

January 31st, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Daniel Card, and it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the Our Lady Queen of Peace Ranch. In my role as Department head of Student Leadership at M.E. LaZerte High School, I am constantly looking for experiences for our students to volunteer with organizations that make a sincere difference in the lives of others. Earlier this year, Kathy approached our school with an opportunity for our student leadership and Interact (Rotary) Club to work with OLQP Ranch to better the lives of others. Unsure of what to expect and unfamiliar with the program, I took a small team of students to the ranch for a tour and information session. As soon as we arrived, I was blown away by the majesty of the land and the pure kindness and gratitude of the staff at OLQP Ranch. I knew immediately that we would be forming a partnership with an charitable organization that was professional, humble and determined to make a difference in the lives of others.

Since this initial meeting, our school has worked closely to support the mission of OLQP Ranch through service work and donations. We have entered a partnership with Kathy to donate our school's lost and found items to the ranch for youth to collect when they are in need. Beyond this, we sent 30 students to their community Christmas party at the end of November to help serve food, clean and distribute clothing. Working with OLQP Ranch has quickly become one our student's favourite leadership experiences and they continuously ask when they can go back. Because of my belief in their programming, I have also used my community connections to further support their work and we are close to finalizing a plan with Londonderry Mall to donate their lost and found items to OLQP for collection by their clients. Their work is nothing short of amazing and should not be skipped over in the landscape of the many charitable endeavours that make our great city unique.

I offer my full support to OLQP Ranch and know that they will continue to make a difference in the lives of others. As a school we look forward to working with them for years as we help to serve Edmonton's most vulnerable and nurture our leaders of tomorrow. I can be reached for questions anytime at the phone number located below.

Sincerely,

Daniel Card
Department Head of Student Leadership
M.E. LaZerte High School
(780) 952-5708

From: Kym Hodgson
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 2:59 PM
To: bookings2
Subject: RE: My family's experience with Our Lady Queen of Peace

To Whom it may concern:

As a parent, we always want more for our children. The heartbreaking reality is we can not always provide that. I work full time but barely make ends meet and can almost never afford to take vacation in the summer. During summer holidays, before I knew of the program, my son would spend the entirety of his time at a day home, watching the days pass by. This is not ideal or exciting for any child. They need the outdoors, the interaction, and the excitement.

A few years ago, a friend of mine told me about this wonderful camp that provided kids with a fun, inexpensive (or free) summer camp packed full of experiences and memories that a lot of children do not have access to due to the usual cost of camp. It almost sounded too good to be true. I looked into it immediately and was amazed at this beautiful camp within city limits. They offer the kind of experiences that my son Tommy would have never had were it not for the funding provided to Our Lady Queen of Peace Ranch to be able to offer this camp for free to qualifying families.

Tommy was nervous the first time he attended this camp, we both were. He had never been away overnight for any length of time and he didn't know any of the campers or counselors. He did not want to let go of me. It was hard to leave him there but looking at the grounds and speaking with the staff, I knew he would have a wonderful time. When I arrived at the end of the week to pick him up, he was off playing with some friends he had made, a smile so big on his face his cheeks must have hurt! He introduced me to a few of his favorite councilors, talked my ear off about all the amazing things he did, the friends he had made! It was hard to get him to leave camp!

My son is now 11 years old and has attended Our Lady Queen of Peace summer camp for the past four years. He looks forward to it every year! Now when we get there, he barely looks back before running off to say hi to all his friends. His confidence has grown, his independence now shines through!! He has gained so much from everything this camp offers. He has even told me on many occasions that he would love to become a camp counselor there.

It takes a lot of stress off me as a parent knowing that my son Tommy is safe and having fun, learning and growing through their program.

It relieves some of the guilt I feel as a parent not being able to afford much because the program is rich in experience and learning and I am fortunate that my son can take part in this camp.

We are also grateful for the Annual Christmas Party that Our Lady Queen of Peace puts on. I have a two year old daughter who is too young to do the summer camp but has attended this party with us. It was magical for both my son and daughter!! The effort and detail put into this party is unbelievable. For some of the kids, THIS is their whole Christmas. There is so much to take in, to experience and enjoy. To meet Santa and get a Christmas gift for the kids is just such a beautiful thing for all who attend. The staff are so kind and heartfelt! I see the love they have for the kids and what they do! A lot of them recognized my son from summer camp which made him feel special and important.

I am truly grateful for everything Our Lady Queen of Peace has done for my children and I and hope to continue to be able to enroll my son in this program. Maybe one day, he will become a camp councilor and can enrich the lives of future children the way they have for him.

With Gratitude,

Kym Hodgson
Parent of Camp Attendee, Thomas Lindsay

From: Kholoud Z
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 12:19 PM
To: bookings2
Subject: Amazing experiences with OLQP ranch

Good afternoon,

I am a mom of three and kids and we were invited by Our Lady Queen of Peace to their summer party through the Boys and Girls club three years ago, that was the start of a great experience and amazing times for my kids for the next three years. We have attended the summer camps for three years now, we have also attended two Christmas parties at the ranch which were phenomenal. My kids keep counting down the days till the next time they get to visit the ranch and experience new things and go and see the leaders and the staff there. If it wasn't for the ranch a lot of the things that they experienced my husband and I were able wouldn't be able to provide them with that like attending weeklong camps and getting amazing gifts that they get a say in. My kids enjoyment is something that I can't even express into words to express to you their happiness. The would like to thank you, all the staff and everyone that coordinates and puts these things together from funding, volunteer hours and so on I want to thank you from the bottom my heart no words can express how happy you have made my family.

We all keep praying that we get to experience more things in the future at the ranch.

Sincerely,
The Sinnokrot family