

The Mooneys

ARE BRINGING A
NEW COMMUNITY
TO LONE TREE

talltalesranch

Shared by Pat & Susan Mooney | Photos by Julie Kemerling of A Fine



 Julie Kemerling
www.afinephotographer.com

Pat and Susan Mooney noticed increasingly odd behavior by their son, Ross, when he was 12 years old. At first, they thought it was just hormones and the effects of puberty, something he would grow out of. They were wrong.

Ross was diagnosed with progressive x-linked adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD), a genetic disorder that causes the deterioration of white matter in the brain. The only treatment for the disorder is a bone marrow transplant. The Mooney's youngest son, Max, donated his, which stopped the disease from progressing, but left Ross with a permanent acquired brain injury.

Like all parents of cognitively disabled children, the Mooneys began to wonder and worry about what would happen to their son when they were gone. Leaving his care to his siblings, Max and sister, Saryn, was not the solution, so Pat and Susan began exploring the options. They were dissatisfied by the choices and knew that the waiting list for residential services was long. That's when they decided they would build a community for intellectual/developmental disabled (I/DD) adults to live out their lives as normally as possible in a supportive and interactive environment.

"We want to build a community to allow residents to be as independent as possible but always have constant support and assistance as needed. We want Ross and others living with I/DD to live in a community surrounded by acceptance, opportunity and inclusion," Susansays.

Tall Tales Ranch will partner with Lone Tree's historic Schweiger Ranch, which is located at I-25 and Ridgeway, to build their special community. It is important to both parties to honor their missions of engagement and education. By leading tours and assisting with school and church groups, Tall Tales Ranch will be able to teach acceptance, tolerance and the value of differences to many.

The mission of Tall Tales Ranch is to provide a life sharing community where both people with and without disabilities can live in a supportive, cooperative environment that honors their individuality, celebrates their uniqueness and helps them to reach their full potential.

Tall Tales Ranch will have a large community center barn that will serve to bring people together. The center will house a coffee shop that will employ people in the I/DD community. Additionally,

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it will have rental space for small events, and will be a gathering place designed to support people living with I/DD. They also plan to have small farm animals and a community garden with the objective being to create a welcoming place that unites people and has something for everyone.

Right now Tall Tales Ranch is in the funding and development stage. The Mooneys are searching for corporations interested in investing in the



community, individual donations and grants to begin construction.

Lone Tree will be gaining an innovative community of adults who will have the opportunity to be productive, supported, valued members of their community, while demonstrating that they have so much to give.

To find out more about the Tall Tales Ranch go to:

talltalesranch.com

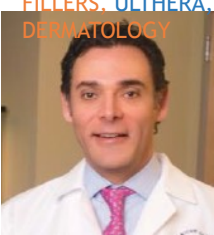


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There are an estimated 40.3 million people around the globe who are trapped in forced labor or sexual exploitation. And while most of these people are trafficked overseas, many still are being trafficked in our own communities. And yet, we're often oblivious to these men, women and children, and to the horrific reality in which they live.

Here's the good news: *Something is being done about it.*

As a for-profit company, N2 Publishing stays in business because we're good at generating revenue, but we don't know anything about rescuing victims or bringing traffickers to justice. That's the impactful role of nonprofits – the real heroes in this fight. But they need revenue to be the best at what they do ... and raising funds is where most charities fall short. Therein lies a perfect synergy – between for-profit companies with big hearts (and able "wallets") and nonprofits with the passion and know-how to save lives.

In 2016, the leaders of N2 Publishing realized the essential role they could play in the fight against human trafficking, and N2GIVES came to life. Last year, through this philanthropic arm,

For everybody, there's a cause near and dear to the heart; something you hear about and just can't seem to shake. For N2 Publishing, the company behind this publication, it's the epidemic of modern-day slavery.

the company partnered with 34 nonprofits selected as part of a lengthy, in-depth vetting process. N2 donated \$2.2 million to fund the impactful work these charities do to fight the great injustice.

This year, N2GIVES did more.

\$2.5 million was given to help **35 nonprofits** continue their work of rescuing and restoring the lives of trafficked victims. N2 also purchased a home now used as the first emergency shelter for trafficked victims on the east coast. **This means, to date, N2GIVES' total contribution to fighting modern-day slavery has surpassed \$5 million.**

But this issue won't end with N2 or with the 30-plus charities it supports. It takes a greater sense of awareness among business owners and residents in communities nationwide, as well as the giving of funds or volunteer time. Consider joining this effort with N2GIVES. Together, we can bring hope to the hopeless.

To learn more, visit n2gives.com and follow the organization on Facebook and Twitter.



N2GIVES



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