



Hawk Circle Fall Progress Report, 2019



As I'm writing this progress report, the fire in our wood stove is glowing and it's pretty cozy in our house, but outdoors, it's a drizzly day and about 42 degrees. The next two weekends in October, we'll be offering the Unitarian Rite of Passage program and following that, will be offering the Family Forest Retreat. As Ricardo and I plan out our itinerary for the programs, we are keeping our fingers crossed for nicer weather and are also realizing how much we need to complete Eagle House. These are the things that go through our minds anytime we are offering programs during the shoulder seasons, which is happening more and more.



Eagle House hallway with bathroom doors. .

Where do we offer the moms' their meditation class if it's cold? And where can the families get warm after being outdoors all day? Or, what if it rains?

Last spring was one of our busiest springs ever with **class trips and retreats** as well as day programs for local schools. We also offered a 4-day camp for the students who participate in the after-school programs that are part of the ***Creating Rural Opportunity Partnership***, an agency we've been in partnership with for over ten years.

Our summer camp enrollment was down, as it has been over the past three years. And it's become more difficult for the campers to transition from using technology to being unplugged and in the woods. As a result, we've decided to work more with contracted programs, such as the schools that come in both the spring and fall, as well as offering more for families.

This fall is our first time running the **Forest Family Retreat** and we're thrilled, that with little to no advertising, this program is filled. We feel this may be a solution to reaching more children, and their parents as well, outside of the school retreats.



Class on the bus, heading home after their Hawk Circle adventure.



Eagle House, all lit up waiting for the school group's arrival. Even though we have a lot more to do to complete it, it still looks pretty nice!



Class enjoying a craft activity on a rainy day in Eagle House.

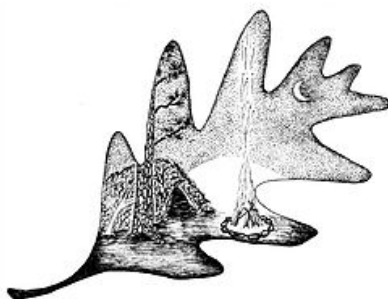


But again, this brings us face to face with the need to complete Eagle House so that we can have a dry and heated space for families to warm up after a cold night in a cabin, or during cold, drizzly days like today.

We've been super fortunate with the help we've found. Our summer camp EMT, Joseph, also was a carpenter. Since we don't typically keep our EMTs or onsite nurses very busy during summer camp(meaning our campers don't have very many accidents!), Joseph helped us a lot with Eagle House projects. He and Ricardo did all the interior framing, getting it all ready for the electrician. However, our electrician we had all lined up hurt his back so we spent time meeting with other local electricians. We were alarmed when the quotes that came in for the Eagle House electric work was \$25,000.

But again, we've been super fortunate. We contacted one of the electricians and asked if he'd be willing to supervise us doing the work ourselves at a fraction of the cost. He agreed and the work is underway! We're so excited. As soon as the electric work is completed, we'll be able to move forward with completing more of the interior work.

We also ran a small **Facebook campaign**, raising \$1,200 to replace shingles on one of our cabins while also completing the shingles on our eating deck, chicken coop and new cabin.



We're looking to raise \$45,000 in the next two months to complete Eagle House.

What's been completed...

Electric Work is progressing. We have the electrical pedestals and all the materials ordered and on their way. We are hoping this will be complete in the next 2 weeks!

Windows & Doors are all installed with a couple of doors waiting for the flooring to be installed.

Interior Framing is complete and once the electric lines are in place, we can begin closing in the bathroom walls.

Porch & Ramp are all complete making Eagle House accessible with a beautiful entryway.

Shower Deck is all enclosed and framed out waiting for electric work and additional funds for fixtures.

Insulation in the form of sifted clay from our land and wood chips for a natural plaster are all ready. Still need insulation for our ceiling.

What still needs to be completed...

Water, Plumbing and Bathroom Fixtures are our next BIG step eliminating our need for porta-johns and our old shower deck attached to the farmhouse.

Flooring is our other big step. Without flooring, we can't put in the toilets, doors, or cabinets and counter area.

**Interior Trim Work and Painting
Exterior Siding and Trim**

Heating System

Solar Panels

Exterior Deck and Railing

Landscaping

For more info and pictures go to:

[https://www.hawkcircle.com/
donate](https://www.hawkcircle.com/donate)



What else is happening with Ricardo and Trista?



We are working in many different ways to sustain Hawk Circle and our family. It is so important to us that we see Hawk Circle continue to grow into new areas. We've been having many parents reaching out to us asking for guidance for connecting their children to nature. We've been also having more and more adults asking for retreats, helping them to unplug, rest and deepen their connection with nature. **It's apparent to us, that Hawk Circle is here to serve families and individuals to reconnect with nature during a time when there is much chaos in the world.** People are seeking help and turning to us more and more. Their desire to connect is multi-faceted. For some it's for healing, some for inspiration and others, it's for their children to discover and deepen their relationship with the natural world.

To support this surge of interest and need, Ricardo is in the process of developing online courses for nature educators and parents, where he offers his 30+ years of wilderness skills expertise. He's planning on launching his first course for educators at the end of November. We trust this will be a huge success since we already have so many educators and families asking for this.

These online programs will offer a tremendous support to educators and families, while offering them retreats and experiences at Hawk Circle will only enhance and deepen their experience.

Trista too, is creating her own online courses that will supplement the work she is already doing with women who attend her sacred journeys. Her courses help people to align with their original intention while supporting and encouraging their ability to become leaders for change.

We hope you enjoy our progress report. We are so grateful to have your support for our vision! Ricardo, Trista and Javier