



GREEN OAK RANCH MINISTRIES, INC.

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www.greenoakranch.org

June 04, 2015

Mr. Chuck Matthews
Deputy Director, HHS
County of San Diego

Dear Mr. Matthews,

With a servant's heart and the joy that brings together a healthy lifestyle, Green Oak Ranch Ministries, Inc. endorses the County of San Diego's *Live Well, San Diego* initiative.

Once home to the Kumeyaay and Luiseno Indian tribes, Green Oak Ranch (formerly, Camp Vista) became part of the nationwide recovery effort following the Great Depression of the 1930's. President Franklin D. Roosevelt established "Camp Vista" as a work program for unemployed young men. Later, Camp Vista played a role in the military defense effort of World War II.

In 1950, the Union Rescue Mission, a large Los Angeles skid row ministry, purchased the site and established "Green Oak Ranch" as a Christian youth camp for inner-city boys from skid row life. In 1951, the Mission began recruiting skid row men as "ranch hands." The Ranch's rural setting proved highly effective in helping inner-city men break persistent alcohol addiction. The Union Rescue Mission divested the Ranch in 1998.

With the Ranch's future somewhat in question, help came in the way of a local businessman. With the purchase of Green Oak Ranch by Arie de Jong, and the establishment of a separate corporate identity (Green Oak Ranch Ministries, Inc.) the Ranch has operated independently ever since.

Green Oak Ranch is a one-of-a kind community of the Christian faith. The Ranch effectively incorporates social model recovery/restoration services for up to 80+ men and women (sometimes with children); hosts thousands of adults and youth camp and retreat guests (including hundreds of foster children); and in cooperation with New Alternatives, Inc. provides services to help with hundreds of dependent children in North County San Diego.

We look forward to the years ahead in providing services and serving the poor and disenfranchised, honored to be partnered with the County of San Diego, to strive to improve the quality of life for all that live here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right and then curves slightly upwards.

Jim Huber
Interim Director / Board Member
Green Oak Ranch Ministries, Inc.