

February 2005

# Parent Support News

## Harvest Moon Ball

♥ Academy at Ivy Ridge

## From The Heart

♥ Dear Mom and Dad

♥ My Darling Daughter



# To CAROLINA SPRINGS



**Deborah and Jordan Love**

Dear Jordan,

What a blessing you have been in my life. I have so many wonderful memories that are engrained in my mind forever. I'll never forget the first time you realized that you could ride your two wheel bike without training wheels, or our first trip to Florida and Disney World. You loved the ocean! The sand was so hot on your little feet that you cried, but refused to leave the beach. Do you remember your motorized car? We loved our trips to the park. Me walking along side you as you drove so proudly.

I'll never forget the excitement in your eyes on Christmas morning. The pride that you exhibited when giving Pots his present. What about the times that you and I spent reading bedtime stories and my singing to you before bed? I don't think that I've ever told you how proud I was of you working so many hours at the church food pantry with Pots. What about your first day at school? Gosh, that was so emotional for me! I couldn't believe that you were growing up and so independent. You didn't know it but I stood out of sight for a long time with tears streaming down my face proudly watching you interact with the other students. Jordan, I could go on and on but I don't want to embarrass you too much with my mushy goings on.

I love you, Mom

**Deborah Love**  
son **Jordan** enrolled **Carolina Springs**

My Dearest Megan,

I love you, you are my life and my everything. I will love you as long as the stars light up the heaven, as long as the sun whisks away the darkness of the night and touches the earth with loving warmth and as long as the moon glows it's moon rays on the ocean. When I close my eyes I see your sparkling baby blue eyes, I can smell your thick sandy red-blond hair and I can see your beautiful smile. Do you know how adorable you are? Do you know how much I miss you making me laugh with your dramatic skits you used to tell? I will always need you in my life and from the bottom of my heart I regret this time we are spending apart, but will relish in the progress you are making and one day will look back on it and say "I saved 'both' of our lives".

I hope you will open up your heart to me. I want to turn red a heart I've made blue. I've always told you, "You hold the key to your future", you also "hold the key to my heart and my happiness". I don't want this great thing that we have always shared together to fall apart, I will always love you because you mean the world to me.

I love you very much!! I miss you and I'm behind every step you are taking at CSA and I am always here for you.

My Precious Daughter

Mommy

**Crystal McAlexander**  
daughter **Megan** enrolled **Carolina Springs**



Megan and Crystal

Mom and Dad,

The ones that have always been there for me and never gave up on me. When I was at home you supported me in everything, loved me and just never gave up on me. But all the wrong I did to you, you never even deserved any of it. So I just want to say that, yeah, mom and dad things will be tough but what you two have done about sending me to Carolina Springs has changed my whole outlook on so many things. I wish I could explain how much I love both of you. I will never be able to show anyone how much I love you two. Thank you so much for all you both have done for me. I love you both so much.

**Love Autumn Mainer**  
**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY**  
enrolled **Carolina Springs Academy**

To my daughter Lauren with all of my love:

I thank you my sweet angel for coming into my life. The day you were born and you looked at me with those big blue eyes I knew that my life would never be the same. What a special gift from God! My joy, my dreams and my hopes all wrapped up into one tiny little bundle.

Over the years I watched you grow and enjoy life with such zeal. But then came a time of testing for both of us. My "little girl" had hit a big bump in the road on her journey through life. I knew that this was one little starfish I had to save because she had so much more life to live and love to give.

Several months at Carolina Springs Academy have now gone by. Being on this part of your journey with you has been yet another precious gift from above. You are growing and maturing into a fine young lady with respect, integrity and honor. I am proud to call you my daughter, my confidant, my friend.

I will love you always my little starfish,

Mom

**Lib Munday**  
daughter **Lauren** enrolled **Carolina Springs**

Hey Mom and Dad.

I love you both very much! Thank you for all you have done for me. Happy Valentine's Day!

**With Love, Lauren Munday** enrolled **CSA**

Front Cover - Students from Academy at Ivy Ridge attend the Harvest Moon Ball, Ivy's first formal ball.



# WITH LOVE

Dear Taylor,

For me, February always brings out those 'straight from the heart' feelings. On February 2nd, seventeen years ago, someone unique and precious came into my life and chose me as her mom. Wow, ME, a thirty-something single, career woman became a parent! I was excited and a little unsure of myself. Then it just happened...I fell completely and totally in love with this tiny being. Taylor, I would swear you looked me straight in the eyes and said, "Yes, I love you and we are connected but don't forget, I am unique and came here with my own purpose." It was a magical moment looking into those eyes that seemingly looked right through me.

This February 2nd is not so different from then. I am still excited and a little unsure of myself as a parent but I still love you with the kind of love I'm not sure anyone quite gets until they've been there. Through this program, I believe we're both learning about our uniqueness as well as our similarities; I'm learning from you as you learn from yourself. Most importantly, I know the same magical child is still right there, never gone, never lost. There are always challenges but it's like the clouds and the sun. While the clouds may cover up the sun for a while, the sun never quits shining with that same intensity and once the clouds are gone, it shines through again. I know you are working hard and allowing more of your genuineness to shine through. I am so proud of you, not for points or levels or any of that, but for the incredibly hard work you are doing. I love you just as much today as that first moment seventeen years ago. So there you have it, Taylor, my precious magical child. Happy Birthday and I love you...straight from my heart!

**Toni Guillot**  
Daughter Taylor enrolled Carolina Springs

Dear Jordan,

You are the love of my life. I was so blessed the day that God gave you to me to raise and nurture. You have brought so many happy days. There have been so many things that you have already accomplished in life that have left me feeling like I am the luckiest mom in the world. Not only do your big hits make me proud and happy, it is the simple things, like your Beautiful Smile and your trade mark facial expressions. What a Mother knows is that the tie that binds us will never be broken. This tie will only grow stronger as time goes by. Although this journey requires change and hard work, I know that we will be so much better equipped to take on what life has to offer. Jordan- Believe this with all your heart.

I LOVE YOU!

Mom

**Michelle Ledbetter**  
Daughter Jordan enrolled Carolina Springs



Mom and Dad,

Thank you so much for all that you have done for me over the past years. Thanks for never giving up on me when times got hard. I just want you both to know how much I love and appreciate all the things that you do for me. I love you both so much. Happy Valentines Day!

Love Always and Forever,

**Christina Gunther**  
enrolled Carolina Springs Academy

Dear LaTasha

Words cannot express the love that I have for you. I cannot write on paper the true meaning of happiness that you bring to my life. I am absolutely amazed as I watch you grow into a young woman. I see things in you that remind me of myself when I was younger. As you are starting to become a woman right before my eyes, I am proud that you are blossoming into a beautiful flower and a lovely young lady.

Out of all my children, you are the one I consider unique. You are special and definitely one of a kind. You stand out from other girls your age. You have a glow that surrounds you, as you enter a room, that lets your presence be known. You are a joy to be around and you are one of the most thoughtful people I know.

Sometimes I find myself alone, daydreaming and reminiscing of all the expressions of love you often shower me with. Like the hugs and affection you so often give. I smile when I think about how we enjoy watching television together and how you like to sit on my lap or in my arms. Little thoughts of the way you laugh with me when I do something that's "not cool" brings laughter and joy to my heart. You will not understand the overwhelming feelings of love, care and concern that I have for you until you become an adult and have a family of your own. I just hope and pray that you are as fortunate and blessed as I am to have a wonderful daughter like you! We all have made mistakes and must be apart for now but one thing for sure is I love you and always will. Love, Mom

L oving

A ffectionate

T errific

A mazing

S weet

H eavenly

A dventurous

**Theresa**  
**Whittington**  
Daughter LaTasha enrolled Carolina Springs



# CROSS CREEK PROGRAMS

A few months ago I received a letter from my dad. On the back of the envelope there was a note for me. It said "Years ago I was blessed by God, the date was August 31, 1990". That was the day I was born. I was amazed by how much love and compassion my parents hold for me. It is also true, according to my dad's letter, that on that same day I too was blessed. I am blessed to have the parents that I have. Throughout the years that I have been alive, they have loved, cared for, worried over and been there emotionally for me. I don't think I could think of one day, or one time, when they showed me anything less than love.



When I was at home I was terrible to them. I lied, cheated, stole, and hurt them. I am not proud of what I have done, but what is done is done. It is something I must live

with for the rest of my life. However, I can say that since they have given me the gift of coming to Cross Creek, the opportunity to live my life how it was meant to be, I have found out why I did what I did. I have turned things around throughout my journey, and it is still not over. The best thing that has changed is that I have come to love myself.

I am proud to say that I went on my first pass a few weeks ago. It was a blast and I had so much fun – seeing a magnificent change. I guess what I am trying to say is that I am so glad that I have the parents I was blessed to have. I love them with all my heart. Coming back to Cross Creek from pass was hard, but it is good to know that I will go home some day and get to be with my family again, only this time, there will be love from both sides. Not just theirs, but mine as well. I am so thankful for my parents and they are part of me and I love them.

**Caitlin Denison**  
enrolled Cross Creek Programs

Dear Taylor:

I am so thankful that God gave me the miracle of you. You have added so much to my life - memories and experiences that I will always cherish. I am in awe of your wonderful sense of humor, intelligent mind and bright smile. I love the way you



make me laugh and comfort me when I am feeling low. I will always be your biggest fan and will love you no matter what! Stay strong, Taylor. I love you dearly.

Mom  
**Cathy Hale**  
Son Taylor enrolled Cross Creek Programs

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Family       | Healing     |
| Commitment   | Possibility |
| Forgiveness  | Respect     |
| Persistence  | Caring      |
| Character    | Joy         |
| Empathy      | Hope        |
| Appreciation | Nurturing   |
| Integrity    | Spirit      |
| Love         |             |
| Us           |             |
| U            |             |

**Gayle Swift**  
Son Parker graduated Cross Creek  
Daughter Casey enrolled Tranquility Bay

Dear Johnny,

I am writing you this note to tell you how much I love you and how much you are missed. You have a very special place in my heart and you will always be there. I think about you every minute of the day. You are in my prayers. I can't wait until you come home so we can start our new life together.

Love you always,  
Mom

**Mary Sassone**  
Son Giovanni enrolled Cross Creek Programs

Dear Tim,

I remember the day your were born. Seventeen years ago, just before Christmas, it seems like just yesterday. It snowed while we were in the hospital. You were so small and beautiful! I didn't know I could love anyone as much as I loved you, my little man. My heart was full of love and awe as we brought our little bundle of joy home. My love for you is just as strong now as it was so many years ago when I held you in my arms for the first time. Now when I hold you in my arms I am amazed that you are growing into this magnificent young man. My heart is still full of love and awe as I watch you grow and mature before my very eyes. I will always "love you to the moon and back!"



Love forever, Mom  
**Lori Johnson**  
Son Tim enrolled Cross Creek Programs

From the heart to me means love. I did not realize what love was until I got to the program. I think that love is unconditional. When I say that I love my grandma, to me that means that I will not disobey what she says. I will give her respect. I love her because she has been a help to my family, and most of all she has saved our lives.



Love is kind. Love is gentle. I do not know how to express the love I have for my grandma. All that I know is that she is awesome.

I love her because she loves me. I love her because she believes in me. Having a relationship with her has been the best thing that has ever happened to me.

Being in the program has helped me realize what respect, love, relationships, and integrity really means. To me that is what I call the "power of love". Love is an amazing, meaningful, and powerful word. But to love someone else you need to love yourself first. And that is from my heart.

**Heather Rosenberg**  
enrolled Cross Creek Programs



# YOU HAVE MY HEART

My Dearest Rachel, My Angel

You were born. The gift of life, it was a magical moment I remember. A vision, beautiful and rare. So small and frail at birth, you were there. Sweet

eyes that smiled so bright, I called you angel all through the night. I was twice blessed, twins to behold, the miracle of two. Your features gracefully divine, so gloriously lovely, oh were you. A love story began to unfold, your always in my heart and nothing could separate or tear us apart. We are connected you and me, I love you dearly.

Love Mom

**Lilly Schlang**

**Daughter Rachel enrolled Cross Creek Programs**



**Jeff Rachel**

“Rachel My Honey Bunny”

You were my birthday Present  
 ... one of two that came that day  
 A day that began with a cry  
 ... as I was rushed from the room  
 I had to wait to see you  
 ... and my love began that day  
 You grew up so quickly  
 ... it was like a flash that you grew so fast  
 Once a little girl with a buck tooth  
 ... to the beautiful and intelligent young lady  
 You have to know that  
 ... You will be part of my heart

Love Dad

**Jeff Schlang**

**Daughter Rachel enrolled Cross Creek Programs**

Dear Mitch, My huggy Bear

You are always in my heart. At first glance of you I see those big eyes aglare, I never saw a face so sweet, all in one beautiful, perfect and whole than you appear, a ball of energy on fire! You never slept a wink at night. You are so handsome to behold, with your never ending hugs so dear. I always called you my big huggy bear! Oh...to have patience, to love someone so dear, the changes do appear. The years fly by, faster and faster they hurry away, you are now a young man thereafter. I love you, always in my heart.

Love Mom

**Lilly Schlang**

**Son Mitchell enrolled Cross Creek Programs**



**Mitch Lilly**

Dear Jordan,

Just seventeen years and four months ago you entered my life. You and your sister were both God's answer to my prayers to heal my broken heart. You see, as much as Dad and I wanted to be parents, we were not able to have children the usual way. It was not to be for me to carry my children inside my body, close to my heart for nine months. But, God in His wisdom, showed me the way to fulfill the desire of my heart...to be a Mom.

You and Lindsey were given life by your "other" mothers. They nurtured you inside their bodies, gave you life and then because they loved you, put you into my arms for me to raise and love! What a glorious day, August 19, 1987 was for me! I was so proud to be your Mom. You looked a little funny with your little screwed up prune face and purple cone-head but I loved you instantly and so did Dad. That day began a love affair to equal no other in my life!

You were then and are still "my special guy"!

It was wonderful to see you grow from a squirmy little baby into a toddler who walked at 9 months! Your energy was amazing and you had a smile that lit up the room. What a character you were. Everything amazed and excited you...remember, "fireworks hot, burn you!"? Seeing the world through your eyes was a fun adventure...even if I couldn't keep up with you! You were born a daredevil...you took your walker for a swim at 6 months; slid down the banister at 10 months; walked across the top of the monkey bars at school when you were 4 years old and scared all the playground teachers to death!! Riding your bike was not fun unless you could ride fast and you loved to whip around the streets on your Go-ped as a teenager...God has been preparing me for when you drive a car!!

Life is full of ups and downs and ours has been no exception but even through the really rough times, I have loved you without ceasing! Nothing could or will ever make me stop loving my best guy!! You are my hero for facing your situation at Cross Creek and learning from all that has gone before...YOU ARE AWESOME!!

God has a wonderful plan for you Jordan, and I can't wait to see where He takes you! I long for the day when I can once again see and hug you...work hard so that day will come soon!

Love you a million up to the sky...Mom

**Georgia Mallory**

**Son Jordan enrolled Cross Creek Programs**

# I LEFT MY HEART IN

## UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

The person that shows me unconditional love is my mom. She helps me a lot. She takes care of me when I am sick or feeling sad. I really love my mom, she helps me when I need it. She gives me lots of cool stuff that I want and she also gives me punishment. But that will never stop me from loving her.

I will always love her no matter if I feel sad, mad, or even hateful. I will always love my mom. I want to show my mom that I want to improve in all of the problems that I had at home. I want to show her unconditional love.

**Brandon Ludgate**  
**Majestic Ranch Academy**

## WHAT IS LOVE TO ME?



Love is something that you know in your heart. It is something that involves a lot of emotions. Love is where you care deeply about someone and you'll stay by their side no matter what. Love is where you will not let someone down and is something everyone has even when you are down.

Love is something I have, even in my program. I learned that my mom loves me even when I do bad, she has always loved me, but not my actions. She has shown me love in many different ways: through letters, visits, feedback and most importantly, by sending me here.

I am learning to show love to others. Just through my facial expressions and actions, and telling them that I do care and that I do want to help.

I love almost everyone I know and I am willing to build a relationship with them. Love is something that can come easily to others, and for some it takes time. Love is something that can come unexpectedly and it's waiting for you to catch up or catch on. Love to me is when I care and when I am willing to let others know.

**Brooke Clarkson**  
**Majestic Ranch Academy**

## MY MOM

I love you, you love me, and to my heart my love for her is too much to compare to anyone else. She helps me when I need to talk. She said she loves me and I told her she didn't. She said it was true when I didn't think it was.

I didn't want to believe what she said because I was so angry at the fact she was gone for a while, but now I see the love my mom has for me. It will last forever.



**Jessica Chaidez**  
**Majestic Ranch Academy**

## I AM IN THEIR HEART

The love in my house was not very good. We did not show respect to each other and there was physical and mental fighting with each other. Time came for Christmas, and we still were not showing love for each other. Then, before I knew it in April, I was sent here for a long time, here to Majestic Ranch.

I came to Majestic and it is where I realized that my family loves me no matter what I do. I went to PC1 and saw their faces and in my heart, I knew that they loved me. I knew right away that it was unconditional love, and I knew that I was their little girl that how much we loved each other would never change. They love me because I am in their heart and I love them because they are in mine. Nothing can or will ever change that love between us.

I love you, Mom and Dad!

**Natalia Smith**  
**Majestic Ranch Academy**

## FEELINGS

Sometimes you are mean

But I want you to know,

Our family is a team.

I love you forever and always.

I feel our lives are sometimes a maze.

Mom I know it's rough,

I'll be there even if it is tough.



**Amber Peterson**  
**Majestic Ranch Academy**

## LOVE OF A STRANGER

I was at PC1 a few months ago, and I experienced something pretty incredible. I was shocked that a total stranger could show love for me. I was about to walk out the door when Mrs. Snow, a parent of another student at our program, came up to me and said, "You know, no matter where you are there will always be someone that loves you."

Those few words made me realize that I was loved. I am loved unconditionally, even if it is by someone I hardly know. I had only known Mrs. Snow for a couple of days, and I knew that she cared and loved me.

At home, I used to say: "I am not loved". But the truth is, I am loved, and I know it now. It took a stranger to help me realize that I am loved. It took a stranger, like Mrs. Snow, to change my life forever.

**Katrina Hefferon**  
**Majestic Ranch Academy**



# MAJESTIC RANCH

## WHAT IS LOVE?

What is love? What does it mean to you and the others around you? Most of the time, people are asking others these questions because they do not know that much about love. Well, for me, love is something that you can choose to show towards the people around you or you can choose not to.

You don't need to have love to live, in fact, you can choose to have love affect you in many different ways. There is tough love, soft love, plain love, and many more types of love.

At least one time in everyone's life, you have been shown love from another, or you have given love to someone. You have to love yourself before you can give love to others, because if you don't care enough about yourself to love yourself, how can you ever show that to others.

There are many people that love me so much that they never stop loving me no matter what I go through. Even if I don't feel like it, there will always be someone who will not give up on me.

So, when you are feeling that no one loves you or cares about you, always remember, someone, even if you do not know who they are, will care, love, and be there for you.

**Evan Snow**  
Majestic Ranch Academy

## I CAN DO ANYTHING I TRY TO

It all started when I started being disrespectful, doing drugs, running away, and lots of other stuff. My parents warned me, I didn't care if they sent me to Majestic Ranch. But when the transports came, I fought them, but they would not let me win.



I got to achievement level and then I dropped and I really didn't care about my program. The Staff Assistants kept telling me I could get up in levels and do it again. I got to level three and then I got pulled.

This is my second time here at Majestic Ranch. I have been on and off. I have made it back up to 500 points and dropped 3 times, but I am back up there again. Everybody believed I could do it and I showed them that I could.

I have been working on issues with my parents through our letters that we write to each other every week. It is helping me so much. It is good to have their support and encouragement. It is good to know that I can keep earning points and levels and that I can do anything I try to.

**Robert Duggan**  
Majestic Ranch Academy



To Jared, with much love.

*It's our hearts that ache*

*For the time we miss.*

*We love you so much*

*With every passing day,*

*Believe in your heart*

*You are good in every way.*

*When we see you again*

*Our eyes will light up,*

*To you we are thankful*

*For our hearts you touch.*

*So leave all the hurt behind,*

*The past is the past,*

*All we want from you is home at last!*

We love YOU-- Mom & Dad

**Jacquelyn van Vegten**

**Son Jared enrolled Majestic Ranch**



Jason,

We LOVE YOU and we're very PROUD of you. We understand how difficult this transition can be for you. The staff at Majestic will help you gain new knowledge and tools so you may lead a much happier and successful future. You deserve that! We believe in you and support you through this journey 100%.

Love you bunches,

Mom, Dad and Amanda



**Semmler Family**

**son Jason enrolled Majestic Ranch**



# IVY'S HARVEST MOON BALL

She walks into the dimmed ballroom filled with fancy lights, balloons, and festive decorations. It's hard to imagine that only 24 hours before this was just an ordinary school gymnasium. She is dressed in a long, silky, lavender dress. Her hair and makeup are done in just the right way to enhance her natural beauty. She enjoys a formal candle lit dinner with desert. The live band begins to play and she gets up and takes the initiative to ask a guy to dance. They dance the cha-cha with such confidence and zest that you'd think they'd have been dancing for years. She is smiling and enjoying being around all of her classmates and friends.

Not even my closest friends at home would be able to guess that this girl was me. Getting involved with the Harvest Moon Ball was a huge step out of my comfort zone. At home I was quiet and anti-social. I had very low self-confidence and usually wore guys' clothes. Most of all I would never be caught dead dancing at a prom. I learned a lot about myself through this experience. I spent so much time at home telling myself that I was ugly and untalented that I never knew how much was possible for me to achieve. I found that I'm not as bad a dancer as I thought and the most important part is just enjoying me. I have found the strength in myself to get past my fears and not let them bring me down. I allowed myself to have fun with my friends and be happy without drugs or alcohol. Not many teenagers get the opportunity to learn different dances from the polka to the waltz, and it is an opportunity that I am thankful to have had. It has inspired me to want to learn more and find out just how much I am capable of and what more life has to offer me.

**Sarah Spence**  
enrolled Academy at Ivy Ridge



ALEXA BRAND



MAX TAXDAL



TIFFANY NAGEL



VINNY YOUNG



SARAH SPENCE

The suspense finally ended on November 13, 2004, the day of the Harvest Moon Ball. I knew that this experience would be one that I would never forget and looking back, it was. There was much anticipation as all of the girls began walking to the gym where the ball was to take place. My heart literally skipped a beat along with the "ooh's" and "ahh's" of my peers when we arrived. Walking in the gym was breathtaking seeing all of the beautiful decorations along with an orchestra. I seated myself with a few of my close friends and took a good look around. Never in a million years would I have ever thought I would go to prom. The direction my life was heading at home, with many up's and down's, wasn't a good one. As I walked out to the dance floor I completely let loose and had a great time. These are moments in my life that I will never forget. Thank you.

**Cembra Snyder**  
enrolled Academy at Ivy Ridge



CEMBRA SNYDER





# BE MINE!

For Tara, the love of our hearts,

During this special month there lies two profound days... Valentine's Day, where we celebrate the ones that we love and another, especially profound to us, February 5th, the day you



were born. During this most special time of the year, we want to celebrate YOU and

the special love that you brought to our lives. You have truly been a gift, and from the first day we felt your love, we were never the same again. The love for a child is truly unique... I think it has something to do with creation and miracles. If that love was shot from cupid's arrow, it's a dart that can never be removed. The intensity is stronger today than it was the first day that it pierced our hearts... If you didn't know it before, Tara Jo, you are loved. **HAPPY VALENTINES DAY...HAPPY BIRTH-DAY!**

From the heart,

Mom, Dad, and Sara  
**Kathy Beckwith**  
daughter **Tara enrolled AIR**

Dear Kristen,

You are our special Valentine! We love you very much and will always love you. You are our sunshine by day and our shining star at night. The sound of your laughter and the light of your smile bring joy to our family. You have created a new and wonderful life for yourself and we are so proud of you.



Keep striving for your goals and sharing your zest for life with those around you. Sending you much love and a very special hug for this Valentines Day.

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Rick and Steven  
**Huber Family**  
daughter **Kristen enrolled AIR**

Dear Chelsey,

When you were first placed in my arms I never knew that love could be so deep and that I could feel so complete. You have enriched my life and the world. Within you is the power to touch many lives.

Watching you grow into your own, from your first teetering steps, then walking in my high-heels as a toddler to the many years of dance lessons and great performances from here to L.A., has brought me tears of pure love and joy.



Life through your eyes and the many questions of, "Mommy, what if..." has been a blessing. You have the ability to see things that others miss and a passion for life to make special moments that last a lifetime.

On this life's journey you have seemed to want to "zig" when I have thought you should "zag". Once again, by following your own path have you gifted us by finding Ivy Ridge and a wealth of very special people and experiences. You have yet again and unknowingly enriched lives.

You are my sunshine and without change there would be no butterflies. Spread your wings my little "flutterbug" and fly amid the daisies!

Will you be my Valentine, Chelsey?

I love you! Always & Forever, Mom  
**Tammy Heisler**  
daughter **Chelsey enrolled AIR**

Dear Sofi,

I love you and I am so thankful for our program, for a second chance to be a family again. For our family rep. who stands up for you day after day and never gives up on you. And us, we love you, we love you unconditionally and will never give up on working on this journey.



Mami  
**Malaica Valiente**  
daughter **Sofia enrolled AIR**

Dear Michelle,

Although we are apart, you will always remain in my heart. You are my very best friend in the world. You are an intelligent, lovable, joyful, and funky young woman. **YES YOU ARE!!!**



I love you very much and miss you tons. Happy 17th Birthday!! Happy Valentine's Day!!!

Love, Mom  
**Nancy Candler**  
daughter **Michelle enrolled AIR**

## A Poem To Mom

*When I'm missing you I just look up  
To the sky*

*And stare at the clouds above*

*That are so high*

*The sky so blue and clouds so white*

*I forget all the pain  
and every fight*

*I love you more than words could  
Express*

*The endless sky reminds me of  
This*

*So when you're missing me, look up  
To the clouds*

*Forget about everything, block out  
Every sound*

*And listen inside, I'll be listening  
Too*

*Tell me you love me, I'll tell*

*You I love you*

Love,  
Emily



**Emily Larosa**  
enrolled Academy at Ivy Ridge

# I LOVE YOU

To A Keeper, My Darling Daughter, Sarah,

One day someone's husband died, and on that clear, cold morning, in the warmth of their bedroom, the wife was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more. No more hugs, no more special moments to celebrate together, no more phone calls just to chat, no more "just one minute." Sometimes, what we care about the most gets all used up and goes away ... never to return before we can say good-bye, say "I love you."



So while we have it ... it's best we love it and care for it...and fix it when it's broken...and heal it when it's sick. This is true for marriage and old cars and children with bad report cards and dogs with bad hips and aging parents and grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it.

Some things we keep – like a best friend who moved away or a classmate we grew up with. There are just some things that make us happy, no matter what.

Life is important, like people we know who are special...and so, we keep them close!

Thank you for being a special part of my life! You're a Keeper.

I love you with all my heart baby and the day I can hold you in my arms again will be the happiest day in my life!

Love always,  
Mommy  
**Debbie Ball**  
daughter Sarah enrolled Spring Creek

## THE LOVE BETWEEN MY PARENTS AND ME

*Love is what I need to survive*

*It was once something*

*I perceived*

*Love was never an assurance*

*Although it should have been a reoccurrence*

*I couldn't feel loved*

*When I was letting myself get tossed around and shoved*

*I couldn't understand why they were so concerned*

*They love me and that's something I've learned*

*I was torn in the heart*

*When we were so close together, but now so far apart*

*My love should now show*

*That I miss you so*

**Nikki Clark**  
enrolled Spring Creek



Dearest Laura,

As we look over the year our love for you grows stronger with every tear we have shed. We miss you so much and yearn for you daily hoping you'll be home soon so we can hold you and hug you for all eternity.

Missing you and wanting you near, we pray you realize soon how much you mean to us. How much you are a part of this family, and we are not the same without you here.

We pray dear Laura that you are growing stronger in your faith with Christ each day. We hope that each day you are away, will bring you closer to returning home to be with us again. We pray that you are growing inside and accepting of the goals we have set. We pray that those goals are becoming closer for you to reach.

We want you home with us and pray that is your hearts desire also.

Laura, you are our baby and we want to see your smiling face, hear your laughter, have you near, smell your hair, feel your hands holding our hands, touch your face, hold you close to us, and to hug you everlastingly.

We want to see you grow into the woman God has intended for you to be. It's in your hands sweet Laura. We pray that today will be the beginning of a great journey for you. We pray that you will put every effort into today, tomorrow, and every day to be the woman you were fashioned to be. Grow stronger each day, and place one foot in front of the other, and never look back. Trust in yourself because you are destined for a joyful, wonderful, and powerful life ahead. Laura, please choose to believe this about yourself that today, tomorrow, and eternity will bring you great joy if you allow it to happen.

We Love you Laura and we hope soon to be with you.

Happy Valentines Day. Love always and forever,

Mom and Dad  
**Terri & Chris Stecher**  
daughter Laura enrolled Spring Creek

Dearest Janna,

With caring and nurturing, a flower blooms into a beauty all its own.

With guidance and love, a daughter grows in strength and grace and becomes the special person only she can be. It is very precious watching you grow and gain experience and wisdom. I have peace and serenity watching you achieve the contentment of simple things and the remembrance that you are loved forever.



Love, Mommy  
**Kathy Stonebreaker**  
daughter Janna enrolled Spring Creek



# WITH ALL OF MY HEART

## DOVE

*There was a little girl that loved her  
mom to death  
Telling her it'd be okay when her  
daddy left  
Times flew by both good and tough  
I never thought life would be this  
rough*



*She sent me away one  
year ago today  
I guess this is the  
price I have to  
pay  
For throwing her  
love in her face  
Lying and hiding  
all over the place*

*I wish I could tell her  
I wish that she knew  
However since then  
My love is new*

*I'll never again hurt you  
I won't be bad  
The worst thing I've done is make you  
sad*

*I've changed my ways and grown a  
bigger heart  
When I come home it will be a  
brand new start*

*A new start for love  
A new start for us  
No more bickering, fighting and  
making a fuss*

*I'm sorry I hurt you  
But this poem's to say  
I love you mom  
In every possible way*

**Sarah Wrobel**  
Enrolled Spring Creek

Dear Shannon,

I want you to be happy. I want you to know the joy that life has to offer to each and every one of us. I want you to wake up every morning and just be on fire to live life to the fullest and to have meaningful relationships with people you care about and who care about you.

This was the gift that the program has given to me. It is a gift that keeps on giving – as I learn more and more about the things that set me free. Shannon, I know that I've shared with you the joy that I've



experienced these last few months – but

what you need to know is that it was not because you were out of my life. It was because of things that I discovered and learned about myself that FINALLY allowed me to experience the same pure joy that I felt that day you were born. I do wake up each and every day excited about life, excited to see what the day will bring. I can tell you, honestly – that I am truly happy and I would not be where I am if it wasn't for the things that I learned in my program journey.

That's why, though you may not believe it, you are there at SCL. It's because I want you to have this gift too! You think you're there as a punishment, but it's not. It's because you were heading down a dangerous path that was going to lead to a life of unhappiness. As one of my last acts of parenthood, I needed to intervene to help you discover the path that will really lead you to the happiness that you so deserve.

I love you, bigger than the house, bigger than the country, bigger than the world, bigger than the universe, as big as God's love for you.

Love, Mom

**Pat Campbell**  
daughter Shannon enrolled Spring Creek

## LOVE IS

*There is so much power in the word  
love  
Some of us mean it when it's used  
Others think it can be slipped on like a  
glove*

*I can tell you how good it feels to make  
someone smile  
The feeling you get when you know  
you've made someone's day worthwhile*

*Love isn't about the dozens of roses on  
Valentines Day  
Or making more money than  
Matchbox 20  
It could simply be a letter or a card  
Just to say, "Hi how was your day?"*

*Love isn't about the thousands of miles  
that separate you from someone  
It could be about the many ways you  
have fun*

*It doesn't come in any special shape or  
colors  
But love also includes caring for others*

*Love is carried across a country or a  
continent  
And love comes in many different ways  
It can come when you least expect, but  
I promise you'll feel content  
Love will make you feel whole for many  
days*

*Falling in love and loving someone is  
truly great  
Love isn't perfect and isn't always a  
plan or fate.*

*Love isn't about the gender you are  
Or even the color of your skin  
It can be something as simple as a milk  
chocolate bar  
Loving someone is perfectly real and  
never in any way a sin*

**Nicole Takach**  
home from Spring Creek

# YOU'RE THE ONE

## WHAT IF WE WERE TO TELL YOU

What if we were to tell you  
That we love you more than ever?

What if we were to tell you  
That you mean that much to us?

What if we were to tell you  
That we're proud of all you've done?

What if we were to tell you  
That we're proud of whom you've become?

What if we were to tell you  
That the trials are not a mistake?

What if we were to tell you  
That we wish we could take your place?

What if we were to tell you  
That we know what you're going through?

What if we were to tell you  
That He longs to show himself to you?

We love you, our darling,  
more than you'll ever realize.

We love you, our sweetheart,  
as our eyes begin to cry.

One day He'll show you  
things you're not now permitted to see.

One day you'll see Him,  
and the truth will set you free!

What if we were to tell you  
That He knows what you're going through?

What if we were to tell you  
That He longs to show Himself to you?

We love you, Alec, more than you can now understand. One day you will understand that love and it will be an anchor for your life. We support you and look so forward to being reunited with you.....

Love forever,

Dad and Mom  
**Greg and Kay Garcia**  
Son Alec enrolled Tranquility Bay

Hey David!

How come I love you so much? Let's see, I think it could be because we care for each other and try to understand one another. We love to laugh together. We love to spend time together, just doing every day things. We look at life in similar ways. It might be all those things and more.



But the real reason I love you so much is that God brought us together as a family, and knit our hearts together. There

is no way to describe that love so that someone would understand it. But my love for you, as a Mother to a Son, is something mystical and magical that God has allowed in our lives. I am so blessed to have you as my son, David, and I love you with all my heart. I love you whether we are sharing our lives here in the same house, or whether you are across the ocean. All my LOVE.....  
MOM

**Diane Ringenberg**  
son David enrolled Tranquility Bay

## DEDICATED TO MY FAMILY AND LITTLE SISTER

Since I've been gone, time has slowed its pace.  
And from goodbye love still hides its face.  
Here I am hundreds of miles away.  
Even if I try the fact does not sway.  
I love you more than life itself and that time shall not try.  
Without you there is no truth that I can't deny.  
This is a time that once a year comes through.

A time so special yet not right without you.  
**Gene Carter**  
enrolled Tranquility Bay

Its because of you my loving mom that I am where I am today.

In a leadership position.

It was all made possible because of a loving mother.

A mother who went through hardships and strife, yet she came out victorious.

A mother who cared enough for her son even if it meant traveling hundreds of miles from home.

A mother who cared and realized quickly that if I had not come to Tranquility Bay I would have destroyed my future.

My mom cared enough to take that measure to show she wants me to have a good future and to be successful.

There is one simple sentence I want to say to mom right now but it's deep.

I love you mom.

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day!

**Caleb Leonard**  
home from Tranquility Bay

To My Wonderful Parents,  
Love to me is very sacred and pure.  
I can see it radiating from your eyes.  
Even though you want to hide.  
Trust is a big thing as it should be.



You have shown me forgiveness which inspires me to really see.

You are the half that is missing from my heart.

So let's not keep them apart.

I am more happy now than I was before.

You saved me from turning love away.  
Thank you soul mate for saving the day.  
I love you and I hope you know its true.

For love to me is very sacred and pure.  
**Alaina Grace Meredith**  
enrolled Tranquility Bay



# MY HEART BEATS FOR

To Our Beloved Ian,

You are our love and our light. We miss you like mad and are praying that you are showing courage, bravery and thought during your new beginning. You have our total support in everything you do moving forward. The choices that you make now and in the future are yours and yours alone, but we are



always here for you. We will always be your backbone. You have tremendous work to do at your school, and we have tremendous work to do for all of us here at home. We are in this together, now and always. We know that at this moment your most likely still filled with frustration, anger and perhaps even hate for us, in having to make the decision of a life time to put you at Tranquility Bay. We also know that in time you will replace all of those negative emotions with positive ones. Love, faith, hope, happiness, truth, goals, beliefs, trust, and honor are just some that come to mind. Look at those words and know that they were missing from your life. You can attain them, it's all up to you now. We want nothing more than for you to open up, shed yourself of past issues in finding fault coupled with blame. These emotions will eat you alive. Don't allow it. You are so very bright and so very loving. You can work your way out of the abyss. You've shown us that you can. This time do it for yourself.

We love you, we adore you and there isn't anything we won't do for you, in order for you to have a life and a future. Always with Love, US

**Mark & Donna Gleason**  
son Ian enrolled Tranquility Bay

*I love you and I know you love me too.*  
*You have always been here to help me.*  
*And you didn't even charge a fee.*  
*You've taught me a lot throughout my stay here.*  
*And you always show me you care.*  
*Our friendship means a lot to me.*  
*Love, honesty and attention is the key.*  
*Happy Valentine's Day.*  
*I ♥ Tranquility Bay.*  
**Patricia Wu**  
enrolled Tranquility Bay

*Love... what once was simple but is now feared because of loss and rejection or is now mistaken as a vow of unwilling commitment.*




*The judgments placed portray that it's more painful to love someone than to not love at all because that someone will some day leave you.*

*But who is more foolish-  
The child afraid of the dark?  
Or the man afraid of the light?*  
**Stephanie Boller**  
enrolled Dundee Ranch/Tranquility Bay


**TO MY FAMILY**

What is Love?  
Love is a paper dove  
or maybe it's a poem like this  
Love is the sound  
of a baby's coo  
But in all of this  
love is you.



**Jon Draper**  
enrolled Tranquility Bay

*You brought me into this world and gave me a chance at this beautiful disaster called life.*  
*I tripped and I fell and stumbled to the ground.*  
*But you were there to help me up*  
*Even though I was lost and didn't want to be found.*  
*You gave me life along with unconditional love.*



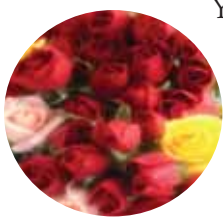
*You thought I was your gift that was sent from above.*

*The whole flag has been raised and flies through the air.*  
*I finally gave up and stayed strong and stood by my side.*  
*I had nowhere to go, no place to hide.*  
*You brought me into this world and you could take me out.*  
*But you didn't give up on me without a doubt.*  
*You mean so much to me and I finally know why.*  
*You gave me my wings and told me I could fly.*  
*Love always Alex*  
**Alex Ginnow**  
enrolled Tranquility Bay

# LOVE CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS

Dear Amanda:

At this time of year, I am writing to let you know how much I love you and how dear you are to my heart. Unfortunately, I'm not sure I can put that into words. Can a hug be sent via a letter? Can I hold your hand via a letter? What about looking into your eyes, in AMANDA and seeing the love and faith that is deep within? Or showing you the love and faith deep within me.



You and I have shared a bond that goes farther than miles, deeper than any pain and stronger than any weather. That bond has become very obvious and is now

becoming deeper and stronger than ever.

Know that you are in my heart, on my mind and in my dreams always. You mean the world to me and I love you with all I have.....to da moon kiddo, we share the same stars!

Love,  
Mom

**Sherri Schwartzman**  
daughter Amanda enrolled  
Midwest Academy

My Dear son.

May you know today and always that you are loved and bring me joy. The contributions you make to my life are unique and special. I cherish all the memories and hold them in my heart. You are precious.



Much Love,

Mom  
**Alma Cashion**  
son Adam enrolled Midwest Academy

Dear Manda-Bear,

You may not remember the day you were born as clearly as I do. I know it was a while ago, but I have a very vivid memory I'd like to share with you.

I was in some serious labor for about five hours and working quite hard. You were wanting to be born, but being a bit stubborn with your debut. I thought, "Boy, I'm getting tired and something better happen soon. Not sure how long I can last!" Finally...finally you decided to poke your head out and join the rest of us! As is your style, you came out with a flair and were quite vocal with your welcome. You were yowling like crazy! Even then, it seems you had quite a bit to say! As you were yowling, the doctor laid you upon my belly and I put my arms around you. I looked down at you and said, "Hi there, baby girl!" At the sound of my voice you instantly stopped yowling, turned your head and looked up into my eyes. It was the most amazing thing I've ever experienced! You already knew me! You already knew my voice!

As I looked into your eyes that very first moment, I remember thinking--this girl has something to teach me. I have much to learn! At that moment, I felt this incredible bond with you. I felt something hard to describe...a love that is strong and true, but different somehow. I've been learning from you ever since, honey. Just as a mother teaches things to her daughter, you have been teaching me! Because of you, I look at the world a bit differently. Because of you, I am learning to be curious and grow again. Because of you, I am learning patience and commitment. Because of you, I'm learning it's ok to be vulnerable. Because of you, I am excited about life. Because of you, I truly understand what unconditional love is all about! I love you, honey...my Manda-Bear, Panda-Bear!

Happy Valentine's Day, Your Mom

**Lori Pierce**  
daughter Amanda enrolled  
Midwest Academy

My Darling Michelle:

You have been such a great miracle and gift in my life. You were born after I was told I would never have the opportunity to be a mother in this life and you gave me the gift of being a mother. You were born on my 25th birthday, what a great gift from up above. I couldn't have asked for a better birthday gift than a perfect baby girl.

I'm proud of the beautiful daughter I created. I've seen you grow from this tiny little girl into a beautiful young lady. I recognize life has brought you lots of pain and sorrow and it's pained me that I could not take that away from you as much as I've tried.

Now you're in a place far away from me but close in my heart and have a chance for new beginnings. A place where you will be able to leave your past behind and start new. A place where you will find the magical child that you really are. A place for rebirth into my home once more. This is my gift to you, a new beginning. You'll always have that special place in my heart that no other could ever take away. The love in my heart that only a mother could have for her daughter. A love that will never fade away, no matter the situation.

Your Loving Mother,  
**Elizabeth Espiritu**  
daughter Michelle enrolled Midwest Academy

Dearest Gregg,

You fill my heart with so much love and hope! Together, we have come so far this year. My love is even stronger since I have seen and felt your love - Your love for yourself and life! You are my pride and joy!

Kelli and I are both proud of you, support you, and most of all, LOVE you! Gregg, you ARE a wonderful, worthy, handsome young man who will achieve anything that may cross your path. Love ya lots, Mom

**Donna Franz**  
son Gregory enrolled Midwest Academy



# LOVE WILL CONQUER ALL

Dear Mommy,

I love you deeper than the deepest ocean. I love you higher than the tallest mountain. I love you wider than my arms can reach. I love you more than I can say.

I love you even when I say I don't. I love you more than you will ever know. I loved you even when I was hooked on drugs. I loved you even when I told everyone I hated you. I felt so bad after that though.

I loved you even when I did not show it. I love you even more each day I'm alive. I will never stop loving you, not just because you're my mom but because I love you too much to ever stop loving you in my whole lifetime.

I wish I was with you more when I was home because I missed you when I was not. No matter how much I say I wish I was never living with you, I was really trying to say thank you so much for loving me and bringing me to you but I did not know how to say it.

No matter how much I tell you I love you, it will never be able to be expressed as much, but will be able to be shown in how I talk and act toward you. So all I really want to say is that I really love you more than words can say and more than you'll ever know.

Love,

Andrea

**Andrea Carroll**

enrolled Academy at Ivy Ridge



Dear Mom,

You are the queen of my heart. I could never go a day without you. I thank you for putting me on this earth. The love that we have is something special, like a baby's birth.



I regret ever making you cry. I could tell that you were worried for your son by the look in your eye. Every day I thank the man up above that I have a mom who didn't turn her back on me, but showed me her love. You were my joy when I was feeling

pain, my umbrella when I was stuck in the rain. We have been through it all. We cried together. When the sun was out, we shined together. You are a mom who is true to the heart. You're my candle when I'm stuck in the dark. You helped me since I was a day old. Mom, I love you and I just want to tell you that you are the food to my soul. I will always keep you in my heart. You are a special part of my life.

Love,

Mike

**Mike Briston**

enrolled Academy at Ivy Ridge

Dear Dad,

I just want to say thank you for all that you have done for me. You were always there when I needed someone to talk to. You were always there when I was hurt or sick. You were always there to give me a roof over my head, food on the table, and clothes on my back.

I know I wasn't the easiest person to live with or to get along with, but I just want to say thank you for caring about me all this time. I love you dad, with all my heart. I am sorry for all those times that I was disrespectful and I hurt you by getting in trouble and everything else. Dad, I am sorry. I love you. I also want to let you know that I forgive you.

Love,

Your Son

**Mike Maniscalco**

enrolled Academy at Ivy Ridge

## Parent Support News

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Cover by: Lanora Nielson  
HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

## UPCOMING SEMINAR DATES

### DISCOVERY

NEWARK.....April 8-10  
CHICAGO.....April 29-May 1  
SAN DIEGO.....April 1-3  
ATLANTA.....March 18-20  
DALLAS.....April 9-11  
BAY AREA.....April 1-3  
SEATTLE.....April 22-24

### FOCUS

NEWARK.....March 31-April 2  
CHICAGO.....April 7-10  
SAN DIEGO.....March 10-13  
ATLANTA.....February 24-27  
DALLAS.....February 24-27  
BAY AREA.....March 3-6  
SEATTLE.....April 7-10

### KEYS TO SUCCESS

NEWARK.....March 12-13  
CHICAGO.....March 12-13  
SAN DIEGO.....March 19-20  
ATLANTA.....April 9-10  
DALLAS.....April 16-17  
BAY AREA.....February 26-27  
SEATTLE.....MARCH 5-6

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR ALL SEMINARS.**

**PLEASE VISIT YOUR SCHOOL'S WEB SITE FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION.**

**DO NOT MAKE AIRLINE RESERVATIONS UNTIL CONFIRMED BY YOUR SCHOOL**

**Do not show up at the training expecting to be allowed to enter without registering.**

**YOU MUST FIRST REGISTER.**

**LAST DAY OF THE SEMINAR ENDS AT 7:00 PM.**

**PLEASE SCHEDULE FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS ACCORDINGLY.**

If you desire information on any of the Schools mentioned in PARENT SUPPORT NEWS, please contact us at any of the numbers listed below. We would be happy to answer your questions and send you informational and enrollment materials.

**TEEN HELP ADMISSIONS**  
1-800-637-0701

**PARENT RESOURCE HOTLINE**  
1-800-793-5156

**CROSS CREEK ADMISSIONS**  
1-800-818-6228

**HELP MY TEEN**  
1-800-247-1696

**TEENS IN CRISIS**  
1-877-865-9935

**LIFELINES FAMILY SERVICES**  
1-877-723-3767

**TEEN SOLUTIONS**  
1-800-429-6099

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CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**



*Midwest  
Academy*



**SPRING CREEK LODGE ACADEMY**