



# CIRCLE V RANCH CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

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## NEWS

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[www.CircleVRanchCamp.org](http://www.CircleVRanchCamp.org) and <https://svdpla.org/donate/rebuild-camp/>

## **Circle V Ranch Camp Receives \$7,000 Donation From Santa Ynez Valley Foundation for Rebuilding Efforts Post-Whittier Fire**



***CAPTION: In front of St. Vincent de Paul Circle V Ranch Camp Health Lodge destroyed by the Whittier wildfire in July 2017; leadership from the Santa Ynez Valley Foundation presented Camp staff with a \$7,000 donation for rebuilding efforts. Left to right: St. Vincent de Paul Director of Development Gina Doyle, Santa Ynez Valley Foundation Board President Richard Nagler and Executive Director Anne Christensen; Society of St. Vincent de Paul Executive Director David Fields, Camp Director Ray Lopez and St. Vincent de Paul Deputy Director Susana Santana (Hi-res JPG available from [laura@mariahmarketing.com](mailto:laura@mariahmarketing.com))***

***Santa Barbara County, California***—Circle V (Vee) Ranch Camp & Retreat Center, located at 2550 Highway 154 across from Cachuma Lake, was founded in 1945 and has been located on 30 acres in the Los Padres National Forest since 1990. On July 8, 2017, the Whittier wildfire began nearby and burned through the Camp destroying the Health Lodge, Craft Lodge, and seriously damaging the water treatment facility and pipes. Circle V is committed to rebuilding with the goal of opening in summer 2018. Leadership of the Camp and the Santa Ynez Valley Foundation met recently for a facility tour and check presentation.

Santa Ynez Valley Foundation Executive Director Anne Christensen shared, “We are pleased to make a special donation to contribute to rebuilding Circle V Ranch Camp. Our mission of helping local youth is one that is embraced by everyone at the camp as well.”

David Fields, Executive Director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul operators of the Circle V Ranch Camp expressed his gratitude, “We deeply appreciate the generous support of the Santa Ynez Valley Foundation toward rebuilding the camp. On behalf of the Camp staff, counselors and most importantly, the kids; we are so grateful for this gift. We are currently in the arduous process of cleaning up, rebuilding and welcoming everyone back in the summer of 2018. ”

Ray Lopez, Circle V Ranch Camp Director added, “This donation is a demonstration of our Santa Ynez Valley community in action; and providing crucial support for area children to once again have the chance to experience a traditional summer camp right here the valley. Thank you so much! ”

All donations are welcome to help rebuild Circle V Ranch Camp at <https://svdpla.org/donate/rebuild-camp/>  
For general information, visit [www.CircleVRanchCamp.org](http://www.CircleVRanchCamp.org)

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### **More About St. Vincent de Paul Circle V Ranch Camp**

Circle V Ranch Camp & Retreat Center was founded in 1945 by St. Vincent de Paul Los Angeles and has been located on its current site on 30 acres in the Los Padres National Forest in Santa Barbara County since 1990. Each Circle V Ranch Camp summer session is six days and five nights of traditional supervised fun for boys and girls ages 7 to 13 and campers in leadership training from ages 14-17. Campers enjoy activities including archery, arts & crafts, hiking, swimming in the pool, learning about nature, reading skills, painting, photography, playing baseball, basketball, ping pong, foosball, soccer, miniature golf and of course, campfires, skits and singing. There is no TV, radio or internet access to affect the experience. Campers stay in wood cabins or traditional canvas tents. Three nutritious daily meals served family-style in the Dining Lodge are not only for food but also for camaraderie and fellowship. In summer 2016, the camp hosted more than 1,000 children for this time-honored experience. During autumn, winter and spring, Circle V is available for rental to other non-profit groups and organizations. The Whittier Wildfire began on July 8, 2017, and burned throughout Circle V Ranch Camp and surrounding areas. All 88 campers and 36 staff members in residence at that time were evacuated safely by heroic first responders, staff and volunteers. However, the Craft Lodge and Health Lodge cabins burned to the ground, and the water treatment facility and pipes were seriously damaged requiring months of repairs. With no water, all remaining 2017 summer camp sessions were cancelled for 1,000 campers and group retreat rentals canceled. Circle V is cleaning up and rebuilding with a goal of reopening in summer 2018. **Donations are needed and welcome at <https://svdpla.org/donate/rebuild-camp/>**  
**For general information visit [www.CircleVRanchCamp.org](http://www.CircleVRanchCamp.org)**

### **About the Santa Ynez Valley Foundation**

The Santa Ynez Valley Foundation improves the lives of people in the Santa Ynez Valley and Los Alamos by investing in programs that feed the poor, promote health, nurture seniors, challenge our youth and inspire the community to make a difference. With the help of caring supporters, the Foundation also builds permanent funds to enhance the quality of life now and for the future. Founded in 1991 by Stuart C. Gildred, The Santa Ynez Valley Foundation, a community foundation, has continuously grown through the years to become an integral part of The Santa Ynez Valley and Los Alamos. It awards grants to nonprofit organizations that deliver programs and services to residents in one of five focus areas: health and human services, senior programs, youth, education and cultural programs. Funds from the foundation’s endowment, and support from donations provide funding for these annual grants. **For further information access [www.syvalleyfoundation.org/](http://www.syvalleyfoundation.org/)**