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**NEW PROGRAM IN RUPERT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO
YOUNGER AT-RISK CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**
Idaho Youth Ranch Announces Shift to Underserved Children and Families

The Idaho Youth Ranch announced the launch of a new program today at The Ranch in Rupert that will serve a new population of at-risk children and their families. According to Steve Woodworth, CEO of the Idaho Youth Ranch, the new program will help younger at-risk children who are on the verge of developing more serious problems. “By intervening earlier, we hope to help these children before their problems become too severe, and the consequences are more serious.”

“The Ranch in Rupert currently helps older at-risk teens who can be served by other agencies, so we believe our resources would be better utilized by investing in kids who have nowhere to go for their problems. We believe this is a good time to get back to our roots at the Ranch in Rupert. Our new program will support boys and girls between the ages of 8 to 18 who can benefit from our unique ranch setting and participate in therapeutic, educational and vocational programs,” says Woodworth.

In addition to programs, housing and staffing requirements will change as well. In the first phase, two lodges will be available to house ten children and a trained couple, with support from professional staff. “Because a smaller number of children are being cared for initially, staffing needs will be reduced as well, impacting 21 employees,” says Woodworth. “However, we’ve identified 12 other positions agency-wide that these employees may qualify for. Those who don’t qualify for current openings or aren’t able to relocate will be offered job search support and severance packages,” says Woodworth.

The Idaho Youth Ranch (IYR) in Rupert, Idaho is a non-profit, non-denominational, long-term residential home for at-risk children between the ages of 8 to 18. Therapeutic, educational, and vocational programs will be provided to these children in a unique ranch environment. The IYR operates five other residential homes in Idaho, and provides family counseling, adoption services, and foster care training. Donor support and revenue from 24 IYR Thrift Stores located throughout Idaho provide funding for the homes, programs and services. For additional information on the IYR, please visit the web site at www.youthranch.org

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