



CIRCLE V RANCH CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

EST. 1945



STATEMENT

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www.CircleVRanchCamp.org and <https://svdpla.org/donate/rebuild-camp/>

(Hi-res JPG photos available, please request from above)

Circle V Ranch Camp Proudly Recognizes US Forest Service Technician David Dahlberg, Honored at 2018 State of the Union Address, and All “Guardian Angels” First Responders during Whittier Fire on July 8, 2017



Left to right: David Dahlberg, U.S. Forest Service Technician is gratefully acknowledged by Circle V Ranch Camp Director Ray Lopez at the “Guardian Angel Thank You Luncheon” for his “first of the first responders” role in rescuing campers and staff during the Whittier Wildfire on July 8, 2017. Circle V Ranch Camp staff gathers around U.S. Forest Service Dave Dahlberg’s Patrol 37 vehicle that was the first to arrive at Camp during the heroic rescue.



All “Guardian Angels” were honored by Circle V Ranch Camp staff and volunteers at a luncheon on October 14, 2017 at Old Mission Santa Ines in Solvang hosted by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, operators of the Camp.

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Santa Barbara County, California— St. Vincent de Paul 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; yet 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 were canceled. Circle V is in the process of cleaning up and rebuilding; and donations are needed and welcomed at <https://svdpla.org/donate/rebuild-camp/>

David Fields, Executive Director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul operators of the Circle V Ranch Camp remarked, “On behalf of all our campers, staff and volunteers, we are so grateful and blessed by the efforts of U.S. Forest Service Technician Dave Dahlberg, who was the first of the team of first responders to reach Circle V Ranch Camp during the Whittier Fire. We are thrilled that Dave’s heroic efforts are being recognized during the 2018 State of the Union address in Washington, DC tonight (1/30/18). We continue to extend our gratitude to Dave and all our guardian angels that helped rescue the remaining 58 children campers and 24 adult staff, during the wildfire that day.”

A “Thank You Guardian Angels” lunch and program was hosted by St. Vincent de Paul Circle V Ranch Camp leaders at Old Mission Santa Ines in Solvang on October 14, 2017, to honor and extend gratitude to all those who helped at Circle V Ranch Camp during the Whittier wildfire. More than 80 guests including first responders from U.S. Forest Service, Santa Barbara County Fire Department, Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office, Santa Barbara County Search and Rescue, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians as well as camp staff, volunteers and community leaders attended. Gratitude and blessings continue for all who helped evacuate and rescue a total of 88 campers and 36 staff members. For general information on the Camp, visit 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, burning 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 2018.

Donations are needed and welcome at <https://svdpla.org/donate/rebuild-camp/>

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