

DONOR FOCUS: HillView Ranch and the Grace of Sharing



HillView Ranch Crew (left to right): Henry Holcomb, Operations Manager, Kathy Bellamy, Volunteer Organizer, and owners Pat and Jane Durbin enjoy sharing their 350-acre ranch located between Lockhart and Luling.

For four years, Pat and Jane Durbin have offered a relaxing summer day at their ranch for HCWC clients and their children. The families enjoy a hay-ride, lunch, swimming, feeding and brushing miniature donkeys, fishing and listening to flute music played by local artists. Mostly, the families enjoy nature and views.

“It’s something we’re supposed to do,” explained Jane. “The ranch is not ours; it belongs to God. It is a blessing for us, and we were meant to share it with other people.”

Jane found out about HCWC’s programs working with victims of abuse when she and her husband attended the annual auction several years ago. Executive Director Marla Johnson told Jane and Pat about the direct services HCWC provides at no cost to victims of family vio-

lence, sexual assault and child abuse.

The Durbins were moved by the work and wanted to know how they could help. They already offered their ranch to the Austin Children’s Shelter and families from local churches, and the couple asked if HCWC would benefit from retreats for victims and their children. It has become an annual summer tradition for HCWC’s clients who rave about the experience.

This summer the Durbins decided to open the ranch to HCWC staff for a retreat. “It helps them keep a positive frame of mind,” noted Jane. “It’s hard to take care of others without also taking care of yourself.”

Why do they do it? “You’ll never regret helping others,” Jane offered. “It makes us feel good helping others feel good.”

