



On Tuesday August 12, the staff of Faith Home Adult & Teen Challenge was thrilled to present our Executive Director, Rick Souza with a surprise birthday gift. The staff, along with a generous donation from the parents of one staff member, all pitched in to purchase a golf cart for Rick to move comfortably around the 35 acre ranch, and back-and-forth to the big shop where the Tiny Homes will be built.

The opportunity to buy the golf cart came at the perfect time. Just in time for Rick’s birthday and right before we begin construction on the Tiny Homes.

Whether it’s a stroll through the greenhouse and gardens, a visit to the bee apiary or a trip out to the Tiny Home Shop, Rick will be riding in style!

We’ve been in need of a golf cart for some time now and we are eternally grateful to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His continued goodness and provision to us all here at Faith Home Ranch.

Happy birthday Rick!



RICK SOUZA

Big Moves and Tiny Homes



When I first arrived at FHATC 8.5 years ago, one of the enterprises was cutting, stacking, and selling firewood cords. It took up quite a large area and one of our interns was Eric Elliott. I remember telling him we were going to build a shop there some day. In 2019 we did construct a 6,000 square foot metal shop building to use for an enterprise to generate funds for our ministry. However, we were quite limited in its use because it was classified as an Agriculture Shop.

In January 2022 we began a series of meetings with County and Ministry Leaders about the possibility of building Tiny Homes for job training and to generate income. We had to apply for a Conditional Use Permit from Stanislaus County Planning Department which required a

lot of work, expense, and time. We were granted the Conditional Use Permit on December 7, 2023. We celebrated, but the journey was not complete. There were multiple conditions to be met before the issuance of a building permit. Once again, a lot of work, expense, and time. The permit was approved in June 2025. Again we celebrated, but the question was always there, where will the funds come from to construct the work site.

Our major partners for this project are STEP (Stanislaus Equity Partners), and R-3 (Rehabilitation, Restoration & Respite). STEP applied for a significant grant many months ago to help us get the project off the ground. On June 20, 2025, this project received a \$1,900,000.00 grant. This grant was Federal funds, through EDD (Employee Development Department). EDD audits the project, STEP administers all of the funds, FHATC is the project manager, and R-3 has experience and necessary licenses as well as marketing the final product.

Since EDD provided the grant, their main interest is that we are training men in marketable skills for certification so when they leave, a livable wage should be attainable. Modesto Junior College will be designing the curriculum and training, and classroom education will take place at night, just like apprenticeships. Our target is 50 certified men by January 2027.

At the moment, the approved units are 400 square feet, 600 square feet, and 800 square feet. The 800 square feet unit has a kitchen, bathroom, family room, and four bedrooms. Affordable housing for churches with unused land, farmers, ranchers, and mother-in-law quarters are in great demand. We will be the only manufacturing plant in the valley. This is quite an opportunity to both train men and provide funds for the ministry.

I do want to emphasize these funds are not ours. We have not become wealthy. Building the units will be one of our enterprises, but we still rely on your financial support, fundraisers, and the other enterprises. But we realize we are so blessed and after 8.5 years of labor, we give all of the glory to God.

Blessings,

Rick Souza
Executive Director and CEO

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PRAYER REQUESTS?

OUR GROWING

Custom Wood Signs

Let one of our Live-Edge w/ bark custom signs become a beautiful rustic addition to your home or place of business. We offer a range of off-the-shelf designs along with many custom design options for lettering, fonts, colors, graphics, single or double sided, wall or post mounted.

All our signs are handcrafted from start to finish using only high-quality materials made to last a lifetime. These are carved and hand-painted (NOT vinyl stickers). Our signs are hand-milled straight from the tree so dimensions do vary.

We categorize our wood slabs by height, REGULAR being approximately 11" to 15" tall and EXTRA-LARGE 16" to 19" tall. All signs are 30" wide and approximately 1" thick.



OUR ANNUAL

Spring District Picnic



On Wednesday June 11, the Northern California/Nevada Adult & Teen Challenges gathered together at our Faith Home Ranch for the annual District Picnic and Softball Tournament. It was a beautiful day as 300 people worshipped the Lord and heard a powerful message from Pastor Randy Richardson of Riverbank Assemblies Church. He spoke of thirsting for Jesus, drinking of His Spirit and letting the living water flow from within. Many came forward to receive of the Lord, Jesus Christ.



Faith Home barbequed hotdogs & hamburgers and all of the Centers pitched in by providing food and drinks. The softball tournament went on through-out the day and was very fun and exciting. The Redwood Women's Center from Eureka won the women's tournament. The final game of the day came down to Faith Home and the Norwest Cal Cross & Cleats teams. The game was very close and tied up at one point. But the Faith Home men pulled ahead in the last inning and took the win for the third year running.

Overall it was a great day of food, fellowship and fun for all. How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! Psalm 133:1



I'm happy to report that on August 19th, we launched our newest Ready Now non-residential discipleship group at Hope Tree Church at 2745 2nd Street in Ceres, California. They are meeting every Tuesday at 6:30 pm.

The lead facilitator for this group is George MacIntosh. They will be studying from the Breaking Free curriculum, which is the same curriculum used at our Faith Home ATC ministries. If you or someone you know is dealing with a life-controlling issue, please come join us. If you or your church is interested in having a Ready Now small group ministry at your church, feel free to contact me (Mel King) or our Executive Director Rick Souza.

Also, you can learn more at the READYNOW.ORG website. If you are ready, we are Ready Now!

Mel King
Ready Now Director
Community Engagement Representative

