SHEPHERD'S CANYON RETREAT MINISTRY
ARIZONA & MISSOURI

Summer 2026

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

Milestone: Over 1,000 SCR participants!

Since Shepherd's Canyon began in 2009, God has allowed us to host more than **150 counseling retreats** and serve more than **1,000 pastors, ministry workers, and spouses**. **Praise God!**

Each number represents a person or couple who came to Shepherd's Canyon carrying the weight of ministry—often exhausted, discouraged, grieving, or uncertain about the future. Through professional Christian counseling, meaningful worship, restorative rest, and the support of others who understand ministry life, participants have found help, hope, and healing.

We praise God for everyone who has helped make these retreats possible. Whether you have prayed, volunteered, donated, encouraged a ministry family, or shared Shepherd's Canyon with someone in need, **you have been part of this ministry.**

Thank you for helping us care for those who have devoted their lives to caring for others!

Arizona



Missouri



An EXCITING Opportunity to Double Your Gift!!!

Let's get it done!!! Here's an opportunity to double your gift! In 2020, Founder Dave Anderson helped raise nearly $300,000 for the construction of a new lodge at our Arizona retreat center. Unfortunately, the project was delayed by COVID-19, permitting challenges, and necessary design changes. In those 6 years, **construction costs have nearly doubled.** We now need to raise an additional $300,000 so this building can become a reality.

We are excited to announce that **generous donors** have offered to **match gifts totaling up to $150,000!** Another donor has already pledged $20,000 toward the match, so now we are looking to you to help us raise another **$130,000** to be doubled. In whatever way God leads you to help we will be deeply grateful!

A New Chapter Begins in Missouri

This summer marked an exciting milestone for Shepherd's Canyon as we hosted our **first retreat** at our new Missouri location. And just in time—we have **waiting lists** of people who need help quickly! All of our Missouri and Arizona summer retreats filled completely. Opening a second location allows us to serve more people while making retreats more accessible to more people around the country. We are grateful to God for bringing this vision to life and grateful for everyone who has prayed, donated, volunteered, and encouraged us along the way.

Servant Hearts Prepare the Missouri Retreat Center



God still does miracles and we saw Him perform one! We had five short weeks to get our new site ready before the first retreat and we had LOTS of work to do! Ten volunteers joined Kevin and Tawn for a very productive weekend of work. The volunteers came from several communities, many after hearing about Shepherd's Canyon when Kevin and Tawn spoke at their churches:

- Zion Lutheran Church, Bethalto, Illinois: Steve, Nancy, Marla, and Cory
- Campus Lutheran Church, Columbia, Missouri: Lugine and Ron
- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Washington, Missouri: Katie and Kerry
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Edinburg, Illinois: Mark and Wanda

One project was assembling a dozen new counseling chairs to be used for group sessions with 8 more coming soon for small counseling rooms. We are grateful we could purchase these chairs with a generous $12,000 grant from the Koskovich Foundation.

The volunteers helped move beds and large cabinets, pull old dishes out of cabinets before wiping them down and stocking them with clean dishes. They tore out the inflexible wooden shelves in the pantry area, put together food service shelves, and painted. They put together counseling chairs, an outdoor patio set, and more. Some made the place more beautiful by weeding, doing landscape work and weed whipping around the lake. A tree was trimmed and a small cedar tree removed. The porch was power washed and a cross and fire pit were built. Wow!

We are also thankful for Anne Larson, who has been a full-time volunteer at our Arizona site. Anne flew to Missouri and helped us prepare the new site, along with food service and hospitality during the retreat.

A tremendous amount of work was accomplished in a short time. God provided these helpers and we are so thankful for each volunteer who gave time, energy, and a servant heart to prepare this new location for ministry workers and their spouses! Praise God for people who say Yes!

Photos from the volunteer weekend can be viewed at:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1S4LTmEXtFGzoB5wXLVKUFloAnPwDOonG?usp=drive_link

From one ministry couple: "...people comment that they can't believe how much we have changed in just one week."

"Dear generous donors...We have been serving faithfully for 17 years while raising a family. Over the course of the past couple of years, we began to notice signs of burnout due to a combination of mental, physical, emotional and spiritual exhaustion. It was impacting our family relationships, our ability to work, our marriage and even led to questioning our Call to serve. It was eventually recommended to us that we both attend Shepherd's Canyon Retreat in Arizona. We knew the only way that could be a possibility would be with **considerable financial aid, and thanks to you** we were able to attend. Our week there turned out to be one of the most powerful experiences of our lives and we came back to our ministry as new people...We can't remember the last time we felt so cared for, supported and valued. God is truly doing amazing things through Shepherd's Canyon.

"Our time there was so life-changing that upon our return back home, we had a number of people comment that they can't believe how much we have changed in just one week.

"We cannot thank you enough for making this a possibility for us. We know that there are many other church workers who would benefit from this powerful ministry...Thank you for sharing your financial gifts. Please know that it has made a significant difference in our lives as well as for our family, church and school. May the Holy Spirit continue to work through those such as yourself to spread the love and saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to his people. To God be the glory!"

Staff and Volunteers Love to serve at our Arizona Site





Won't You Be Our Neighbor?

Shepherd's Canyon has a rare opportunity to protect the peaceful, private setting of our Arizona retreat center by securing the developed five-acre property directly next door. This property could help preserve the healing environment our guests need while also providing space for maintenance, storage, offices, vehicles, or possible staff housing. The property is listed for **$680,000**, and we are **prayerfully seeking a donor or group of donors who might purchase it** and donate it to Shepherd's Canyon now or sometime in the future ensuring this important opportunity is not lost.

No Need to Wait: Direct Your Thrivent Choice Dollars Today

Beginning in 2026, eligible members can direct all of their Choice Dollars® now instead of waiting for them to accumulate gradually. If you are a Thrivent member, please designate your available Choice Dollars to **Shepherd's Canyon** now, and help bring help, hope, and healing to ministry families.

SHEPHERD'S CANYON RETREAT MINISTRY
ARIZONA & MISSOURI

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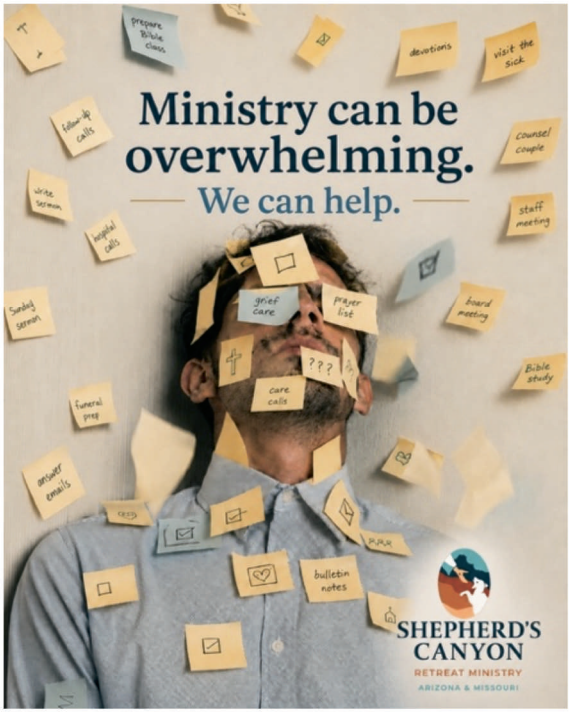

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY. HONOR YOUR VALUES.

Write your Last Will and Testament for FREE, courtesy of Shepherd's Canyon Retreat.

Go to: MyLegacyWill.com/ShepherdsCanyon

In Loving Memory of:

Vernon Hanson - given by Carol J Hanson
Jack Adrian - given by Darlene Adrian
Doug & Polly Phillips - given by Douglas and Tamara Newell
Sue Boyer - given by Eileen Anderson
Mark Haugen - given by Gloria McNelis
Anna Steinbraunn - given by Connie Wischnack
Dave Chapman - given by Dave & Barb Anderson
Carl Holter - given by Dave & Barb Anderson
Ted Gunning - given by Dave & Barb Anderson
Jim Sauer - given by Dave & Barb Anderson
David Penn - given by Dave & Barb Anderson
Gerilyn Le Mon - given by Dave & Barb Anderson

In Honor of:

Rev. Doug Nicely's Birthday –
given by George & Darlene Fitzinger
Phil Lee's Retirement –
Signe White (grateful for his impact in my life)

Grateful Words from a Retreat Participant

"Our time at Shepherd's Canyon was truly a transformative experience...where we felt like honored guests. This is exactly what we needed following a season of ministry hurt. We are so thankful for the ministry of Shepherd's Canyon for its role in helping us to continue in the work that God has called us to."

Wish List for our Missouri Site
https://throne.com/scanyon