

Alabama Sheriffs' Youth Ranches



Ranch Round-Up ♦ Online Newsletter ♦ January 2011

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Alabama Sheriffs'
Youth Ranches

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of the Alabama Sheriffs'
Youth Ranches.

Nick RauccioPublisher
Christine ClineEditor

A Note From The Chairman ...

As Chairman of the Board for the Alabama Sheriffs' Youth Ranches, I am proud to introduce to you, our loyal contributors, the Ranch Roundup! This electronic newsletter will be coming to you monthly to keep you up to date on the state of affairs of the ranches and more importantly the daily lives of the children that you so generously support.

My wife, Kim and I feel that if you are kept informed of what is happening in the daily lives of these real, living and breathing wonderful children that it will demonstrate to you how every dime that you give is so desperately needed. After all, we are raising these children together and just because something else in the world



happens doesn't mean that these children don't need food and a loving home the next day.

With the state of the economy over the last year as well as numerous natural disasters worldwide, we have taken a major hit on donations. Our donations were down by 30% for much of the year. During the giving season, October through December when we normally recover, we still showed a 20% downturn.

As a business owner, I know that with a decrease in revenue of 20% to 30% there is no way that I could

continue to operate my business without making major changes in the operating procedures. The same applies to the Alabama Sheriffs' Youth Ranches. Over the next few weeks the finance committee will be presenting ideas to the Board of Trustees that will streamline the operating procedures and budgets so that we can continue to maintain the best childcare facility in the state of Alabama.

However, these changes will not work without your continued support. Please share in the lives of these wonderful boys and girls through the Ranch Roundup and more importantly through your generous donations! God Bless You!

Sincerely,

Tim Wilbanks

Remembering Board Member Bob Hodgson

Longtime Ranch supporter Bob Hodgson passed away January 3, 2011. Mr. Hodgson was the owner, executive vice president and chairman of the board of Standard Furniture Co. in Bay Minette, Ala. He and his wife, Doris, as well as

their family, have been staunch supporters of the children of the Youth Ranches for many years. Mr. Hodgson had served on the Board of Trustees as a member and as the chairman of the Board. He will be truly missed by the entire Ranch family.



"It's easier to build boys and girls than to repair men and women"



Ranchers Enjoyed Annual Christmas Shopping Trips



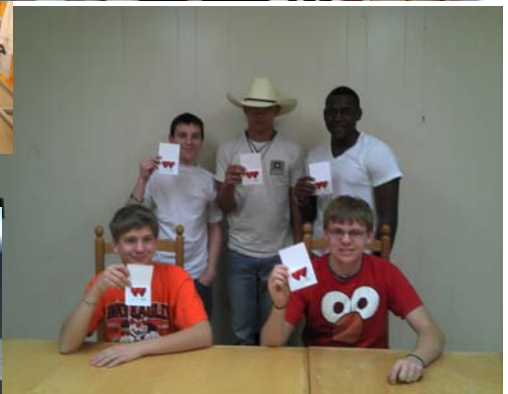
Robert Norris, a longtime supporter of the Ranches as well as a member of the Board of Trustees and former Board Chairman, once again sponsored the children at Christmas this year. His generosity ensured that each child received a gift card to Belk to purchase clothing as well as Christmas gifts. Each child enjoyed shopping at their local department store over the holidays.

clothing - often just the clothes they are wearing. We provide them with appropriate clothing, shoes and coats, but this annual event allows the children the opportunity to purchase items that we may not be able to provide for them.

We have included a few photos of the children as they enjoyed the shopping trips with their house-parents.



Most of the children who come to live at the Ranches have very little





Tallapoosa County Girls Ranch

The girls had a lot of fun this holiday season. Chambers County Sheriff Sid Lockhart and supporter Debbie Harmon sponsored a Christmas party for the girls where they enjoyed food, gifts and photos with Santa. The girls attended the Christmas parade



in Opelika and the annual Front Porch Tour of homes. Members from the Lions Club at Auburn University helped the girls make Christmas cards to residents of a local nursing home.

The Ranchers were able to attend the State High School 2A Championship Game between their Reeltown H.S. football and LeRoy H.S. The game was played at Jordan-Hare Stadium in Auburn. Although Reeltown lost the game, it was a fun experience for all the girls who attended.

Non-Cash Donations

We always appreciate your donations of non-cash items such as vehicles, boats, farm and lawn equipment, and clothing. We also need household items such as toilet paper and paper towels, laundry detergent and dish soap, as well as personal toiletry items.

Computer equipment as well as books appropriate for middle or high school students are also needed at several Ranch locations. If you can help in any way, please contact either your local Ranch or the Administrative Office at 1-800-548-4256 to arrange a pick up.



Baldwin County Boys Ranch

The boys at the Baldwin County Boys Ranch had a lot of fun over the holidays with various activities. The Gulf Shores Women's Club hosted a decorating party for the Ranch. The ladies brought breakfast and lunch, as well as decorations for each Ranch house.

The Loxley Optimist Club hosted a breakfast and brought presents for each of the boys one morning before school. The Sonny Feaster

Sunday School class at First Baptist Church of Foley hosted a dinner and

Christmas party at the church for the boys.

Dr. McCullough and the staff of The McCullough Institute brought presents and gift cards for each of the boys.

The Hangout, a local restaurant in Gulf Shores, hosted another party for the boys and also provided a wii and games for each house.

Former Alabama and NFL defensive back Jeremiah Castille visited the boys in December. He told his inspirational story and brought gifts for the Ranchers.

Upcoming Events

February 25 - Annual Pig Roast and Live Auction benefiting the Baldwin County Boys Ranch

April 16 - Annual Sheriff's Ranch Ride benefiting the St. Clair County Boys Ranch



Colbert County Fame Girls Ranch

The children and staff at our newest Ranch have been very busy over the past few months. The girls helped design a new reward system that they will be implementing soon. The girls can earn "Ranch Bucks" for their good grades, behavior, and chores.

They will be able to spend their Ranch Bucks for privileges such as extra computer or tv time, or on items from the Ranch store. The Ranch is looking for donations of items to help stock this store. Suggestions include bedside lamps and other items for the girls rooms, puzzles, games, and small gift cards to local stores that can be used as awards.



The girls also enjoyed several holiday events including a Christmas party on the Ranch and an outing to view local Christmas light displays.

St. Clair County Boys Ranch

The Ranchers were busy over the holidays with a variety of activities. The Vestavia High School Key Club members came to the ranch for a fun day with the Ranchers. They brought a meal to share with the Ranchers and presents for each child. Key Clubs throughout Alabama have supported the Ranches for many years.

The St. Clair County Christian Motorcycle

Association brought dinner for the kids one night during the month. They also brought a special guest -- Christian comedian Lee McBride who performed for the Ranchers and gave each boy a DVD.

The Ranch boys also took a tour of Advantage Logistics, a local wholesale distribution company that regularly supports the Ranch with non-cash donations. The boys enjoyed the tour, as well as refreshments and gifts.



Join Your Local Ranch Support Group!

Each Ranch has a local group of supporters who are interested in the welfare of the children on that Ranch. They meet regularly to help with fundraisers and projects on each location. If you are interested in joining a local support group, please contact your local Ranch.



How Can I Make a Donation?

You can send your donation to the Ranches in several ways. You can mail your donations to our Administrative Office: PO Box 240009, Montgomery, AL 36124-0009. Or you can call our

office at 1-800-548-4256 with your Visa or MasterCard information to make a donation over the phone. You can also go to our website: www.sheriffsranch.org to make a donation online.