

# TALL TALES RANCH



**TALL TALES RANCH – a community home and hub for neuro-diversity, inclusion and possibility – is coming to Lone Tree, and bringing opportunity with them.**

Sharing Lone Tree Mayor Jackie Millet's sentiments about the value and importance of celebrating and supporting diversity, Tall Tales Ranch founders, Susan and Pat Mooney, have dreamed up a groundbreaking development to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), like their son, Ross, who has an acquired brain injury. He and their growing community of Tall Tales Ranch *ambassadors* – those living with autism and Down syndrome – are at the heart of the vision, inspiring every step they take on the journey to build a place for supported vocational training, meaningful employment and intentionally neuro-diverse community.



Tall Tales Ranch assembled an architectural “dream team” to realize their physical vision. Together, they have designed a stunning community hub and home for inclusion and neuro-diversity. It will feature:

**A community event barn** that will offer space for programmatic activities such as yoga, dance fitness, social connection, life skills, and other educational and life-enriching classes, as well as opportunities to engage the greater community. The barn’s upstairs mezzanine is designed with office spaces for Tall Tales Ranch operations and partners. Rental of the event barn for small weddings, conferences, and other gatherings will provide sustaining revenue as well as vocational training in catering, hospitality and events for people with special needs from across the Denver metro area. The ideal location – directly across the street from the RidgeGate Light Rail station – means easy access to and from everywhere the Light Rail runs.

**A retail coffee shop** will demonstrate one of TTR’s core tenets, intentional neuro-diversity, by providing vocational training and employment opportunities to those with and without disabilities, and to those who do, and do not, reside at the ranch. The public will be encouraged and welcomed to visit the ranch’s coffee shop for a good cup of java, happy hour libations with accompanying live acoustic musical performances, and open mic nights for people of every ability and stripe.

## LOCAL TIP



“For a simple, casual meal, nothing beats the **Red Robin** in Lone Tree! There’s something for everyone, from a California chicken burger to a Red’s Tavern Double. While you’re there, be sure to try my favorite appetizer, the onion rings. The super-friendly waitstaff serve great milkshakes, too!”

– Wynne S.

**Two sets of paired cottages** will house approximately 32 residents, offering small, leased apartments for those who can enjoy semi-independent living. A central community building called *The Big Blue House* will be home base for connection, activities and fellowship, a space designed to encourage gathering of the residents, friends and families. There will be 24/7 Tall Tales Ranch-trained aides, similar to the college “RA” model, to ensure resident safety, coordination with advocate services, and that needs are met. In the interest of inviting neuro- and socioeconomic diversity, a small number of apartments will be leased to those qualifying for attainable housing – teachers and first responders, for example – who can serve as good neighbors and stewards among this diverse community of residents.

**A community garden** featuring raised vegetable beds and a family orchard, and adjacent walking trails offering access to abundant open spaces, will offer educational gardening and environmental opportunities to residents and visitors.



## PROGRAMMING IS HAPPENING NOW!

Though not yet existing in brick and mortar, Tall Tales offer a variety of programs for those 18 and older in the I/DD community. These include\*:

- a community-based social adventuring group
- a trailblazing neuro-diverse Young Professionals Board
- an annual talent show ensemble
- the Powderhound Ski Team

... and, coming in 2021, a new vocational program offering supported coffee shop employment training on TTR’s new mobile coffee truck, which will serve as a bridge program while they await the construction of the ranch’s coffee shop.

Shifting in 2020 for COVID restrictions, many programs have had to become virtual. Until people are able to gather safely again, a variety of classes are being offered, including yoga, fitness, “armchair traveling,” games, trivia and other avenues for social connection and community building during these isolated times.

To learn more about programming opportunities, contact Director of Programs, Sally McCance, at [sally@talltalesranch.org](mailto:sally@talltalesranch.org).

Tall Tales Ranch calls their ambassadors *unapologetically different*. With thoughtful, supportive vocational and employment opportunities, a slate of planned community events, and chances for meaningful interaction with those who live differently from ourselves, they look forward to the day Lone Tree and surrounding communities make visits to their neuro-inclusive coffee shop, community barn and gardens the brightest moment of their week.

Lone Tree has welcomed Tall Tales Ranch with open arms, including their immediate neighbor to the south, the historic Schweiger Ranch. The two nonprofit organizations already enjoy a blossoming partnership, as the ranch offers opportunities for the Tall Tales ambassadors and others to volunteer and take part in cultural events and activities at the ranch.

To learn more about supporting Tall Tales Ranch’s mission, or the capital campaign that will make possible that ribbon-cutting day, please contact Development Director, Heather Lauren Quiroga, at [heather@talltalesranch.org](mailto:heather@talltalesranch.org) or 720.227.5363.