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May 19, 2021

Dear Deep Springs family,

A couple of weeks ago DS19 cowboys* Ziani and Julien were riding through the cattle in the South Lake Pasture with Ranch Manager Tim when they found a baby calf who had been attacked by coyotes. Her hind quarters were ripped up and they couldn't imagine how she was still living. Putting the calf down was a good option, but they considered whether it was the only option. They were a long way from anywhere you could get a trailer. Tim left the cowboys to figure out what to do while he headed back to the ranch to teach his Horsemanship class.

After class, with no sign of Ziani and Julien, Tim loaded up his horse Badger and headed to the lake. To his surprise, he was greeted in the corrals by two cowboys head-to-toe in salty lake mud, one cow, and one calf. Somehow, they'd moved a nearly dead calf and distraught mom a couple of miles on foot across the valley. They loaded the pair and trailered back to the college.

The calf (who has earned the name "Hope") survived Banamine, Penicillin, peroxide, wound powder, Catron oil (for the inevitable flies and maggots), ritual scraping of dead flesh, and much care. Two weeks later, Hope is bounding around the lower ranch, nursing from mom, and will soon rejoin the herd.

Things at Deep Springs can get real. We all have stories like this about what we saw, were compelled to do, and how we feel about it. We think this experience is rare in higher education, and we think it matters.

What does it take? Staff who believe in students and help them set high expectations. Students who dive in with intelligence as well as both hands and full heart. And a place where all this can happen and where there is no department office or administrative apparatus for outsourcing decisions that the world asks of us. In this case, the decision to care for the defenseless. It makes us confident we are doing good work.

* Current practice in the Valley is to retain the gendered term.

This story inverts a Deep Springs cliché whereby abstract idealisms of the classroom are tempered by the practical work of the ranch. The ranch is also a place for discovering and clarifying ideals, leavening cynicism with hope, and where the lives of others can help direct the efforts of our own.

Thank you for supporting Deep Springs and the lives of students in the Valley so they can lead lives that serve others.

As you know, we remain unique in higher education: no tuition, no legacies, no pay-to-play admissions. *This* idealism is protected vigorously each year by your own generosity.

In the five years since the Centennial your average gift size has doubled from \$600 a year to \$1200. And every year over half of the people receiving this letter decide, again and again, to support the College. In doing so you continue to invest and take part in an unparalleled education combining hard work with a clear purpose.

We thank you and ask for your support again now.

Sue Darlington

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Darlington', with a stylized, cursive script.

President

John Dewis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Dewis', with a cursive script.

Development Director