

LCC CONNECTION

Get to Know a Ministry

Salem4Youth



A FAITH BASED RESIDENTIAL SETTING FOR
YOUNG MEN WHO NEED ENCOURAGEMENT.

The Background

In 1896 a childless couple, Daniel and Mary King, donated farm ground to start an orphanage for boys and girls, infants through teenagers. After 128 years the ministry has evolved to what it is today. Currently they serve boys ages 12-16 years old and their families who are in a "season of struggle" at home.

"Displaying the glory of God by presenting the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been a hallmark of the ministry of Salem since the first child arrived on June 22, 1900."¹ Salem is an affiliate corporation of a family of churches, known as the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches (FEC).

The Staff

Salem4Youth, also referred to as Salem Ranch, currently has 25 people on staff. Terry Bengé is the Executive Director. He and his wife, Stacey, came to The Ranch in 2013. The vocational staff oversee the areas they teach and the cottage (dorm) staff oversee the cottage.

All the staff are Christians who see their call to share the hope of Christ with the boys. Not all of the students trust Christ as a result of being there, but they are exposed/mentored by solid Christian folks.

On Sundays the boys and Sunday staff attend chapel on the campus led by Terry. When he is away the staff may take the boys to LCC or Pontiac Bible Church.

The Students

Students are from as far away as New York and California but most of them are from the Midwest. In the last 10 years they have hosted 150 boys from various backgrounds. Half came from Christian homes and half from non-Christian homes.

The staff prayerfully consider which students to accept since 12 boys is their max capacity. They have young men on the list to come for the next 2 years.

Counseling

Throughout their 13-16 month stay, the boys receive biblical counseling and addiction counseling. Parents are required and receive much benefit from counseling as well, meeting every two weeks while their son is at residence on The Ranch.

¹ <https://salem4youth.com/history/>

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Academic Classes

Valor Junior/Senior High School is Salem's school the students attend throughout the year. The online curriculum is Ignitia, a comprehensive, Christian home school curriculum that offers computer-based learning from Alpha Omega Publications. "The word 'Valor' can be defined as: "above and beyond the call of duty...great courage, decisiveness and presence of mind during extraordinary circumstances. " ²

Salem's "goal is to help each young man not only graduate from high school but learn what it means to excel in all they do." ²

² <https://salem4youth.com/educational/>

How We Participate

LCC has supported Salem since 2019 when our member, Jason Wells, was ministering on the Ranch. Besides financial support LCC has done many work projects alongside the boys. For instance, cleaning up after an ice storm, mulching the grounds in prep for the Annual Auction and working on the building facilities. One of our members had the privilege of teaching a young man how to run a chainsaw and helped him cut down his first tree. The Heartlifters take a meal to Salem once a month and provide baked goods to sell at the Annual Auction. Every year there are opportunities to share in the good work at Salem4Youth.

Vocational Classes

The required vocational programs the boys take are Equine, Wood shop, Welding and Photography. Archery and music classes are also offered if they interest the boys. An apiary on the Ranch gives the boys the experience of harvesting honey to sell.

