

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 1 Issue 4

December 2005

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !*  
May this Advent season bring renewed hope to  
you and your family.  
*Your Eagle's Wings Board of Directors*

## From the Desk of Katie Haffner President



### Greetings from Eagle's Wings,

We have begun our major capital campaign fund called **Wings of Faith 2006** to raise money for the building of the main campus. In less than two years we have been blessed with enough talent and treasure to accomplish an operational retreat center. We now have



two buildings that will sleep and meet 40 – 50 people. The Stations of the Cross and the Marian grotto have been favorites of the twelve retreats that have already taken place at Eagle's Wings. Please take note of the word **"WE"** in this article. **"WE"** means over 200 volunteers who have physically put their sweat equity into Eagle's Wings. **"WE"** means over 200 donors who have given monetary donations. **"WE"** is the engineering team who are finalizing the master plan for the main campus. **"WE"** are all those people who are praying and are making Eagle's Wings Retreat Center into a reality.

As we enter into this major fundraising program, our focus will be what we can **GIVE** to you – a youth retreat center. This retreat center will be where youth can be lifted up to escape a very challenging world. Currently our secular society is bombarding our youth with impure and sinful images. Families are struggling. Our youth are being challenged with the ever present temptations of drugs and alcohol. A retreat center will aid our youth in coping with these challenges. Youth will flourish with the graces of God from their experiences in the retreat setting to be better equipped to dodge the arrows of society and to be able to stand the test of time. We are hoping you choose to pledge to Eagle's Wings and in turn we pledge to you a youth retreat center. I invite you to participate in the Wings of Faith 2006 Fundraising campaign.

## Wings of Faith 2006

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find a pledge card. If you are already pledging, we thank you. In addition we are also asking you to become a disciple for Eagle's Wings. If each one of you could reach another person and tell the story of Eagle's Wings we will be enlarging our **"WE"**. Specifically, here are some of the ways you can help the ministry of Eagle's Wings. Seek those who feel passionately about youth. Bring or send them to Eagle's Wings so they can experience this environment. Then they can choose how they can best serve this ministry. They might choose to give monetary donations. They might want to serve on our board or a fundraising committee. They may carry the message of Eagle's Wings to other churches so these churches can utilize the retreat center. If we each touch one more person, the **"WE"** will grow and the vision of Eagle's Wings Retreat Center will become a reality.

Faith has brought us this far in our endeavors. As the Wings of Faith 2006 Campaign begins, we are trusting in God and taking another leap of faith that even more people will answer the call to build a youth retreat center in central Texas. Please prayerfully consider helping us grow the **"WE"**.

*Katie Haffner*

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## Eagle's Wings Fundraiser

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> over 100 people attended a fundraising dinner at St. Thomas More in Austin to kickoff our **Wings of Faith 2006** capital campaign. There were 8



parishes represented from several central Texas cities. A lot of fellowship and good food was followed by talks from the Eagle's Wings Board in regards to the current activities and the capital campaign drive to raise the money required for construction of the main campus. This fundraiser was put on by the newly formed Eagle's Wings Ministry at St. Thomas More and was quite a success.

## Bunkhouse Completed!



Bunkhouse with nice bunk beds and thick mattresses!

The bunkhouse was completed on the morning of October 1, 2005 just as the bus from St. Luke's Keysis

group drove up for a weekend retreat. Just in time!!!! Doug Weisbruch the Youth Minister from St. Luke's in Temple brought 44 teens/adults into our new facility. The new bunkhouse provided the extra space required to sleep the additional people in this group. The bunkhouse can sleep 22 people and has 2 restrooms with showers and toilet facilities. For reservations: Contact Curt or Katie Haffner at 512-715-0017 or email: [Katie@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org](mailto:Katie@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org)

## Eagle's Wings Quote Corner

*"Coming into this Keysis retreat I had heard that it was supposed to be pretty emotional. I was a little skeptical but what I found on the weekend was a realization that God was there. There were signs everywhere that showed me that this is where God wanted me to be."*

## Western Deanery Youth Rally

By Curt Haffner

The Western Deanery Youth Rally was held at Eagle's Wings Retreat Center on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The theme was **Faith Feeds** and over 100 youth from parishes in the Western Deanery attended. The program began with singing and a presentation on "missions" in Guatemala. The youth then broke into groups. The middle school youth decorated gift boxes and then filled them with canned goods and other food items. These boxes



were then presented and blessed at the mass held in the outdoor chapel at Eagle's Wings and will be distributed by the youth groups to the needy at their own parishes.

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The high school youth had a tee shirt design contest based on the theme and the mission presentation. The winning tee shirt design was developed by Alisa Rodel, Liz Cardona, Jason Guenther, Jesus Silva and Beatriz Delahoya. The t-shirt design is being sent to Maria and Norm Kaesberg with the Kids 2 Kids program and will be imprinted on tee shirts for youth in the villages they serve in Guatemala. Congratulations to these teens!



Fr. Harnan from Lampasas celebrated mass with the teens.

A mass was held after these activities at the outdoor chapel and dinner was served after that. All in all it was an afternoon of fun and faith sharing or as one young person put it---"way cool"!

## Teen Corner

By Emily Payton

When I first went out to work at Eagles Wings my freshmen year, I had some pretty selfish motives. I only went to get my service hours for confirmation. Now I'm not a morning person at all, so there I was groggy and grumpy, not looking forward to getting in the carpool to leave to go to Eagles Wings. I think it is funny looking back thinking how I used to dread going, and now I want to go back and work at Eagles Wings.

Physically I haven't changed much since freshmen year, but spiritually I've had a major growth spurt. Since that one Saturday working at Eagles Wings my freshman year, I have gone back many, many, times and I love it. I love the feeling of seeing your Saturday afternoon of work turn into something amazing like a bunk house, or a picnic table. I love how, as a community, we are getting things built and accomplished.

I remember Eagles Wings when it was just a plot of land full of cactus waiting to get dug up, tree branches waiting to be trimmed, and land to be cleared so we could use it. We have come a **long** way since then. The outdoor chapel that I once worked on is completed, the Stations of the Cross is completed, Meditation Mountain (last time I left it) was nearly done, and my proudest achievement, Eagles Nest (the main cabin my Godsister and I helped wire), is completed! I love knowing that ultimately it isn't just *my* faith that is growing. I know that by building this Catholic Retreat Center hundreds of other teens and kids will be able to use Eagles Wings for retreats to enhance their own faith.

Our youth are incredibly lucky to have a retreat center that is Catholic in every sense. Now the youth will have a Catholic retreat center so they can pray the Rosary, see the Crucifix, walk the Stations of the Cross, and more prayers and activities that I ever got to do at a regular retreat center.

Having worked to make Eagles Wings happen for the past almost three years, I wouldn't dream of not going out to Eagles Wings. I am overjoyed to have the privilege to work on such an amazing project and I pray that other teens have enjoyed the experience of working on Eagles Wings as much as I have. And I thank everyone who has contributed to the making of this retreat center, because without all of you, I would have never found so much joy in working on this amazing project.

## Service Project Day at Eagle's Wings

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month has been set aside as our Service Project days at Eagle's Wings. Other Saturdays can also be scheduled but this way we have a scheduled day that everyone can plan for. Here's a sample of what we have done in the past couple of months: Worked on the Stations of the Cross path, built a fence around the Volleyball court, built trails up Meditation Mountain, painted the Bunkhouse and built benches for the Marian Grotto.

Note: **No** Service Project Day is planned for December.

If you need further info contact Joe Noonan at 512-259-3745, [joe@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org](mailto:joe@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org) or Curt Haffner at 512-715-0017, [curt@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org](mailto:curt@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org)

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the development of our Master Plan.

## **JOIN THE CLUB!**

By joining the Eagle's \$1,000 Club:

- You and/or the memorial name of your choice will be listed on the Eagle's Wings Retreat Center web site
- You will receive invitations to openings, dinners and special activities
- Most importantly – your contribution will build a place for the youth of Central Texas

Our initial goal is to get 200 registrations in the “club” and our long term goal is 1000. Join on line at [www.eagleswingsretreatcenter.org](http://www.eagleswingsretreatcenter.org)

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Eagle's Wings Retreat Center  
PO Box 248  
Burnet, Tx 78611

**Wish List:** Smaller Items: Outdoor furniture such as picnic tables, chairs, benches, swings, folding lawn chairs  
Larger Items: 4 Dorms, dining hall, chapel & swimming pool  
Contact Curt or Katie Haffner at 512-715-0017

## **Donations**

As we fast approach the end of the year don't forget that your donations are tax deductible to Eagle's Wings a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. We now have several ways to make donations for your convenience:

1. Checks sent to Eagle's Wings
2. Credit Card (contact us at 512-715-0017)
3. PayPal 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.

**Please help by donating today!**

**Note:** The Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 (KETRA) could benefit your tax liabilities through charitable giving. Check with your tax advisor.

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Editor - Joe Noonan