



THE RANCHER[®]

PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES, INC.[®]

Winter 2016

See Inside:

.....
Open House Miracle

Friday Night Lights

Painting with a Purpose



President's Perspective

Bill Frye,
President, Florida Sheriffs
Youth Ranches, Inc.

“God’s breath is like a fresh wind that renews us. Frail and weak as we are, we have hope. We find healing.”

Ever ask “Why me?” or “Is this ever going to end?” Recently, I found myself asking God those questions repeatedly. As many people in the path of Hurricane Matthew were preparing for the worst, I am certain they began asking themselves these same questions. Yet, while we prepared for the hurricane at our programs and thrift stores across the state, I was also thanking God for bringing me through a month of personal trials.

On the evening of August 11, 2016, I received a phone call from a friend of my mother. She had discovered my mother lying on her kitchen floor. The news of my mother’s fall was devastating. I arrived at the hospital to find her unconscious and on life support. Within 27 hours, my mother breathed her final breath and began her journey to be with God. Her death was emotionally draining for me and my family, and we are still dealing with the loss.

In the early morning hours of September 2, 2016, Hurricane Hermine passed over our area. My wife and I were brought fully awake as a loud *Boom!* shook the foundation of our home. We discovered that two large trees had been uprooted and, as they fell, they brought down another large tree. The end result was one tree on our roof, creating a large crack; one beside the house taking down our power utility pole; and one landing on top of our carport, splitting the panels and damaging the structure.

Finally, on September 10, 2016, our daughter went into labor with her first child. The hours that followed became intense as the delivery took a turn for the



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worse. I kept asking God those questions—“Why me?” and “Is this ever going to end?”—as I prayed for the safety of my daughter and first grandchild. While I knew it was not about *me*, my questions centered on my fear that I was not sure I had the strength to endure any more worry nor the energy to comfort my family, who were also filled with concern as we waited.

At the end of those difficult 30 days, I had a revelation. While each of these moments was truly emotionally painful, they also resulted in blessings. My mother passed away while living independently, which is something she strongly desired. While our home was damaged, my wife and I were not physically injured. Our daughter and grandson came through the ordeal and we are blessed with a healthy, beautiful grandchild.

But the true revelation is this: **The children we serve at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches have often endured so much more than those three events within a 30-day time period!**

Over our history, we have had children living with us who have been removed from their homes due to years of abuse and neglect. Some were placed into various foster homes multiple times. Some have been moved around constantly because they expressed their pain by acting-out behavior. Many of our children have suffered the loss of a parent. This results in family members seeking help as they struggle to deal with emotional traumas that followed. For some of these children, the idea of feeling safe and, yes, loved was a dream and could not even be considered a possibility.

The raw truth remains that every day, there are children who wake up scared, filled with worry, and asking the questions “Why me?” and “Is this ever going to end?”

As of this writing, we have more than 20 sibling groups—brothers and sisters—living in a safe, secure, and loving family home with cottage parents who they call “Mom and Pop.” We have other boys and girls who have come to live with us

because of behavior and family problems. All of these children need a place like the Youth Ranches to call home. Each of these children has a story to tell and a life to be lived. With your support, we are going to make sure they have everything they need to endure, to succeed, and to know that they are loved!

It is not about me, it is not about you—it is about the children! As Christmas approaches, there is no better gift than a safe and loving home. It is your generosity that helps us provide this very special gift to the boys and girls who desperately need a place to call home. Only with your help will we be able to provide the foundation of hope as our boys and girls overcome personal adversities and begin the path to success.

Thank you for giving our children that chance.

God bless,



Bill Frye,
President

Would you like to know more about the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches?



Youth Ranches representatives are available to come and visit with you or a group of your friends. We will share our story

and how we are helping thousands of needy boys and girls in Florida.

If you are interested in arranging a speaking engagement, please contact us at 1-800-765-3797.

Visit us at www.youthranches.org for more information!

Friday Night Lights

The Real Value of Football

For a lot of students, Friday night high school football is little more than a chance to spend time with friends or a chance to support their local team. For the guys out on the gridiron, though, Friday nights under the bright stadium lights are something entirely different. This football season, Ranchers Dre and Angel are representing the Boys Ranch as members of the Suwannee High School Bulldogs varsity football team.

While it may seem like just a game, these two young men are learning valuable lessons from football while putting in a lot of hard work. It takes a tremendous amount of effort and persistence just to make it on the team and then to game day, and even more to find a place on the field.

“Football is really more than just a game,” said Angel, who plays defensive end and right tackle. “It’s more like a life lesson. It helps teach that determination to never give up, to stay focused, just like the Ranch helps give you that hunger to achieve your goals.”

Each afternoon, four days a week, Dre and Angel hit the field with dozens of their teammates, putting on more than 10 pounds of pads and a helmet, and lacing up cleats. For most of us, that doesn’t seem like a fun thing to do, especially in the heat, but for the SHS Bulldogs, it’s part of practice makes perfect. Proper preparation is needed to be successful in life and in football. Success requires a strong work ethic—something our boys learn each and every day at the Ranch.



Angel smiles after an impressive win at Suwannee’s homecoming game.

Dre, who plays running back, has been on the team for the last three years and is always amazed by how powerful it can be to work toward a common goal. “The best part is when we all come together as one,” he said, “It’s really great to see us working

together. We get to see all that hard work pay off.”

Football is an excellent example of teamwork. With 11 players on each side of the ball, everyone is counted on to play their individual roles. Expectations are high, with a tremendous amount of accountability required from each player to do a specific job on every play. Just like at the Boys Ranch, the game teaches the teamwork that is required to become accustomed to working with others, a skill that is required in almost every profession.

“It requires a lot of discipline,” Dre added. “We train hard, and the Ranch definitely helped prepare me for that. Sometimes it seems like the coach wants to break us, just to rebuild us, and it requires a lot of determination and discipline to reach our goals.”

Football is a game of inches. That kind of margin for error requires keen attention to detail from everyone on the field. One wrong step, one dropped pass, or one mental error can have a negative effect on



Dre in action.

any given play. Knowing this reinforces the importance of being disciplined in everything they do. This discipline extends into their school work as well. All the players must be able to maintain an impressive GPA to even be able to play.

For Dre and Angel, the benefits of being on the team are far reaching; some easy to see and some not so easy. It can be improved health—Dre started playing football to help get fit—or learning the value of teamwork. They learn to be selfless while also learning about overcoming obstacles or the value of being part of something greater than oneself.

The positive effect the sport has had on the boys is undeniable. For Dre and Angel, football has been an amazing way to express themselves, find personal growth, and—maybe most importantly—have fun.

Dre and Angel haven't been the only ones who have enjoyed their time on the team. At any given home game, it isn't unusual to see Mom and Pop and the rest of their cottage in the stands, cheering them on. ★



Dre has played running back for the SHS football team for the past three seasons.

Painting with a Purpose



Students have a blast painting the wall.

A wall is typically used to divide or keep things separate, but at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor, a wall is bringing the community together.

They say a picture paints a thousand words. The idea was to take a drab wall and paint it with a beautiful mural to tell a story all its own—our story. To accomplish this, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Fit4Truth, the Safety Harbor community, and St. Petersburg mural artist Geary “Rasta” Taylor came together in a joint effort for an event called Painting with a Purpose. They set out with our kids, staff, and volunteers to paint a 150-foot mural on the west wall of the campus.

On October 1, several hundred people, along with the artist and our youth, came out for an all-day painting event. The community provided free food, as well as a bounce house and dunk tank that gave our students a chance to drop their favorite staff members into a tank of water. A DJ

gave away prizes and there were enough fun events for everyone to have a great time between painting shifts.

Throughout the day, kids and volunteers took turns in a large-scale paint-by-numbers-style patchwork of images that,



Staff, students, and volunteers came together from the community to help paint the wall.

at the end of the day, came together to form a beautiful representation of life at the Youth Ranch and our mission. The bright and cheery mural depicts the

journey and stories of the children living at the Youth Ranches.

The artist spent several weeks before the event on sketching out and designing what the wall would look like, using photographs

from the Youth Ranches archives. He then created a plan that could be easily followed so the volunteers and our students could do the majority of the painting.

We caught up with Destiny, a budding artist herself, working on a panel depicting a child playing soccer. “I’ve been working on this one,” she said with a smile, paintbrush in hand. “This one is one of my favorites—I



Destiny is hard at work on a soccer ball as part of the mural.

like to play soccer.” She paused and closely inspected what she was working on, comparing it with the template taped to the wall. “I love art and I love to draw,” she continued. “Now we get to be a part of it and get to see it every day!”

Jacob, one of our own bright and cheery Ranchers, hurled a ball toward the dunking booth at the event, letting out a giddy laugh. He took us on a tour of the wall,



Jacob tries his hand at sinking one of the staff members in the dunk tank.



Sunset on the mural wall—just one of the amazing panels that help tell the story of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

pointing to all of the parts he had helped paint. His favorite is the vibrant red and orange sunset.

The mural, which was inspired by our “I am a Rancher” campaign, includes images that focus on the Youth Ranches four pillars of success; Work, Study, Pray, Play. The mural also features the Youth Ranches



“I Am A Rancher” is the focus of the Youth Ranches recent digital branding campaign seen on Facebook and Youtube.

logo and includes iconic Ranch imagery, such as the statue at the Boys Ranch and youth in action.

Events like our wall-painting day, while beautifying our campus serve a greater purpose by bringing volunteers and donors together with the kids they help. We are grateful for our volunteers and donors from around the state and the communities surrounding our campuses. ★

Rancher Receives Coveted Honor



This year, one Rancher stood above the rest, hitting every mark and exemplifying the qualities that a Tweed winner should have. John goes above and beyond, appreciates every day, and has big dreams for the future with the determination to make it all happen.

We could tell you more about John, but we thought it would mean more coming from the young man himself.

First, I would like to tell you a little bit about my life before the Ranch. I came from a little place called Christmas, FL. At the time, I was living with my mom and my stepdad, not really knowing where my real dad was. I skipped school a lot so I could go smoke pot in the drive-through of an old, abandoned What-a-Burger with people I considered, at the time, to be my "friends." I was almost never home; my mom was always worried about me, my GPA was a 0.2!! Basically, I just didn't do anything that was asked of me.

Each year, we present the Carleton F. Tweed Award to a deserving young man, typically during the Boys Ranch Open House and Horse Show. This year, due to Hurricane Matthew, we were forced to cancel Open House, but we were still able to honor one very deserving young man with this coveted award.

The Tweed Award is one of the highest honors awarded to a young man living at the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch. To earn this award, the Rancher must consistently display strong participation in riding skills, excellent skills in horsemanship, significant interest in the care and well-being of horses and other animals, and high standards and positive behavior in all areas of Ranch life.



John is mindful of his studies. Part of being successful for John is a great education.

Then, luckily, I came to the Boys Ranch in July 2014. After just a few months, I started to see a change in my life. I began

doing better and, after a little while, I stopped hanging out with “those kinds of people.” I could see they weren’t my friends and they weren’t the type of people that I wanted for friends.

Now, my GPA is a 3.0 and I’m also a born-again Christian! My grades improved because when I came to the Ranch part of the agreement was I would attend school ... it wasn’t an option. If I didn’t show up for school, my cottage parents would get a call and I would have consequences when I got home. Then it just became the norm.

I am honored to be a Ranch Ambassador. As an ambassador, my duties include giving tours to guests and speaking about my experiences at the Ranch. I also won the Ranch Cattleman Award last spring. To win this award, I spent a lot of time working with the cattle at the farm—feeding and taking care of them. I also showed a heifer in the local county fair and placed third in the Homegrown category. I was also chosen to participate in the Great Florida Cattle Drive, which was seven days of herding cattle across areas of Florida and sleeping under the stars. I demonstrated knowledge of the caretaking and proper handling of beef cattle.

My original plan was to be here for just a year, but once I got into the program, I wanted to see where else it could take me if I put forth the effort.

It has taken me to some amazing places and the opportunity to do things I wouldn’t have been able to do otherwise; like the Great Florida Cattle Drive, speaking all over the state of Florida to various groups, and meeting some amazing people. All of this has given me the opportunity to grow as a person.

My plans after the Ranch include joining the United States Marine Corps so I can continue to grow in another outstanding organization. I also plan to attend college



The Tweed Award honors Ranchers who have a passion for riding and horses. John exemplifies that with an unspoken bond between a boy and his horse.

and earn my business degree so eventually, when I’m discharged from the Marine Corps, I can open a restaurant and work alongside my employees as the owner/manager.

I’d like to tell you a story. A little over two years ago, I was walking up the archway, just killing time, checking things out since I had just arrived at the Ranch. The farm manager, Mr. Jeff, stopped and told me to get in the truck. I got in the truck and he took me out to work cattle at the farm. I had never done anything like that before, so you could imagine I looked out of place. But Mr. Jeff never gave up on me. When I went home that night to the cottage and told Mom and Pop Bryant the story, they talked me into applying for a job at the farm. Look where that has led me today!

I am honored and humbled to accept this award today! Thank you very much!!! ★

A life-changing mission



Ozzy travelled with Youth Ranch Safety Harbor Program Director Chuck Dietch to volunteer at an orphanage in Haiti.

At the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches we take pride in and work hard to honor our mission each and every day. There is no greater reward than watching one of our youth take our philosophies and exemplify and embody them beyond the Youth Ranches.

Recently, one of our students took the vision of the Youth Ranches to the actual mission field. For 17-year-old Ozzy, the opportunity to go to Haiti on a mission trip with the Journey Community Church was too powerful an experience to turn down. “The world is so much larger than his previous experiences,” Youth Ranch Safety Harbor Program Director Chuck Dietch said, explaining what a positive impact

he thought the trip would have for Ozzy. “There is great misfortune in this world, but there are always opportunities to do good despite one’s circumstances.”

While in Haiti, Ozzy was a part of a team that helped work on much-needed space at House of Blessings. This is an orphanage in the city of Calebasse that is home to more than a dozen children in the mountains southeast of Port-au-Prince. Their mission is not just to care for children who have lost their parents, but to raise children to become Christian leaders who can have a big, positive impact on Haiti as adults.

The long days and hard work were tiring, but Ozzy wouldn’t change a thing. “Being over there taught me not to take things for granted,” he said. “A lot of those kids don’t even get to eat every day; some of them only once a week. Here, we get three meals a day and never think about what a big deal that is to someone else.”



Ozzy helps paint part of the mural at the community painting with a purpose event.

Ozzy, who has a passion for service, has taken the message of his Haiti experience to heart. This past summer, he spent his days working with children at the Safety Harbor Community Recreation

Center and he has continued working with the center in its after-school program.



“Ozzy is a hard worker and is good with the younger kids in his cottage,” Dietch said, “so I knew he would do well on the mission.”

Ozzy and his siblings came to the Youth Ranches two years ago after a failed adoption. One by one, his siblings ended up being discharged from the Youth Ranches, but Ozzy was determined to stay. He was ready to make a change in his life for the better. “They offer so much here.” Ozzy said with sincerity. “I’ve been to other places. Nowhere is as good as here.”

When Ozzy arrived at the Youth Ranches, his grades were poor and high school had been rough for him, but now things are definitely looking up. “School is going great!” Ozzy said with a smile. “I almost have my GED and then I want to go to PTEC (Pinellas Technical Education



Ozzy helps unload supplies with the mission team.

Centers) and get certified to work in marine mechanics.”

When asked if he would consider doing more mission work, Ozzy’s answer was a resounding “Definitely!” “It was so different over there,” he said. “They had such a sense of community and unity. They definitely taught us more than we ever could have taught them.” ★



Each year the grand entry parade is a highlight of the Open House.

Hurricane Can't Stop Recognition of a "Miracle"

The Boys Ranch Open House and Horse Show has from its beginning been more than a just a big birthday party. As former Sheriff of Hillsborough County and State Representative Ed Blackburn Jr. began his speech at the 1977 event, "What we celebrate here today is the anniversary of a miracle ..."

In 1977, the Boys Ranch was celebrating its 20th anniversary. Now, nearly four decades later, we still find ourselves celebrating a miracle each October. This year, the event may have been cancelled due to Hurricane Matthew, but nothing ever stops us from celebrating the miracle that is the Boys Ranch and the mission that started it all.



The Boys Ranch is no stranger to miracles; one of the first "unofficial" open house events took place in 1961.

We held a barbeque as part of the ceremony to dedicate McGehee Cottage. The Boys Ranch Trustees had estimated that it would cost around \$2,000 to feed the 1,500 guests. That created a severe strain on the Boys Ranch's fragile



Good food has always been a staple of Open House. From the first event where the food seemed to come from a miracle to every year there after.

budget, but the leadership decided that “with faith, they would proceed anyhow.”

Sheriffs from around the state rallied together and, before they knew it, 1,000 dressed chickens, 35 cases of baked beans, 200 pounds of coleslaw, 150 loaves of bread, gallons of pickles, countless cases of drinks, and all the paper goods and utensils needed had all been donated, along with 400 pounds of pork from one sheriff’s personal



The Clay Mavericks Arena

freezer. It was a good thing, too, instead of 1,500, the food ended up feeding 2,000 attendees and the Boys Ranch was able to put 300 chickens back in the freezer while raising \$7,000 to help further the mission.

In the early days, the Open House festivities were only a few hours long on

that first Saturday in October. After the addition of riding events, they became all-day events, eventually spilling into Sunday and then kicking off on Friday nights. In 1971, the highlight was the dedication of the Clay Mavericks Horse Arena. The arena was generously donated by the Clay Mavericks and has been home to the Boys Ranch horse show ever since.

With each year, as the celebration seems to connect with more and

more visitors and their families, it only made sense to combine the alumni reunion



This photo featured in the Winter 1977 Edition of the Rancher shows off the Birthday Cake creation that celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Boys Ranch nearly 40 years ago.

with the Open House, allowing the Ranch to reconnect with its own families. Years later, young men who had grown up on the Boys Ranch come back home with families of their own, to celebrate and honor the miracle that saved them.

Throughout the years, the Open House has celebrated the dedication of additional cottages, and the accomplishments of our deserving youth; each and every one, a miracle in itself. This year, we may not have been able to hold the official Open House, but we still celebrated a miracle. Despite dire predictions and destruction along the eastern seaboard, the Boys Ranch was spared any real damage. Our youth were able to remain in their homes, safe and sound. For us, that’s another miracle worth celebrating. ★



Learning in the workforce

Few things set up our young men and women for adulthood more than helping them learn to craft a strong work ethic. Work is one of the four pillars of our success plan, so it should come as no surprise that we place a high value on it. Work teaches a lot about responsibility. It teaches our students about accountability, the value of money, and the value of contributing. Choosing and applying for a job shows a commitment to employment that also helps teens build valuable time-management skills as they learn to balance multiple tasks, such as school, work, and social lives.

Each one of our students is required to work, and the campuses offer several onsite opportunities. These jobs allow the students to earn a paycheck while learning the value of time and money. They can receive raises for performance that exceeds expectations or they can be fired for poor performance. Just because these jobs are on our campus doesn't mean they are any less important or any less real than ones beyond our borders. Our students are expected to treat these like real jobs, because they are.

While we have a structured work program, we also offer our students the opportunity to participate in vocational rotations. For one hour a week, for four consecutive weeks, our students can rotate through different career areas throughout the Ranch. They learn basic skills of each trade over the month and then they can move on to the next field. This is an ideal way for our youth to find job opportunities that suit their individual interests and skills. On rotation might involve students spending a month at the garage to learn about basic automotive maintenance, or at the cafeteria to find a flare for food or the hospitality industry. Rotations provide

any number of exciting on-campus job opportunities to experience.

Some skills that can be learned include operating large equipment, like mowers, tractors, and vehicles. They can also find their calling with cooking and food management or horticulture and landscaping, recreation, agriculture, livestock, general maintenance, plumbing, and more. We have students who work at the local Sheriffs Ranches Enterprises Thrift Store, learning customer service and gaining valuable retail experience.

While building a strong work ethic is the primary goal, having jobs also helps students build self-esteem. Rotations help them become comfortable in a work environment so they feel less stressed about learning on the job in the workplace.

Our students develop a sense of responsibility as they become accountable for the work they produce. They learn to practice time management skills as they complete assignments according to deadlines.

Vocational rotation and daily jobs also help improve social skills, and teach students how to respond politely and efficiently to customers and the needs of their supervisor. Perhaps the most valuable asset is developing a sense of independence as students earn their own money, have their own work schedule, and balance their work and personal responsibilities.

A big part of the mission of the Youth Ranches is to develop resilient and productive citizens. Preparing them for the workforce will affect them now and forever. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to teach valuable life skills to the boys and girls we serve! ★

Hopes and Dreams



Many of our children never anticipated living at the Ranch. Due to circumstances beyond their control, they found their way to our door. We welcome them with open arms and assure them they are loved and wanted.

At the Ranch, they find guidance and support from caring cottage parents and other staff members. There is always food on the table and comfort in the cottage. Encouragement abounds and each child's success is applauded.

Where there was a void, each child now has hopes and dreams!

Will you add the Youth Ranches to your special list of charitable contributions this Christmas season? Will you remember these boys and girls who need a helping hand?

Christmas is a time for miracles. Together, we can choose to bring light and joy into someone else's life. Please remember your gift is such a blessing and give generously to the children in our care.



Please help a child have a Christmas to remember!

YES! I want to make a gift to help a child this Christmas!



Here is my gift of \$50 \$25 \$10 Other \$_____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Please send your gift in the enclosed envelope or mail your gift to Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches - P.O. Box 2000 - Boys Ranch, FL 32064.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CARING AND TIMELY GIFT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

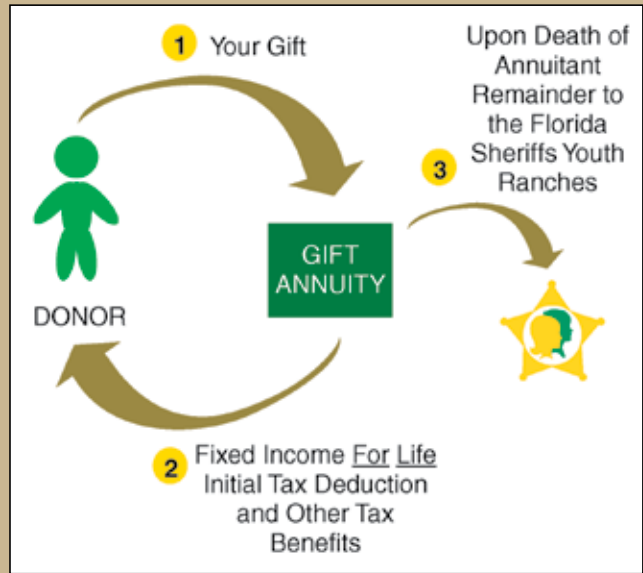
NEED MORE RELIABLE INCOME?

Convert your assets into a stream of guaranteed income and be sure the remainder goes to help our kids.

Your gift of \$10,000 or more in the form of a Gift Annuity (cash or stocks) can help deserving youngsters and secure a reliable future income for you or someone you love. This irrevocable agreement is backed by the assets of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc.

A portion of your charitable gift annuity is immediately tax deductible. In addition, a portion of your annuity payment is tax free during normal life expectancy. The amount of the payment is based on the amount of the gift and the age of the annuitant. These rates are consistent with the recommendations made by The American Council on Gift Annuities.

If you have cash, stocks or property that you would like to transfer into a Gift Annuity with the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches and want to lock in this annual payment rate, please contact Debbie Parnell at 1-800-765-3797 for a free, personalized example. Joint rates can also be given upon request. Available to Florida residents age 65 or older.



RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2012
Please call us at (800) 765-3797 if you have any questions.

AGE	RATE	ANNUAL PAYMENT
65	4.7	\$470
70	5.1	\$510
75	5.8	\$580
80	6.8	\$680
85	7.8	\$780
90+	9.0	\$900

Schedule of Annual Payments for Single-Life Charitable Gift Annuity at indicated ages based on a \$10,000 agreement.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Please send me “no obligation” calculations showing the income and tax benefits of a gift annuity. Please base the calculations on a potential agreement in the amount of \$_____ (minimum of \$5,000.)



First Life _____ Phone _____

(Date of Birth) Month Day Year Area Code

Second Life _____

(Date of Birth) Month Day Year

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

HELPING HAND SOCIETY

Family Legacies Come in Many Forms

Visiting with different donors, we get ideas about how they want their family to be remembered. Some chose to leave all their money and property directly to their family, hoping they will continue to support favorite charities. Others have made specific plans to ensure their charitable wishes are followed.

Here are a few of the more creative ideas we have seen in recent years:

- Naming the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement account or bank account
- Specifying a particular percentage of your estate for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches OR the opposite, specifying a particular percentage or piece of property for your heirs and leaving the remainder of your estate to the Youth Ranches
- Investing in a charitable gift annuity where the remainder after death goes to the Youth Ranches
- Making a cash gift of \$1,000 or more to the Youth Ranches in honor of a family member and request they be made a Lifetime Honorary Member of the Florida Sheriffs Association
- Contributing a minimum of \$10,000 and creating a family named endowment fund at the Ranch



- Establishing a Charitable Remainder Trust where distributions (set amount or %) are made to family members for a period of years and once complete, the balance is donated to the Youth Ranches
- Establishing a Charitable Lead Trust where a distribution (% or set amount) is made to the Youth Ranches for a period of 10 or 20 years, then the balance is distributed to your heirs when they are older and better prepared to receive these funds

These are just a few options to consider. As always, we encourage you to discuss this with your personal attorney or advisors to chart the best course for your future and remember to update your will annually as things and people in your life change!



***Thank you for
Caring and Sharing!***

Make a Great Charitable Gift!

Would you consider making a gift to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches through your will, trust or possibly list us as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy?

Your gift, small or large, will help us prevent delinquency and develop lawful, productive members of our communities.

Many people believe in our children and want to help, but they need to preserve the money they have right now to cover the rising cost of medical care and other living expenses. We understand this dilemma and know you should first care for yourself and your loved ones. However, one way you can fulfill your intent to support our boys and girls is by including the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches in your will or other estate plans.

As you think about your plans, a simple way to make a commitment

INSURANCE POLICY BENEFICIARY
"I bequeath to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc.,"

of this type would be to change the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or add the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, PO Box 2000, Boys Ranch, FL 32064

as a beneficiary to your investment or retirement account.

This will ensure the remaining funds will be used to help serve the children in our care. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about these gifting options, please contact President Bill Frye at (800) 765-3797.



Your will should be reviewed annually.



About your estate planning...

Many of our friends have thoughtfully made provisions in their estate planning for our boys and girls. If you are considering a gift of this nature, or if you would just like to know more about the many and varied opportunities for sharing, we can help. At your invitation, it would be our privilege and pleasure to visit you in your home. If you prefer, you are welcome to visit us, or we can furnish information by mail or telephone, whichever is most practical and convenient.



Address inquiries to:
 Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches
 Main Office
 P.O. Box 2000
 Boys Ranch, Florida 32064
 Telephone: (386) 842-5501

Please send me the booklet:

- Giving Through Gift Annuity Giving Securities Giving Through Your Will Giving Real Estate Visit me when you are in my area.
 Other _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Telephone No. (____) _____

The proper legal name to provide a bequest is:
 "I bequeath to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc., Boys Ranch, Florida 32064:
 100% of the residual amount of my estate • a specific amount of \$ _____ • a description of the property
 a certain quantity of stocks." (or any combination of the above.)

Kids Helping Kids: Operation Christmas Child



Mom Koppin and the Merrill Boys show off some of their hard work packing shoeboxes for needy children.

The months surrounding the holidays are often referred to as the 'Season of Giving.' For the boys from Merrill Cottage at the Boys Ranch, it's more like a season of giving back. Several of our Ranchers recently took part in a life-changing community event held at Camp Anderson, a local Christian Retreat in Suwannee County.



Fred, Jordan and Daniel help load packed shoeboxes into larger boxes to prepare them for shipping around the world.

Our youth were joined by more than 400 community members who came together for Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child is a global outreach opportunity created by Samaritan's Purse to spread goodwill to needy children in underdeveloped nations. Their goal is a simple one; take empty shoeboxes and with the help of volunteers like our youth, fill those boxes and prepare them to be sent to the mission field. Each shoebox is filled with small toys and much needed school supplies, personal hygiene

items and other supplies for needy children around the world.

Many of our youth come from situations similar to those faced by those children in need in other countries. If not for the dedication and generosity of our donors and their continued support of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches our youth would not be in a position to be able to give back.

At the end of the day, the event was an overwhelming success. In total, the team was able to pack nearly 10,000 shoeboxes in less than seven hours. The day wasn't all work for our



Jaquavius helps sort shoeboxes before they are packed for shipping.

youth. There were performances by several worship bands, great fellowship and during the event there were special presentations from area speakers who shared personal stories of overseas mission work and helped to instill a pride in our young men for the work they do serving others in our own community as well as people across the globe. ★

IBM, GE, Dell and others can help us get MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK!

Over the past decade, retirees and employees have maximized their gift to the Youth Ranches by applying for the matching gift program of their company. If you work for one of the companies listed here or a different company that has a gift matching program, *will you consider helping us get more bang for your buck?*

Think about your company connections. Explore their websites to see if you can double your gift through a matching gift program. Please contact your company directly for the forms to help us get **MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK!!!** ★

Matching Contributors

ADC Foundation	Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
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Allstate Giving Campaign	Pitney Bowes Matching Gift Program
Altria Group, Inc.	Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts Program
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Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc.

Get started

amazon smile

AmazonSmile is a program where Amazon donates .5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organizations selected by their customers.

Start shopping today at:
www.youthranches.org



Owning her own business is no easy task. It requires long hours and a lot of hard work. Without the Youth Ranches Terri says she would not be where she is today.

Restoring Stability

How the Youth Ranches changed Terri's life forever.

Wife, mother, business owner, athlete—there are a lot of words Terri could use to describe herself, but the way she says, “I am a Rancher,” you know it’s important.

Now, more than two decades after she left the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Terri and her husband, Scott, are preparing to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary. The couple have three great children and own a successful restoration business in south Florida. Their day-to-day routine focuses on helping families whose houses have been damaged by fire, water, or mold, but for Terri, it isn’t just about cleaning up or sanitizing a house. It’s about getting families back home and

restoring their lives.

Terri understands all too well how those families feel: a bit lost, a little alone, and not knowing where to turn. That’s how she felt when she first got to the Safety Harbor campus in 1989. Terri will be the first to tell you that when she first arrived at the Youth Ranch, she was a hard-headed and undisciplined 13-year-old. She was rebellious, running around with the wrong crowd, but not running fast enough, since she had found herself in trouble with the law.

Terri came from a pretty large family, with several brothers and sisters. However, her home life lacked any structure. She never felt secure and she recalls, to this

day, missing a sense of stability.

It didn't take Terri long to realize what the Youth Ranch had to offer. "I knew I



Terri and her husband own a restoration company the helps families get back in their homes after disasters.

was in a good place," Terri said, thinking back to those days. "I realized I didn't have goals, I had nothing to work toward. The Youth Ranches changed all that. They taught me to work and they showed me that there are people who will love and care for you, no matter what."

Once Terri knew that she was in a safe and stable environment, it enabled her to



Terri shared the news with then Resident Director Joe Ballard that she was accepting an athletic scholarship to Anderson College in South Carolina.

start tearing down the walls that she had built up around her. "They taught me to be vulnerable—I learned to open up. I finally understood that I couldn't just run away from my problems."

Terri explains that the lessons she learned at the Youth Ranch

not only helped her in her adolescence. She took those skills with her and continued to use them in her everyday life as an adult. "They taught me



Terri fondly recalls her triumphant moments as she surveys her awards.

how to communicate effectively and showed me how to be patient," she said. "Learning patience has definitely come in handy as I am now a parent myself. It's important to learn to love your kids, no matter where they are at." At the Youth Ranch, Terri was showed that unconditional love and care. The staff loved her where she was and then watched her grow and prosper. Now she can do the same for her family.

Terri knows she wouldn't be where she is today without the Youth Ranches and the generous donors who continuously support its mission. It wasn't just a place to live; it wasn't just people to watch her. For Terri and thousands of others like her, it was something so much more. "For me," she said, "it was home. I got to have all the things in life that kids should have; it was a home that gave me everything I didn't have—structure and stability. When I think of family, I think of the Ranch." ★

★ AWARDS, EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS



Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches President Bill Frye and Director of Development Wayne Witczak accept a generous gift from the Grand Master of Florida Masons Stephen Boring, Florida Mason and Friend of FSyr Reed Rue and Grand Master's Charity State Chairman Rudy Boatright during their 187th Annual Grand Communication meeting held in Jacksonville May 30th.



Mr. George Faist made a generous donation to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches to help care for the boys and girls we serve. Sarasota County Sheriff Tom Knight and FSyr Board Member Sheriff Bill Prummell accepted the gift on behalf of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.



ADESA Tampa auto auction organized a suitcase and backpack donation drive for the Youth Ranches during a recent weekly auction. Local car dealers and ADESA staff provided 100 suitcases and backpacks for children in the care of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

Pictured during the presentation of an FSyr Certificate of Appreciation are (Left to Right): Director of Development Wayne Witczak, Hillsborough County Deputy Patrick McLane, Hillsborough County Deputy Ryan Thomas, ADESA Tampa General Manager Curt Farris, SRE Director of Business Development Lisa Mills, SRE Vehicle Sales Coordinator Lindsey Phelan and FIADA Executive Director Lisette Mariner.



Dr. Patricia Miller, a long-time friend to the Youth Ranch Safety Harbor, dropped by to present a special gift to Unit Director Scott Halbach. We are grateful for her ongoing support of our programs and services!

AWARDS, EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS



Okaloosa County Sheriff Larry Ashley presented Mr. David Dean with the Golden Star award for his generous contributions to support the children in our care. They were joined by Donor Relations Officer Janet Sampson.



For 40 years Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hathorn have supported the mission of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. They have lived in Florida and in other states but their commitment to our boys and girls remains constant. Mr. and Mrs. Hathorn received the Crystal Star award from Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Vice President Donor Relations Maria Knapp.



The Sumter County Sheriff's Office made a special gift to help provide camping services to needy and deserving boys and girls! Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Program Committee Chair Dr. Patrick Coggins accepted the gift along with Camping Services Director Cori Welbes, from Sumter County Sergeant Bill Rappelyea and Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer, with FSYR Vice President Program Brad Gregory.



Dr. Rubye Beal-Fitzgerald received the Golden Star for her generous contributions to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches in the name of her son Joe Frank Beal, Jr. Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell recognized Dr. Beal-Fitzgerald with an Alachua County Sheriff's Office Coin of Excellence for helping care for Florida's needy and deserving children. Pictured left to right: Youth Ranches Donor Relations Officer Janet Sampson, Dr. Rubye Beal Fitzgerald and Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell.

A Legacy of Support

The Manatee County Sheriffs Office held the 31st Annual Michelle Wells Golf Tournament in support of the Youth Ranches this year. The Michelle Wells Golf Tournament is named after the daughter of former Sheriff Charlie Wells. Michelle died in a tragic car accident shortly after Sheriff Wells took office and at the same time he was deciding how best to support a fledgling child care program in his county. The idea took root to host a golf tournament in Michelle's honor to help the children at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch in Bradenton. Over the past 31 years the tournament has raised \$500,000 to provide services to needy and deserving boys and girls.

When Sheriff Brad Steube came into office he continued the tradition of financial and practical support to the Youth Ranches. He and his staff volunteer on campus and are known for a rousing game of kickball. We are grateful for the



commitment of the Sheriffs of Manatee County and their dedicated staff to our boys and girls.

The Manatee County Sheriff's Office presents the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches with a check from the 31st Annual Michelle Wells Golf Tournament. Vice President of Donor Relations, Maria Knapp and Special Events Manager, Kayla Bianchi accepts the check from Sheriff Brad Steube.

A Community Tradition

The Youth Villa Classic Golf Tournament committee presented the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches with a check from their 53rd annual tournament. This prestigious event held in Bartow, Florida helps raise money every year for the children at our Youth Villa located just minutes from the golf course where the tournament is hosted. We very much appreciate our relationship with the community of Bartow! From Left to Right: FSYR Special Events Manager Kayla Bianchi, Gail Smith, David Thornburg, Wally Edwards, Pam Renew, Freda Ridgway, FSYR Board Chair Madison County Sheriff Ben Stewart,



Karen Guffey, Chris Banks, Pat Lowery, FSYR President Bill Frye and Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd.



Will you put a star on your car and help Florida's children?

Ask your Tax Collector for a Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Specialty License Plate for your car today!



The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Specialty License Plate provides Florida

citizens with a unique and personal way to help in the ongoing fight against juvenile delinquency and neglect.

Along with the regular tag fees, the additional specialty tag donation will help Florida's needy boys and girls find shelter, guidance and self-confidence. You can also purchase specialty license plate gift certificates. These make great gifts for family and friends.

Ask your Tax Collector for a Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Tag for your car today!

To learn more about the services provided by the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, call (800) 765-3797 or visit us online at www.youthranches.org.



Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches®
Mending Lives, Healing Hearts®

P.O. BOX 2000 - BOYS RANCH, FL 32064
www.youthranches.org

Helping Our Children through a Memorial Gift.

Contributions to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches are listed in alphabetical order by name of the deceased. Donors are listed after the name of the person in whose memory they contributed.

**Memorial Gifts from
July 1, 2016 -
Sept. 30, 2016**

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Sept. 30, 2016**

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Estate and Trust Gifts

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Robert A. Meylan and
Virginia F. Meylan
Ralph A. and Lea M.
Vandenberg

The Sheriffs of Florida and the Board of Directors of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc. would like to extend their sincere appreciation for the gifts received between July 1, 2016 - Sept. 30, 2016 from estates and trusts.

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A gift may be made to the Youth Ranches in honor of a person and/or a special occasion, such as a birthday, anniversary, etc. If appropriate, and if a mailing address is provided, a card of acknowledgement will be sent to the person being honored. A listing of the donor and the person honored will appear in a future issue of *The Rancher* magazine and, when address is provided, the person honored will receive a copy of the issue in which his or her name appears. In the listing below, the Honoree is listed first in all caps.

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26th Annual Greater Southeast Volusia County Chowder Cookoff

January 29 – This event is presented by the Moose Legion #227 and Merchants of Flagler Hospitality Group. The event will take place along Flagler Avenue in New Smyrna Beach, FL. The event starts at 12:00 p.m.

Palm Beach Sheriff's Office Golf Tournament

February 17- This event will be held at Madison Green Golf Course in West Palm Beach, Florida. For more information please contact Kayla Bianchi at (386) 842-5501.

Annual Indian River County Sheriff's Office Barbecue

March 1 – The address for the Sheriff's Office Barbecue is 4055 41st Avenue, Vero Beach, FL - Tickets are available at the Sheriff's Office, at the door or call (772) 978-6404.

Escambia County Sheriff "in Hot Pursuit" 5 K run

March 11 – Date to be announced. This event will take place in Pensacola Beach, FL. For more information call Allison Morgan at (850) 436-9419

Upcoming Events

Bay County Sheriff's Office Golf Tournament

March 2017 – Date to be announced. Panama City, FL For more information call Sally Sparks at (850) 814-2488



Join us for our special events!
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For Additional Information Contact: Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Donor Relations Department at (386) 842-5501 or the Sheriff's Office sponsoring the event.

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