

EAGLE'S WINGS NEWS

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Didn't Take Much Convincin'

by Steve & LeAnn Powers

We didn't know what to expect that first visit to Eagles Wing's Retreat Center (EWRC). Five years ago we drove through the entrance, down & up that winding gravel road, and ended up at Eagle's Nest. We were struck by the serenity, the simplicity and the open spaces. (Obviously it was a day without retreats!) One of the first things we noticed was the Stations of the Cross and wondered out loud if the youth that attended the retreats here truly understood the significance of this. One simple building AND the Stations of the Cross!

Didn't take much convincin'.

Then three years ago we were asked if we would consider expanding our "somewhat spotty" financial support of EWRC and make a multi-year pledge for the Phase II Building Campaign. We did!

Didn't take much convincin'.

A year or so passed and we made

another trip out to EWRC. The road in didn't wind anymore and our tour around the place revealed the addition of two dormitories and a large dining hall. And hidden on a little path around a small bluff was a cross, surrounded by rocks and the perfect sized boulders that begged us to sit, reflect and pray.

Didn't take much convincin'.

So a few months ago, when we learned of the Mabee Challenge Grant to EWRC for the Phase III Construction we wondered aloud and pictured this in our minds: Thousands of teens making a retreat at EWRC, reflecting at the cross, praying the Stations of the Cross AND CELEBRATING MASS IN THE CHAPEL!

Didn't take much convincin'.

We didn't need anyone to call, write or ask us this time. We knew that we had to once again make a financial pledge to EWRC.

Didn't Take Much Convincin'

Research shows that people don't

give to a cause because they haven't been asked. Well...consider yourself asked! There are a lot of great causes in this world. And it is often hard to choose. But whether you have had teenagers, will have teenagers, or even if you will never have teenagers, you simply CAN NOT disagree with the fact that we need to provide the opportunity for our teens to grow closer to God.

Didn't take much convincin'.

Please – make a one-time gift. Or a 1 year pledge. Or a 2-3 year pledge. Your support will help EWRC receive the \$150,000 Challenge Grant! Because we feel that the work of EWRC is so important, we have made a new 3 year pledge.

Didn't take much convincin'.

WILL YOU JOIN US?



Chapel Construction Progress 9-22

+ CONVINCIN' YOU =



Architects Drawing

What's So Important About Youth Retreats Anyway?

In 2002, the Center for Ministry Development and Saint Mary's Press, in collaboration with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, conducted a national research project to find out what was really working in youth ministry. Our discoveries are collected in a book called *Effective Practices for Dynamic Youth Ministry*. This study used the qualitative research method. We gathered youth and adults in 13 locations throughout the country. These youth and adults belonged to parishes that were chosen because they were doing good youth ministry. We also talked with parish staffs from some of these parishes. The goal was to hear their stories and find out what they were doing that was working. The role of retreats in transforming youth and youth ministry was one of the major findings of this study. Youth, adult leaders, and parish staffs all named youth retreats as important, transformative, empowering, and for many, a key to their success. The following are some of the key things that were said about retreats, and some quotations from participants:

Findings from Youth Participants in the Study

• **Finding:** Retreats (including mandatory ones) often serve as an entry point leading to deeper relationships with God and others. **"Basically I was probably a sophomore when I accidentally ended up on this retreat that I thought was the confirmation retreat and it wasn't. My mom drove me up**

and we had already paid so I was like, okay, I guess I will go. That was the experience of a lifetime. Suddenly my faith was so much more real for me. I really became like a part of our family."

• **Finding:** Retreats are an important, in-depth community building opportunity for youth. **"You wish it were a little bit longer. Everyone was like, We just started getting together. We just started talking." I was like, "Dang. is it time to go already?"**

• **Finding:** Retreats are unique opportunities for young people to draw closer to God through moments of prayer, study, community, and personal reflection. **"On retreat ... we did a lot of faith building activities and a lot of fun things and I also got to spend some time outside visiting with God and myself and just getting to know myself better and it was incredible. It was a definite "growing closer to God" time in my life."**

Finding from Adult Leaders in the Study

• **Finding:** Youth retreats build community, make faith tangible, involve young people in leadership, and provide a significant faith experience. Retreats have a long-term impact on individuals and groups. **"I have been in my parish long enough now that I've got kids coming back as adults who were on the retreats and say what a difference it made in their lives. Parents will call and say it really helped my young person**

get through the things going on in their life." **"You can address all the good points-you can do good liturgies and do good inter-relational stuff, and there's opportunities for leadership and opportunities to serve, so you can just wrap them all in this package with a small faith groups."**

Finding from Parish Staffs in the Study

• **Finding:** Retreats and trips to Catholic youth events build Catholic identity, connect, empower, and touch even the most difficult teens, and energized both adults and teens and keep them coming back. **"The retreats are huge and successful, and empowering, and connecting, and they grab even the most difficult kids. "**

Deadline Nearing For Brick Program

Construction on the Chapel is progressing nicely and it is almost time to order bricks for the sidewalk/patio area.

A \$200 contribution qualifies for a brick to memorialize or honor a loved one or a special occasion.

This could be a lasting memorial to someone special, a tribute to the birth of a child or grandchild, the date of a wedding, or some other special tribute.

For more info or to download the order blank please see:

<http://ewrc.org/Brick%20orderblank.pdf>

Crosstraining... Diocese of Austin



Mabee Foundation Challenge Grant Deadline Rapidly Approaching

Eagle's Wings began the Phase III capital campaign to raise \$950,000.00 for the construction of a chapel, two dorms, recreation pavilion and swimming pool. After approximately half of that amount was either pledged or in hand, a grant request was submitted to the J. E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation. The grant was received favorably and the Mabee Foundation awarded EWRC a \$150,000.00 challenge grant.

This means that EWRC must raise \$800,000.00 by December 31, 2011 to receive the \$150,000.00 from the Mabee Foundation. As of Sept. 20, a total of just over \$700,000.00 has been received or pledged.

The goal is within reach and we have almost 100 days to raise \$100,000.

There are several ways that friends of EWRC can contribute:

1. A one time cash donation.
2. A one or two year pledge with monthly payments
3. A \$200 contribution qualifies for a brick in the brick program.
4. A gift of stock or other tangible property.
5. An individual could solicit donations from friends and family members.
6. Donations could be made toward the cost of a specific item.

Wish List for Chapel

Chapel Chairs

with kneelers (50x)	\$250.00
Stackable chairs (200x)	\$40.00
Presider's Chair (1x)	\$500.00
Altar (large chapel)	\$1000.00
Altar (Adoration chapel)	\$500.00
Ambo (podium) (2x)	\$400.00
Credence Table (1x)	\$300.00
Processional	
Candlesticks (2x)	\$1000.00
Ciborium (2x)	\$400.00

Dell, IBM and United Way

Many of our supporters that work at Dell, IBM and United Way contributing companies can donate through their employee charitable contribution campaigns to Eagle's Wings by payroll deduction.

Dell and IBM both have us listed in their list of charities and United Way also has us listed but you may have to dig to find us listed within your company.

This is an easy way to support Eagle's Wings and the youth of our area.

These payroll deduction contributions may also be used to fulfill existing pledges or you can make a new pledge and have these payroll deductions apply to it.

Strake and Dorskocil Foundations Provide Grants to Phase III

EWRC has received grants from the Ben and Mary Dorskocil Foundation for \$25,000 and from the Strake Foundation for \$5,000. **THANK YOU!**

Both of these generous contributions were used toward the challenge grant of the Mabee Foundation.

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Page 3
 Mabee Challenge Deadline

Page 2
 Effective Youth Ministry

Page 1
 Convincin' You