



**El Ranchito
de los Niños**

Keeping Brothers and Sisters Together

*"My favorite thing
is family and
friends."*

*"Fair days! I love to go
to the fair. Fair food.
The animals. All of it."*

SOME OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS THAT HAPPENED THIS YEAR

- Our kitchen remodel has revitalized the whole house! It's so exciting to see such a beautiful space where our family can gather together.
- We had 2 children be baptized and receive their 1st Holy Communion this spring. We are so blessed to be a part of their growing faith.
- We had two more head to high school this year! That makes three. They grow up so fast!
- We once again raised several 4-H animals. We had three goats, three pigs, a rabbit and chickens. It was definitely a summer filled with hard work.
- Sports are an important part of our daily routine at El Ranchito. We had kids participate in football, soccer, basketball, cross country and track. The highlight of the sport seasons was one of our young ladies being on the District 2 Champions Team representing their school! It was an exciting year watching all of them play, grow and learn.



MY FAVORITE THING IS THE PEOPLE THAT SURROUND EL RANCHITO

KATHY MECHENBIER,
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER

At El Ranchito de los Niños, Kathy finds that the heart of our community truly beats through the wonderful people who surround us. It's not just about the kids, but all the people that surround El Ranchito in different ways! The joy of connecting with an array of new faces—from dedicated staff who share our passion for kids to generous donors who believe in our mission—creates a community of support and collaboration. It's an old saying "It takes a village to raise a child", but in this case it truly does. All the people that support the mission of El Ranchito play an integral part of each child's life; from donors to volunteer, teachers to staff, and supporters to resources in the community – we appreciate each and every one of you!



Through the last 24 years, this is one of Kathy's favorite things about being a part of El Ranchito. Meeting so many kind hearted, generous, enthusiastic, helpful and determined people has been a blessing. Each interaction is like an addition to our family, where we learn and grow together! So, come join us; there's always room for one more in our home!

MY FAVORITE PART IS LEARNING NEW THINGS

DANIEL MARTINEZ

At El Ranchito, Daniel's passion is palpable! His favorite part of his role is the chance to put his Master's degree in Educational Administration to good use, turning his passion for children into a thriving educational experience for all. With 15 years of classroom experience under his belt, he's now stepping into the role of supervisor, eager to share his knowledge and foster growth in both the adults he works with and the children they support. This career shift is like turning the page to a new chapter filled with learning opportunities, and Daniel is ready to embrace each day with open arms and an open mind. He just never knew how much he still had to learn – for example, who knew that you should scoop all the pig feed in to a ball to make it easier for the pig to finish the last of their food? Just some important information for a normal day at El Ranchito.

Not only has becoming a supervisor and learning new things been important to Daniel, but some of the best parts of his job are sharing jokes with the kids, playing games with the kids and mowing the lawn (that's right, he enjoys the quiet time to think!).

We are excited to have him as part of our team and look forward to all the new things we can learn from him!

"Playing sports!"

"My favorite thing is being outside. I like fishing and hiking and being in the wilderness."

"Animals are my favorite!"



"All things water – rain, the river, the pool, water slides. I love water!"

MY FAVORITE PART IS THE KIDS!

ELOY PADILLA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eloy, our enthusiastic new Executive Director, embodies a genuine passion for the children at El Ranchito, declaring them his favorite part of his new role. Watching them grow and express themselves, especially when they dress up for special occasions, fills him with pride and joy. This summer has been particularly enriching for him as he immerses himself in hands-on activities like 4-H and animal care, cultivating not just skills but also deep emotional and social connections among the children. Eloy thrives in this nurturing environment, cherishing the cooperative spirit and teamwork that define El Ranchito, where every moment is an opportunity to inspire and uplift one another. His enthusiasm is infectious, inviting everyone to be part of this heartwarming journey, where every child's smile reflects the love and support that surrounds them.

"I love the holidays."





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CHARITY CRUISE

We all relaxed and soaked up the sun as we strolled through the streets of Tuscany! It was a night of Italian flair and we all came together to enjoy each other's company as we supported the children of El Ranchito.

We were so excited to see everyone! Thank you for opening your hearts to the kids of El Ranchito de los Niños.

Save the date for next year's Charity Cruise – April 26, 2025!!



"My favorite time of year is Fall. The weather, the changing leaves, the pumpkins!"

"My Favorite Thing is the FOOD!"

DUKE IT OUT

Duke It Out 2024 was an amazing evening filled with delicious food and excitement watching the chefs create phenomenal dishes and helping the children of El Ranchito de los Niños. Congratulations to the winners of the night!

Best Entree - Chef Joe Padilla, Sobremesa Restaurant and Brewery

Best Dessert - Chef Megan Lewis, Ex Novo

People's Choice Entree - Chef Joe Padilla, Sobremesa Restaurant and Brewery

People's Choice Dessert - Chef Sara Green, My Mom's

Thank you to our generous host, Builders Source Appliance Gallery, and a special thanks to Ben E.

Keith for all that they do for the event. Thank you to

all our sponsors and the participating restaurants for making this event possible and supporting our mission of keeping brothers and sisters together.