



Chief Executive Officer
Double H Ranch
Lake Luzerne, New York
doublehranch.org

Send Nominations or Cover Letter and Resume to:

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The Opportunity:

The Double H Ranch has partnered with Lindauer Global in its search for a Chief Executive Officer. The search is being launched in response to CEO Max Yurenda's decision to retire from his position in March 2023, after 30 highly successful years leading the institution.

The Double H Ranch, located in New York's Adirondack Park, is a demonstration of the commitment and generosity of philanthropist Charles R. Wood and actor Paul Newman. Since the Ranch officially opened its doors on July 4, 1993, it has served over 80,000 children dealing with life-threatening illnesses from around the world. It was the second Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in what has become a worldwide network not-for-profit recreational and therapeutic experiences for children with serious illness.



Video: Magic Happens Here

of

As the key leader of the Double H Ranch, the CEO will be responsible for leading the administration, programming, and strategic plan of the camp. Working in concert with an experienced full-time staff and a 30-member Board of Directors, the CEO will be an inspiring leader who embodies the Camp's core values: celebrating community, belief in giving, safe fun, and being a kid.

As a leader, the CEO will be the face of the Double H Ranch, engaged in not only the daily activities of camp on and off season but also traveling outside the state of New York, representing the Ranch at various events, speak with donors and supporters, and help increase the footprint of one of the most well respected and well-known Hole in the Wall Gang camps in the country. Love and compassion for families and children are necessary for the CEO.

The ideal candidate will have significant leadership experience in a related setting. A successful history in hands-on leadership and fundraising is essential, as is experience developing organizational collaborations and partnerships and fostering community relations locally and regionally.



Chief Executive Officer

Primary responsibility of CEO is leading the Camp's day-to-day activities and operations through Board support and directing and implementing the organization's strategic plan. The CEO ensures that the Camp is fiscally and administratively sound and that its internal and external communications, fundraising and systems are efficient and effective. This individual is a key spokesperson for the organization, providing energy and enthusiasm for the mission, and maintains the interpersonal skills necessary to work with highly committed and compassionate staff, volunteers, and supporters. The CEO will supervise, hire, evaluate, and motivate staff; supports their efforts; and develops and enriches their skills, all while working closely with the CFO to ensure that budgets, systems, and controls meet the needs of the organization.

Board Relations

- Collaborates closely with the Chairman and the Executive Committee to ensure that relevant issues are raised and addressed by the Board in a timely and organized fashion.
- Engages the Board in the Camp's programs and reinforces the importance of their financial support and participation.
- Leads the implementation of Board philosophy and policies, makes recommendations to the Board on operating policy, future directions, programs, fundraising activities, and outreach endeavors.
- Keeps the Board routinely advised of the activities and the financial position of the Camp.
- Works with the Board's Nominating Committee to ensure that the Board is diversified and is of the highest possible quality and committed to the welfare of the children.
- Works closely with all standing and ad hoc committees representing the organization.

- Mission driven: Shapes and upholds the mission, articulates a compelling vision, and ensures the congruence between decisions and core values.
- Creates a culture of inquiry, mutual respect, and constructive debate that leads to sound and shared decision-making.

Fundraising

- Collaborates closely with the Director of Development and Communications Director to ensure that a sound fundraising strategy is in place and that all fundraising campaigns are successfully completed in a timely manner.
- Plans and executes, with the Director of Development and Communications Director and the Board, effective and innovative ways of raising money among individual donors, foundations, and corporations.
- Develops and implements plans that generate gifts-in-kind, corporate sponsorships and partnerships, and other levels of support for the organization.

External Relations

- Serves as an articulate and effective spokesperson for the Camp to build positive and broad-based understanding of its programs and acts as an involved advocate for the Camp with the public and the media and with potential funding sources.
- Actively participates and supports the SeriousFun Children's Network efforts. Ensures that the highest standards of integrity and practices are always maintained.
- Promote ethos of transparency by ensuring that donors, stakeholders, and interested members of the public have access to appropriate and accurate information regarding finances, operations, and results.
- Works with the Director of Operations, Camp Director, and Facilities Director to ensure that the Camp is managed on an efficient and economically sound basis and that services and programs are of the highest quality.
- Assists with special projects and performs additional duties as assigned.

Supervisory Responsibilities

- Chief Financial Officer;
- Director of Development;
- Director of Operations;
- Director of Facilities;
- Human Resource Director; and
- Executive Administrator.

Required Education and Experience:

- Minimum 10 years progressive experience in nonprofit leadership.
- Bachelor's degree in education, psychology, social work, or another related field. Master's degree preferred.
- Strong preference for previous professional experience within the SeriousFun Network Camps.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Excellent interpersonal, organizational, and written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to establish positive relationships with a variety of people in multicultural environments.
- Demonstrated fundraising success.
- Demonstrated ability to lead complex, multifaceted organizations reporting to multiple constituencies.
- Strong financial background.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, internet, and Raiser's Edge software.

Physical Requirements and Working Conditions:

- Most working hours will be spent in a typical office environment on site. Must be able to operate a computer for most of the workday, with appropriate rest periods.
- Availability to work evenings and weekends as needed.
- Valid driver's license and driving record that meets Double H Ranch insurance carrier requirements.
- Ability to travel to assigned worksites.

Double H Ranch/Overview

Double H Ranch provides specialized programs and year-round support for children and their families dealing with life-threatening illnesses. Their purpose is to enrich their lives and provide camp experiences that are memorable, exciting, fun, empowering, physically safe, and medically sound. All programs are free of charge and capture the magic of the Adirondacks.

In 1991, entrepreneur Charles R. "Charley" Wood purchased the 320-acre Hidden Valley Ranch property with the intention of expanding the original concept of the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp to his beloved Adirondacks.

Mr. Wood, a long-time supporter of the arts and medicine, drew his inspiration from the Connecticut camp started by Paul Newman in 1988 and enlisted Mr. Newman's support to help create the Double H Ranch. Renovations and upgrades to the property were conducted to fashion it into a medically state-of-the-art, accessible facility. Since Mr. Wood's death in 2004, Double H has become a testament to his vision. In fact, an H-shaped tree on the property is a lasting reminder of his commitment to the "health and happiness" of others. Mr. Newman served as Honorary Chairman of the Board of Directors at the Double H Ranch until his death in 2008.



Video: Magical 9 Minutes



[Click here to learn about the Founders](#)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Double H Ranch is a nondiscriminatory organization committed to inclusion and equity. The organization strives to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender identity, ideology, income, national origin, race, sexual orientation, or any other identifying label, is accepted and can reach their full potential with dignity.

The Double H Ranch's core values set the foundation up to celebrate its campers, volunteers, staff, and community, as well as to maintain a safe and inclusive environment in all aspects of the work it does.

Double H Ranch seeks to create equitable, accessible opportunities for all populations in its service, including families, campers, staff, and volunteers who may face systemic barriers. The Ranch celebrates and honors the diverse perspectives of community and is committed to continually providing an inclusive environment.

Double H Ranch's team is discussing how to strengthen DEI initiatives. Racism has no place in this world. The Ranch promises to do its part to listen, learn, and act in hopes of eradicating racism and discrimination from society. The real change requires a participatory process, collective conversation, and contemplation along with intentional surrender and sharing of power.

Development/Advancement Overview

All programs at the Double H Ranch are free of charge to families dealing with the challenges of navigating the world for a child living with a serious illness. To support our year-round initiatives the Double H Ranch has a robust and comprehensive development plan. A team of five development professionals are responsible for raising over \$4.5 million annually. Revenue comes from a diverse group of individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations through varied efforts including direct mail, digital, peer-to-peer, major gifts, events, grants, and planned giving.

The CEO and Board of Directors play an active role in the identification, stewardship, and solicitation of donors. An endowment fund of \$16 million dollars is managed by the CEO, CFO, finance committee, and three investment managers with interest earned supporting annual fundraising goals.



In celebration of the Ranch's 25th anniversary \$3.5 million was secured for the first-ever capital campaign. Improvements were made to camper, staff, and volunteer cabins with the secured funds as identified in our master site plan. [Click here to view the Year of Impact report.](#)

Leadership

Max J. Yurenda, CEO



Mr. Yurenda has been CEO at the Double H Ranch since its inception in January 1993. In this capacity, Mr. Yurenda is responsible for daily operations, ensuring financial stability, managing, and directing staff, implementing strategic initiatives, Board development, and regulatory compliance with local, county and state authorities. During his tenure, Mr. Yurenda has improved the infrastructure at the Camp and the retention of staff, volunteers, and medical personnel; strengthened community involvement at the Ranch, leading the effort to create a more comprehensive and diversified fundraising program; established strong partnerships with local hospitals and volunteer health organizations; and set the stage for the Ranch to build its capacity and strengthen its position for the long term. Mr. Yurenda has also played a key role in providing technical assistance for the global family of Paul Newman camps. Prior to joining the Double H Ranch, he had served since 1981 as a treatment team leader at the Wilton

Developmental Center/Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Services Office. Prior to that, he was employed at the Buffalo Psychiatric Center in Buffalo and at the Virginia Recreational Services Section in Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Yurenda received his Bachelor of Science in education from the State University of New York College at Cortland.

The next CEO will lead an extraordinary team. Click here to view more [information](#).

Location

Located near Lake George and Saratoga Springs, the Double H Ranch is in [Lake Luzerne, New York](#), in the beautiful Adirondack Park. Approximately 215 miles north of New York City, 220 miles from Boston, and approximately 174 miles south of Montreal, Quebec.

The facility resides on 320 acres with waterfront access to Lake Vanare. It includes camper housing that can accommodate 126 campers, staff housing that is able to accommodate a total of 125 staff members, and volunteer housing that is able to accommodate 50 volunteers.

Year-round program areas include an indoor and outdoor pool, a high ropes course, archery, horseback riding and pasture, picnic pavilion, stage area, dining hall, arts and crafts building/ski chalet, ski hill for adaptive winter sports programs, and various other outdoor spaces used for recreational play and opportunities to explore nature, including an adaptive water sports program as well as community outreach programs. [Click here to view the brochure.](#)



Procedure for Candidacy

Lindauer, a global search and talent firm, has been retained to conduct this search on behalf of the Double H Ranch. Consideration of candidates will continue until the position is filled.

Candidates should submit, in confidence, a resume and cover letter. Communications, nominations, applications, and inquiries concerning this search should be directed to **Maureen Huminik, Vice President** at mhuminik@lindauerglobal.com, **Omar Bell, Consultant** at obell@lindauerglobal.com

Prior to submitting your resume for this position, please read it over for accuracy. Lindauer does verify academic credentials for its candidates, and our clients frequently conduct background checks prior to finalizing an offer.