



# **GATEWAYS**

**FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **GATEWAYS mourns loss of successful alumnus McGavin**

**TACOMA-- One of GATEWAYS' most successful alumni, Darren McGavin, sadly passed away on Saturday, February 25, 2006. Darren was a resident at the GATEWAYS Jessie Dyslin Ranch, located in Tacoma, from 1936 to 1939. At that time, the ranch provided a residential program for adolescent boys who needed help and guidance—those who were not juvenile delinquents, but who were homeless through no fault of their own.**

**As with all boys at the ranch, McGavin was encouraged to focus on getting an education. The boys also had the chance to grow vegetables in the garden, pick berries and participate in extra-curricular activities at their schools and in the community. Life at the ranch was designed to be more like a home, not an institution.**

**In an article from *The Tacoma News Tribune*, dated October 5, 1967 and written by Charles Rice, McGavin said in reference to his time at the ranch, “It was one of the formulating influences in my life.”**

**McGavin so believed in the positive influence of the ranch that he returned to Tacoma for the grand opening of the Value Village thrift store in South Tacoma in 1967. Through a partnership with the thrift store, clothing was collected on behalf of the ranch and then sold to Value Village, generating vital funding for the ranch. GATEWAYS still maintains that partnership today, with funding benefiting all of its programs.**

**On the day of the grand opening, McGavin said, “When the boys come out of the ranch, they come prepared to meet life. It works. It really works.”**

**McGavin also contributed to GATEWAYS for Youth and Families by serving on the board of directors. He was inducted into the GATEWAYS' Hall of Fame in 2005, an honor bestowed on board members who served at least five years and demonstrated outstanding service.**

**The ranch no longer hosts a residential program, but it is still an asset to GATEWAYS for Youth and Families, allowing the organization to provide a greater variety of services to boys, girls and families in the community. Current programs there include Alternative Suspension, ART: Aggression Replacement Training and various parenting seminars.**

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