Haffner if you are interested in putting on a Father/Son Retreat for your parish. Phone: 512-715-0017 or email:*

[Katie@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org](mailto:Katie@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org)

## Stage under Construction



Volunteers adding the roof to the stage

An outdoor stage is being built in the field where we held Godstock last year. It was decided, that instead of renting a stage, we should build a multipurpose structure that can be used throughout the year. Many volunteers from St Helen's, St Thomas More, Our Mother of Sorrows and 1 volunteer all the way from New Hampshire worked many hours building the stage. It will be ready for the next Godstock.

## Save the Date for Godstock

Speaking of Godstock, this very popular event has been scheduled for April 21-22, 2007. Parishes will be getting their packages after the first of the year.

## Ironmen Retreat Oct.28/29th



Ironmen from St. Luke's in Temple.

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## IRA Distributions Directly to Charity

If you're age 70 1/2 or older, you can now make a "qualified charitable distribution" of up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to a qualified charity. These qualified charitable distributions are available for tax years 2006 and 2007, are free from federal income tax and satisfy your required minimum distribution from your IRA for that year. Please consult with your CPA.

### Donations

Your donations are tax deductible to Eagle's Wings a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Convenient ways for you to make donations are:

1. Checks sent to Eagle's Wings
2. Credit Card (contact us at 512-715-0017)
3. Pay Pal on the website
4. Automatic Payments from your account (we need to send you the forms)
5. Stock & Securities – you save because you don't need to pay taxes on the capital gains.
6. Bequests

Newsletter Editor: Joe Noonan

Eagle's Wings Retreat Center  
PO Box 248  
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## Wondering what Eagle's Wings would like for Christmas

\$5000 for a new water well  
or anything on the list below

### WISH LIST

#### Small Items

- Park Benches for the outdoor stations of the cross
- Tree Loppers, heavy wire cutters, pitchforks, wheelbarrows, hammers
- Large canopy tents (like a revival tent)
- Three - 50 or 65 gallon water tanks for camping areas
- Lumber to fix warped picnic tables
- Picnic Tables (plastic) available at Sam's
- Large 16 ft. wooden cross for top of Eagle Mountain
- Gutters for Eagle's Nest & Bunkhouse

#### Larger Items

- Hay Wagon
- 2500 gallon black water storage tank to replace current 1500 gal tank at Eagle's Nest
- Lumber for deck at outdoor chapel

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