

April 30, 2021

To Whom It May Concern;

As a teenager, I both attended the Chapel's youth program and was on staff at Circle C Ranch. I was being raised by a single mom, did not have a wonderful relationship with my father, and just felt generally lost in life. Looking back, I can see that this was a recipe for the disaster of making incredibly poor decisions in life, and had it not been for the influence of Wayne Aarum, I truly believe that I would not have seen success and a fruitful adulthood.

Wayne was never one to mince words with the students in his youth group. If we were not making good choices, he would call us out on it, and he was always direct and honest. At the same time, he approached his interactions with us in a kind, loving, and Godly way. There were times when I needed counsel, and he was always available to provide that, but he demanded and expected integrity and transparency from himself and the adult volunteers working with him, so as to protect and respect all parties involved. As time went on, I became involved with the leadership team for the youth group, and traveled overseas for mission trips with them. I also babysat for Wayne's son, so I had quite a bit of contact with Wayne throughout several different aspects of my life. Never once, in any interactions, did I feel uncomfortable, or feel that Wayne crossed any lines. In fact, I felt completely comfortable with him, felt that I would always receive advice that completely aligned with the Bible, and that his heart's desire was always to reach into students' lives and help them grow closer to God as well as grow into the best versions of themselves possible.

I now have four daughters, several of which have attended Circle C Ranch as campers, and one of which has been on staff at the camp. As a parent, I am confident that my children are safe and well cared-for in Wayne's presence, and I am so thankful that my girls have had the opportunity, and will continue to receive, the wise, honest, and loving influence that I was so blessed to have had in my life from Wayne. I have known him for 26 years now, and he remains one of my most trusted and loved friends, as well as one of the most selfless and caring people that I have the pleasure of knowing. His life has been a model of true Christianity, both through his actions and his words. He taught me what it meant to live out faith, rather than just talk about it, and that has altered my life positively and immeasurably.

Sincerely,

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