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MEDIA FACT SHEET

ABOUT TALL TALES RANCH

Tall Tales Ranch is a Colorado 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that's all about supporting people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) like autism, Down syndrome and traumatic brain injury. At Tall Tales Ranch, our friends who are differently abled are called our *ambassadors*, and they are at the heart of everything we do. We are building an inclusive community rooted in possibility where neurodiversity is celebrated.

WHAT IS NEURODIVERSITY?

Neurodiversity is the range of differences in individual brain function and behavioral traits, regarded as part of normal variation in the human population. Tall Tales Ranch recognizes and respects the right of people with neurological differences to thrive and be valued for their unique ability to contribute to their community.

LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

Tall Tales Ranch will be built on a remarkable piece of land donated by the [Schweiger Ranch Foundation](#). The historic [Schweiger Ranch](#) will be our immediate neighbor, a partner our ambassadors and their families already know and love well, since we've been invited to take part in several of their community events. Our 4-acre property is located on the east side of I-25, directly across the street from the Light Rail station at I-25 and RidgeGate Parkway. Proximity to the train will offer residents, their families and legions of visitors from across the Denver metro area accessibility to and from the ranch for programming, vocational training, employment, educational and social opportunities.

RESIDENTIAL PLAN AND AMENITIES

Two sets of paired cottages will be leased to approximately 32 residents, most (but not all) of whom will be representative of the intellectual and developmentally disabled (I/DD) community. A central community building (The Big Blue House) will encourage gathering, socialization and activities for the residents and visiting family members. Much like college dormitory or senior housing development models, there will be trained attendants for 24/7 supervision and support, as well as state of the art safety features and technology.

PUBLIC/COMMERCIAL PLAN AND AMENITIES

Intentionally separate from, but near the residential part of the campus, a retail coffee shop and community event barn will offer opportunities for vocational training and earned wages for those with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities, including residents and many others from surrounding communities. Weekly programming will include life skills classes, yoga, music, socialization and fellowship, as well as outdoor activities in the property's raised bed vegetable gardens and orchard. The community event barn will also be a rentable venue for gatherings such as weddings, meetings and conferences for up to 150 guests. The upper level of the barn will house Tall Tales Ranch's offices, a community conference space and offices to function in a "co-working" way with partnering organizations from the I/DD community. In the interest of serving as a hub of neurodiverse community gathering, Tall Tales Ranch plans to launch live music "happy hours" at the coffee shop and a summer concert series, once established.

TIMELINE

2008 - Co-founders Susan and Pat Mooney's son, Ross, survives a life-threatening illness that leaves him with an intellectual/developmental disability. The Mooneys decide to create the future they wish to see for their son, and others like him.

2016 - The Schweiger Ranch Foundation donated (100-year lease, in perpetuity) a remarkable 5-acre Lone Tree property located at I25 and RidgeGate that will become the home of Tall Tales Ranch, an inclusive, neurodiverse community designed for people with and without special needs like autism, Down Syndrome and traumatic brain injury.

2019 - [Architectural drawings and design](#) by Godden Sudik, Norris Design and Merrick Engineering were completed.

2020 - Final Site Improvement Plan was approved by The City of Lone Tree, paving the way for the January 2021 capital campaign that will bring the project to life.