

## Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Group Home Inspection Report

Facility Name:	Plumfield Ranch
Address:	On File
Phone	On File
Contact Person	Darcee Drakulich

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	Mary Cone, Jim Weathers
Date of Inspection	October 27, 2014
Date of Last Inspection	October 10, 2013
C.C.L. Contact	Pauline Muntzer
Date of Last C.C.L. Inspection	

*\*O = Outstanding \*S= Satisfactory or exceeds \*N.I. = Needs Improvement/corrective*

### *Action*

INSPECTED	O	S	N.I.	Comments
Grounds	X			This home is in a beautiful valley in west Sonoma County. It has a spectacular view of hillsides, vineyards, orchards, and wildlife. They have a barn on the property where festivities such as birthdays, holidays, and are held.
Building Exterior		X		The property is well maintained, in fact, the day of our visit a woodworker was putting in a very attractive redwood raised entrance to the home. It was a weaving walkway from the parking area to the front porch.
Living Room	X			The living room is a very cozy and comfortable area with two leather sofas facing a fireplace. There is a flat screen tv, library, computer, telescope, and coffee table. This is where the young men gather.
Kitchen		X		The kitchen is clean and supplied with more than enough silverware, plates, cups, glasses, etc. The food supplies are generous. There are more than 20 cookbooks in the cupboard and there are copious amounts of spices and herbs, which we can assume means someone is really cooking in this home. The kitchen table is large enough for all in the home and comfortable.
Bedrooms	X			All bedrooms are very clean and organized. There are books on the nightstands, which show how interested these young men are in reading.
Bathrooms		X		There is one bathroom, which is clean and well maintained.
Fire Safety --Extinguishers		X		The fire extinguishers are up to date.
Fire Safety --Smoke Alarms		X		The smoke alarms are placed in the correct areas for optimal coverage.
Fire Safety --Evacuation Plan		X		There is an evacuation plan in the laundry room, however, all residents

			know their route out and drills are routine.
Food		X	The day we visited, we were met with delicious aromas of turkey chili emanating from the kitchen. The diets of these young men are excellent. They benefit from healthy, real food. There was fruit in a bowl on the kitchen table. All of the young men are trim and fit.
Emergency Supplies		X	This home has all emergency required within easy reach.
Health Services		X	Taken to doctors and dentists as needed. Individual, group and family services are included.
Medications		X	All medications are in a locked cabinet in the kitchen along with the sharps. The medication log was up to date.
Recreation (on site)	X		This home affords an incredible bounty of recreation on site. There are acres of land to run around, play baseball, soccer, football, and any game you need room to play – it's available. There is a basketball court. There is the barn for projects that need more space. There is a garden outside the kitchen. There are musical instruments in order for them to practice for the drumming class and subsequent presentations.
Outings (off site)	X		The young men go to the park, shopping, movies, Giants games, museums, hiking, fishing, bowling, ice skating, San Francisco, and events at their respective schools (prom, dances, etc.), football games.
Education & Classrooms		X	Most of the young men in this home attend Plumfield Academy. One resident attends Analy High School and one attends El Molino High School. Plumfield Academy is a private, Nonpublic school with six highly structured classrooms of 4 to 6 students per class.
Mail/Phone		X	Residents may send and receive mail and make and receive phone calls. The mail is not read and the phone calls are not monitored.
Discipline		X	Plumfield uses a language-based behavior management system where emphasis is placed on effective communication, social skills, and problem solving. I have seen this work over and over with the young men here. By the time they reach The Ranch, they are very successful with peer and adult relationships.
Library	X		Plumfield has an extensive library. If a resident needs or desires a certain book, it is usually purchased. I have seen residents reading the most impressive books for their age. Reading is definitely encouraged at this home.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES**

Plumfield Academy complies with California State Standards, which are taught by special education teachers. This gives these boys much needed individualized attention. Many of these boys who have been left behind in other schools and here they thrive.

The Ranch staff, many of whom have worked here for decades, are extremely experienced. Their experience is

observable in the way they treat the young men here – and the way the young men react to the staff.

This group home is truly like a real, functional family home. We all sat in the living room, and had a conversation about many interesting current events as well as the books the boys were reading.

The music program at Plumfield Academy is outstanding. From a very young age, these boys can try out for the Plumfield Beat Boys. This group performs in many parades and has won numerous awards. The most experienced drummers can audition for the Plumfield Drum Ensemble. They perform for various schools and organizations throughout the county. It is amazing to see the confidence the boys gain from the drumming discipline, practice, and performances.

There is a strong emphasis placed on physical development which includes daily physical education classes, Intramural Basketball teams, and the Annual Plumfield Academy Olympic competition.

I have attended the Olympic competition for many years and the work that goes into it, both on the part of the staff and the boys, is beyond impressive.

## Youth Interviews

TOPICS	O	S	N.I.	Comments
Evaluation of Program		X		"I like the program, it's taught me a lot."
Program Understood		X		Easy to understand, even for new kids.
Levels (Privileges)		X		"The levels are a fairer way to teach us how to behave."
Grievances		X		"I know what to do if I have a grievance, go to staff or Scott or Darcee."
Discipline		X		"Everyone understands the discipline."
Staff Evaluation		X		"We have the best staff at the Ranch."
Health Services		X		"They take us to the doctor or dentist when we need to go."
Counseling/Therapy		X		"Scott is the best."
Chores & Allowance		X		"The chores are fair and we are learning how to live in the world."
Laundry		X		"We do our own laundry."
Clothes		X		"They are really great about buying us clothes when we need them."
Food		X		"The food is really good and healthy, too."
Snacks		X		"We have enough snacks and I like fruit better now."
School		X		"I like Analy more now than last year." Plumfield Academy is really good because I am doing better all the time."
Library		X		"We have lots of books in our own library but we can get others."
Activities & Entertainment		X		"We go lots of places and do lots of things. I like the drumming and the parade." "I really like the Sea Cadets. It's going to help me in many ways in my life." "I like my volunteer job at Hospice."

## ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH

# of Youth Interviewed: \_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_

The boys volunteer at Hospice and Ceres multiple days a week. They are each involved with outside of school activities on an almost daily basis. We were lucky to catch four of them at home.

## Inspection Summary

It is obvious that The Ranch is committed to providing a safe, highly structured environment where change and growth can occur through achievement and positive reinforcement.

Plumfield is an impressive group home.

Next Inspection Recommended: \_\_\_\_\_ or  Annual

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Inspection**  
Inspection Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Cone, Chairperson

cc: Honorable Judge of the Sonoma County Superior Court  
Commissioner of the Juvenile Court  
Probation Department, Chief of Probation  
Sonoma County Family Youth & Children's Services  
State of California, Community Care Licensing  
Facility Inspected