

THE RANCHER

Winter 2007

PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES, INC.®

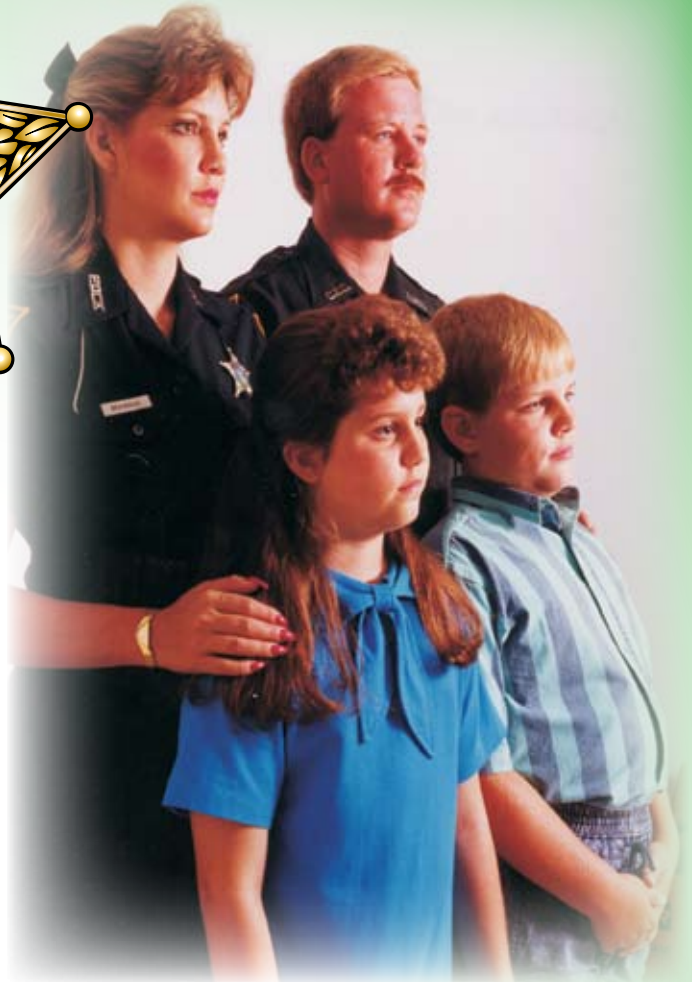
1957

2007



50th Anniversary

Shielded By a Star



The Sheriffs of Florida protect our children and help provide a safe haven for deserving boys and girls.

In 1957, Florida's Sheriffs were visionary leaders as they founded the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch to help prevent juvenile delinquency. At that time no one else in the nation understood the need to provide a safe home for these abused, abandoned and neglected children better than the Sheriffs of Florida. It was unconventional to think of law enforcement reaching out to help the community in this manner, but they proved the old saying, "Where there is a will, there is a way!"

Today, this faithful commitment has been passed on to a new generation of Sheriffs who continue to carry the torch of support for Florida's deserving children. Their remarkable fortitude and compassionate determination to protect and serve these youngsters is evident as they encourage local citizens to get involved with the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

Whether an individual endeavor such as hosting a local fundraising event or a collective effort through the support of the Florida Sheriffs Association, each Sheriff has the ability and influence to continue the legacy built by those before them. As we reach 50 years of service to the children and families of Florida, your local Sheriff can and will play a key role in the fight against juvenile delinquency.

The Mission of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches is to prevent juvenile delinquency and develop lawful, productive citizens through a broad range of family-centered services.

VALUES

"Children First"

Doing nothing less than the best for children every day in every way.

Integrity

Earning the trust of others every day through word, thought and deed.

Stewardship

Taking responsibility for personal attitude, behavior, and assets that have been provided through the gifts and sacrifices of others for the betterment of children's lives.

President's Perspective

*A message from
Roger O. Bouchard, Jr. President of the
Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc.*

As I am writing this perspective, we have just finished our big 50th Anniversary Open House and Horse Show at the Boys Ranch. The weekend was somewhat wet due to occasional rainstorms but the mood of the thousands of people present was not dampened at all. Campers began arriving early Wednesday morning and by Friday night, the weekend was in full swing.

Several banquets were held to honor our founding partners and our donor family. One thousand nine hundred pounds of Boys Ranch beef was cooked and served as well as several hundred gallons of chicken pilau. The horse show and competition, with over 500 riders, went on for three days and a record number of our alumni attended their annual reunion. Early Sunday morning, an outside chapel service allowed our Ranchers, staff and guests to give thanks in song, prayer and worship together. All in all, it was a very busy and very moving tribute to the mission of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

During the weekend, several themes were evident. First was a deep appreciation for those Sheriffs and community leaders who made the effort to start the Boys Ranch in 1957. The innovative program for boys began with a piece of donated property and a few thousand dollars but those founders had a great vision to help children. Second, a great thanks to the thousands of donors from all walks of life

who have given faithfully to meet the needs of the children in our care. Third, honoring the hundreds of staff who worked faithfully over the years to provide a home, education and training for young people. Last but not least, the young men and women themselves who have passed through these gates. They are the reason we are here and the result of all the hard work.

I am so proud to be a part of the history and story of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. I work with the finest group of people in the world and have had the honor of seeing hundreds of young men and women develop the integrity and character they need to be lawful and productive members of their communities. All over Florida, there are boys and girls who are suffering and struggling as they try to grow up with little or no supervision. It is our responsibility to make sure the Youth Ranches will be there, strong and healthy, for the next generation of young people.



Roger Bouchard, President



THE RANCHER
*50th Anniversary
Edition*



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In Memory of Carl Stauffer

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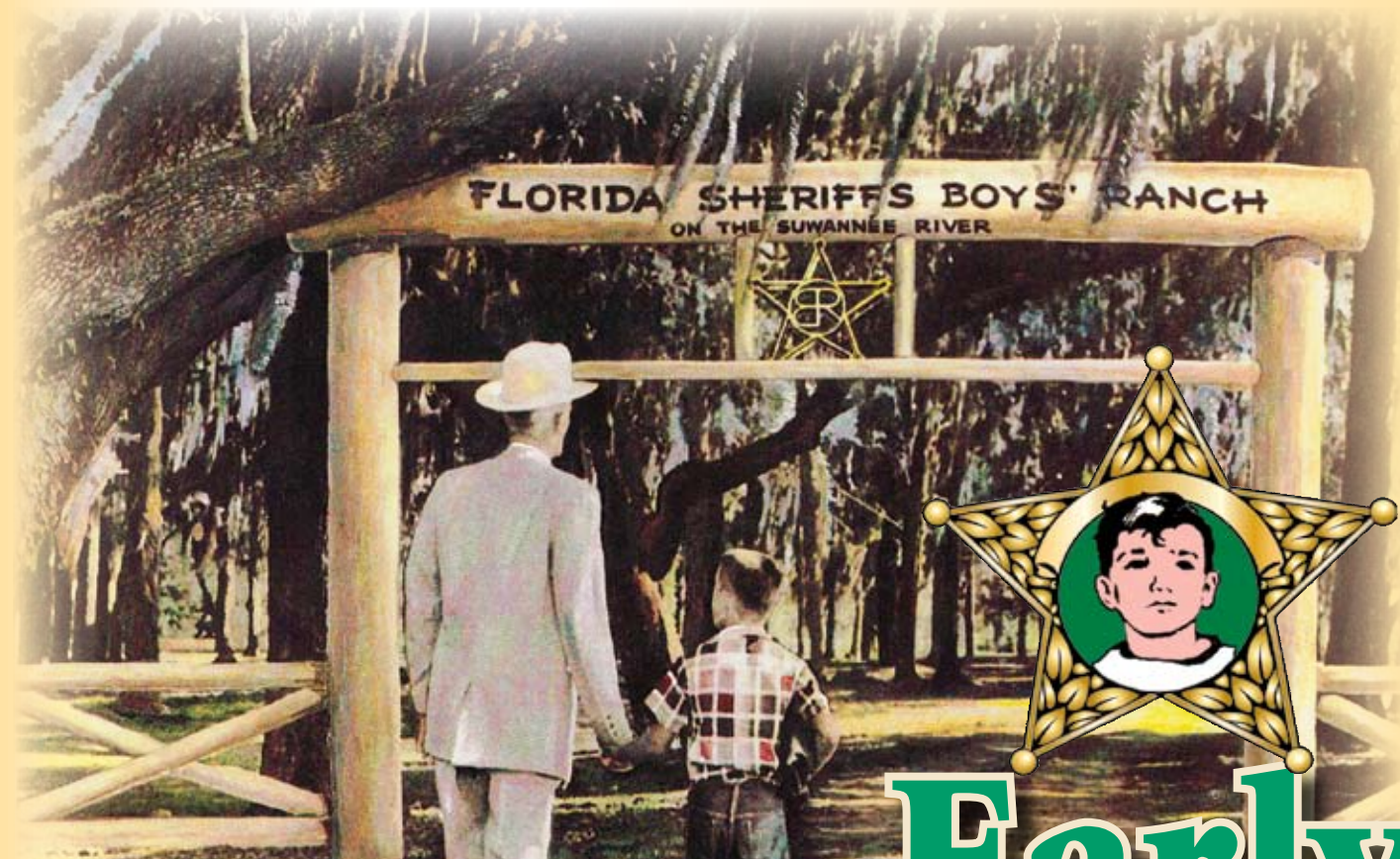
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REQUIRED DISCLOSURE INFORMATION

Florida Statutes Chapter 496, cited as the Solicitation of Contributions Act, was enacted by the 1991 Florida Legislature with an effective date of January 1, 1992. This law requires that organizations like the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc., furnish the following information with each fund solicitation and receipt for contributions received:

"A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, 1-800-HELP-FLA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE."

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc. registration number is CH954. Sheriffs Ranches Enterprises, Inc. registration number is CH20347. THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES RECEIVES 100% OF THIS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION. New York - A copy of the latest annual report can be obtained from the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches or from the Office of the Attorney General by writing the Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.



The story of the birth of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches proves miracles do happen. It tells how an impossible dream grew into one of the finest delinquency prevention programs in the nation, and how the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches came to celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

Early History

In 1955, two veteran Florida Sheriffs took a trip to Texas – a trip that would forever change the lives of thousands of Florida’s trouble, abused and neglected youngsters. Several years ago, Hillsborough County Sheriff Ed Blackburn, Jr. related the following details about that memorable trip. He and Marion County Sheriff Don McLeod made the journey to retrieve a pair of armed robbery suspects.

“It was in June of 1955 that Don and I drove to Amarillo. The drive out west was tedious and tiring. We decided to rest a day before beginning the trip back home,” began Blackburn as the story unfolded.

“The local Sheriff assigned a Deputy to guide us around. He was a typical Texan, tall, high hat, cowboy boots, extremely courteous and accommodating. Since the county was far too big to see in one day, he offered us a choice. He told us we could visit the beautiful Palo Duro Canyon or take a look at a ranch for needy and neglected boys.

Ironically, we chose to see the canyon. While that Deputy drove us around the canyon, he recounted the wonderful results of that boys ranch on the other side of the county. He told us how a former wrestler had picked up four ‘ragamuffins’ out of the slums and alleys of Amarillo...how he gave them a home with love and discipline and helped turn their lives around. We learned how the old house he bought in 1939 had grown into a home for 200 boys. This Deputy was a supporter of this ranch and truly sang its praises.

The next day we put the two prisoners in the back seat of our car and headed home. One suspect was an 18-year-old boy. He had been injured during the get-away so he had a tube draining out of his side and a cast on one foot. The other prisoner, his accomplice, was a frightened 17-year-old girl, some five months pregnant.

A few miles east of Amarillo, the seed that the Texas Deputy had sown began to germinate. What made it stir, no one knows. Maybe it was the plight of that shot-up, crippled boy and frightened, pregnant girl in our back seat. They were little more than kids, yet were in big trouble.

We began to talk, agreeing if a wrestler could capture the vision of helping

neglected and unwanted boys...then, so could the Sheriffs of Florida.

We began talking to fellow Sheriffs about starting a Boys Ranch in Florida. Later that year, we presented the idea to the Florida Sheriffs Association Board of Directors. The idea was tabled because no money was available.

Another year passed, but somehow miracles live on. In early 1957, the Sheriffs of Florida voted to approve the Honorary Membership program to raise funds for the Association. In less than six months, hundreds of Floridians became Honorary Members of the Florida Sheriffs Association. Now, instead of being broke, the Association had a bank balance of \$7,000. Our dream to help troubled boys was quickly revived!



The initial Boys Ranch site search committee included a group of Sheriffs from around the state. They were invited to meet with the Suwannee County businessmen who felt the banks of the Suwannee River were the right place to build the dream of the Florida Sheriffs.

Early History continued...

No one suggested Sheriffs didn't know how to run a Boys Ranch. No one told us about the State Welfare Department's licensing restrictions, or the State Board of Health's inspection and permitting process. Nor did we consider the formidable task of getting the Internal Revenue Service to grant us a Charitable Tax Exemption status. Least of all, no one mentioned \$7,000 wouldn't even buy a paddy wagon, much less start a Boys Ranch.

Nevertheless, at our next meeting, Florida's Sheriffs voted to found the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch. The Associated Press picked up the story and gave us the much-needed publicity."

Meanwhile, Suwannee County Sheriff Hugh Lewis picked up the ball and ran with it. He knew that Live Oak businessman Thomas Musgrove had originally given some 40 acres to the Elks Club for a youth project. He also owned another 120 acres to the south of that site. Sheriff Lewis persuaded the Elks and Musgrove to consider donating this land on the banks of the Suwannee River for the Ranch. Local community leaders formed a prestigious committee, spearheaded by J.L. McMullen, who helped convince the Sheriffs to select this land as the site for its proposed Ranch. The Sheriffs officially accepted the offer during the FSA conference in August of 1957.



Deeds were signed for the Boys Ranch property on October 18, 1957. Involved were (l-r standing) Suwannee County Sheriff Hugh Lewis, Florida Sheriffs Bureau Director and FSA Secretary Don McLeod, Hillsborough County Sheriff Ed Blackburn. Seated (left) Thomas Musgrove, Suwannee County Commissioner, who donated 120 acres; and Bob Tuttle, President of the Elks Lodge, which donated 40 acres on the Suwannee River. Musgrove had donated the 40 acres to the Elks earlier as a youth camp site, but it had never been developed. Loans from local banks in Live Oak enabled the Boys Ranch to purchase additional property from Musgrove.

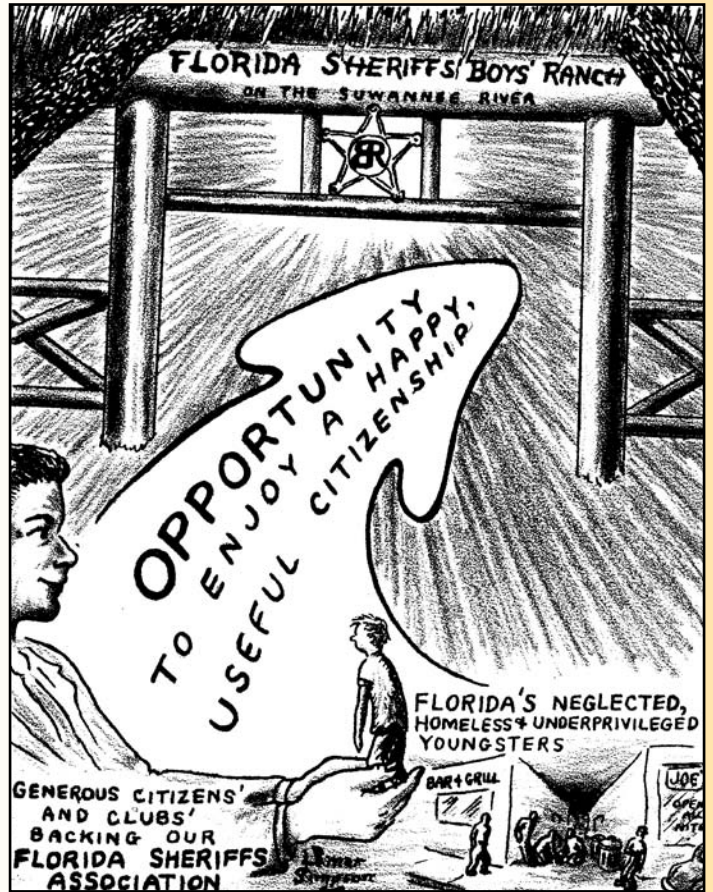


Thomas Musgrove and his wife donated some of the land on the banks of the Suwannee River to start the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch.

The Sheriffs also learned that just east of this beautiful site were two abandoned farms totaling another 550 acres. They were just perfect for the project, but it would cost \$31,000 in cash to buy them both. Two local banks agreed to lend the Sheriffs \$13,000 each, for a total of \$26,000 toward the purchase price of the farms. The Sheriffs added \$5,000 of their \$7,000 bank balance and bought the land. Now with only \$2,000 cash in hand, the men embarked on the task of building the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch.

Florida's Sheriffs were undaunted by the challenges before them. They had a dream and a hope – a vision of a better life for youngsters – and they had the growing support of the citizens of Florida. As news of the Boys Ranch project spread, the Sheriffs' circle of interested and supportive friends began to grow. Floridians were learning their Sheriffs had virtues never seen before. This vision of helping boys with bad breaks get their lives back on track had appeal. The Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch gained popular support and captured the imaginations and hearts of generous people across the state and nation. Countless friends, both new and old, responded. People donated money and materials, joining with the Sheriffs in this labor of love.

The newly formed Boys Ranch Board of Trustees held its first meeting in 1957. In attendance were (from left) Florida Sheriffs Association Attorney John A. Madigan, Jr., Suwannee County Sheriff Hugh Lewis, Florida Sheriffs Bureau Director Don McLeod, Clay County Sheriff John P. Hall, Sr., Monroe County Sheriff John M. Spottswood, Taylor County Sheriff Maurice Linton, Hardee County Sheriff E. Odell Carlton, Polk County Sheriff Hagan Parrish, Escambia County Sheriff Emmett Shelby, and Pinellas County Sheriff Sid M. Saunders. Former Suwannee County Sheriff Hugh Lewis was instrumental in securing financing for the initial Boys Ranch project.



Early History continued...

Ground was broken for the first cottage in the summer of 1958, and the first boys moved to the Ranch in early 1959. The Boys Ranch Trustees voted to dedicate that first cottage in memory of Pinellas County Sheriff Sid Saunders. He died suddenly, just after helping to hire the architect for the new cottage at the Boys Ranch. Sheriff Saunders' untimely death triggered an outpouring of memorial gifts for the fledgling Boys Ranch. These precious gifts of love and hope helped carry on the vision to provide a safe home for so many deserving children.

These original donors have now been joined by countless other friends and benefactors who have helped the Boys Ranch grow into a statewide network of programs that has served over 100,000 boys, girls, and their families from across the state of Florida. Because of the leadership of Florida's Sheriffs and the ongoing generosity of our donor family, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches has truly become **Florida's Charity for Florida's Children.®**



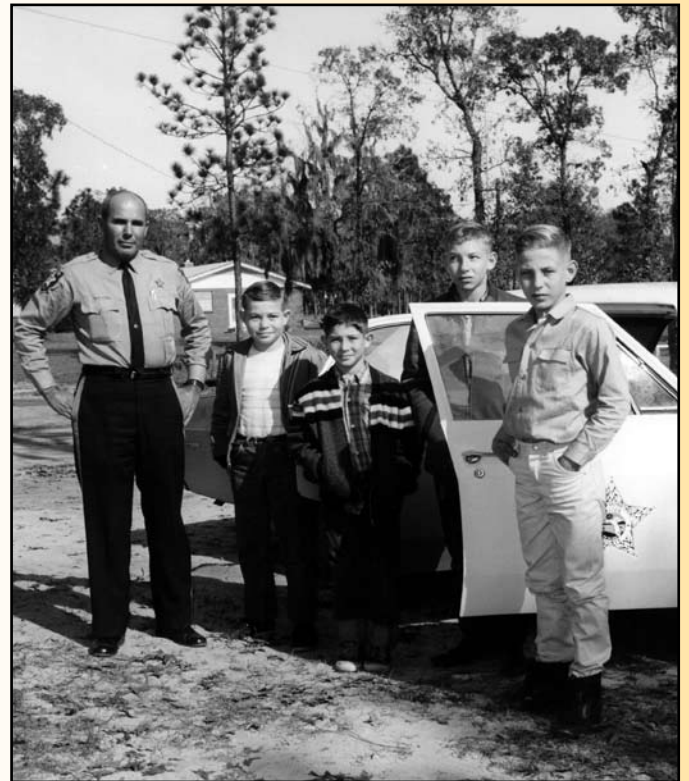
Ranchers at Capitol - 1959, Posed on the front steps of the old Capitol, this is one of the earliest photos of the first Ranchers. The adults in the second row are (l-r) Cottage Parent Clenny Beach, Ranch Manager Vince Jones, Leon County Sheriff Bill Joyce and Hillsborough County Sheriff Ed Blackburn.



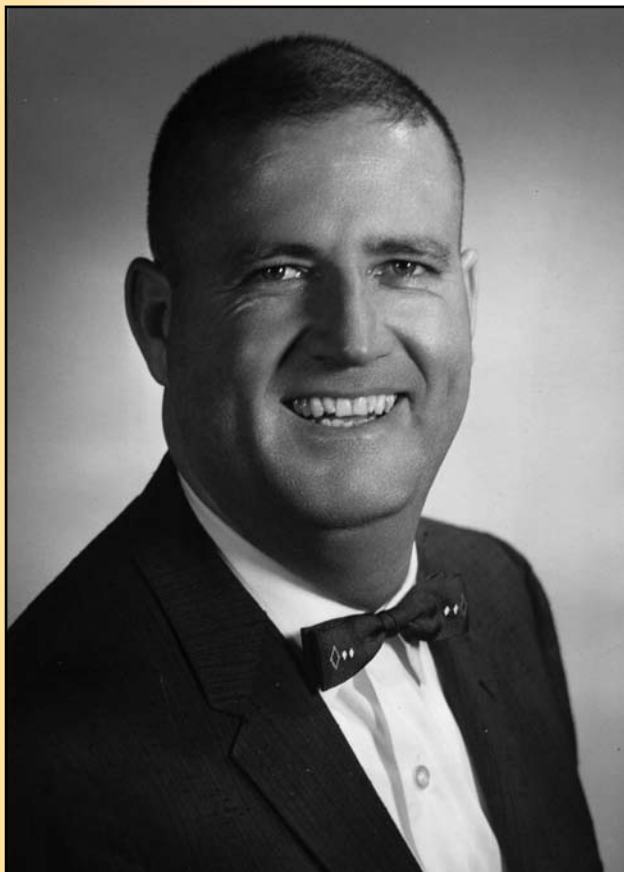
The first cottage at the Boys Ranch was named in memory of Pinellas County Sheriff Sid M. Saunders. He was a charter member of the Boys Ranch Trustees and President of the Florida Sheriffs Association at his untimely death. Ground-Breaking Ceremony for Saunders Cottage was held in 1958.



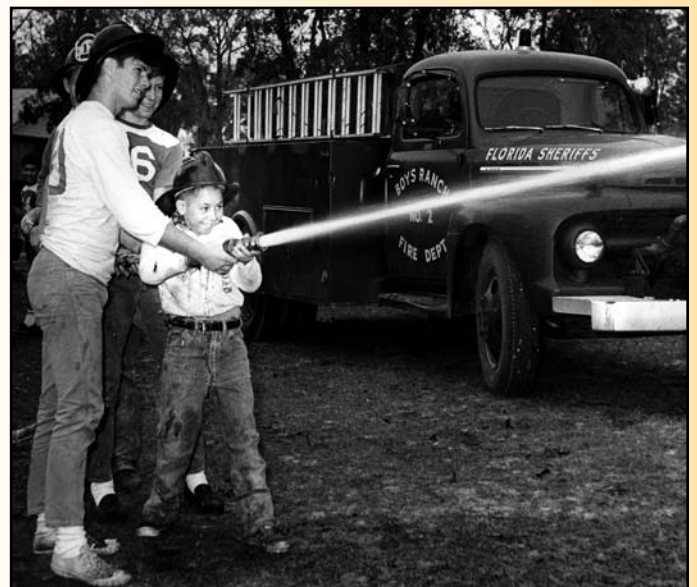
This 66-passenger bus was acquired in 1962, after Volusia County Sheriff Rodney Thursby and Hillsborough County Sheriff Ed Blackburn raised the necessary \$9,000. Prior to this, the Ranch board had turned down purchase of a bus because of lack of funds. Taken for publicity purposes, this photo of Ranchers running to board the bus was a familiar scene during this era when Ranchers and staff were frequently invited guests of Sheriffs and other benefactors for fun trips to various areas of Florida. Numerous times the trips included deep sea fishing or visits to military bases.



Bass Brothers - 1966, a Walton County Deputy Sheriff delivers the Bass brothers to Boys Ranch. They are (l-r) Barney, Donald, Roger and Tommy.



Harry K. Weaver was hired as the Executive Director of the Boys Ranch in 1962. He was instrumental in the Youth Ranches growth and development over the next 40 years.



These Ranchers learned what to do in case of a fire on campus. The Boys Ranch had its own fire truck on campus.

*Support the
Florida Sheriffs
Boys Ranch*

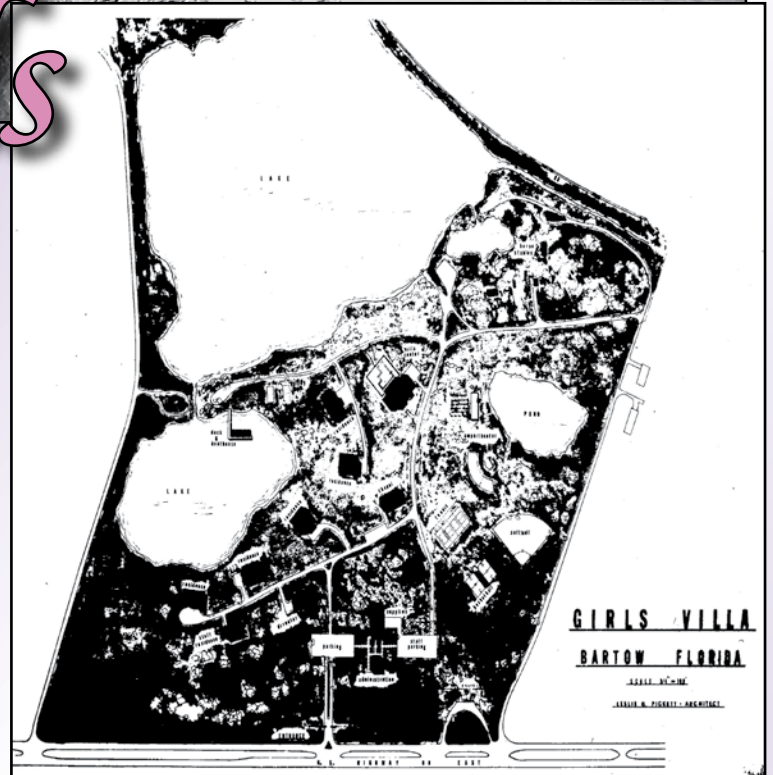




A Place for Girls

As the Boys Ranch grew in size and structure, praise for the success of the program spread across Florida. Everyone knew the Sheriffs' strong commitment to these deserving boys...but, what about the girls?

The need was clear, but the path was not. Fortunately, the sister of Pinellas County Sheriff Don Genung had carefully watched his efforts to help develop the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch. With his help, she approached the Sunshine State Women's Chamber of Commerce to enlist their support to raise money for a "sister" program to the Boys Ranch. The group agreed and immediately launched a focused fundraising effort to build a



1971 - The proposed layout for the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa located just two miles east of downtown Bartow.

place for wayward girls. Their tenacity and determination soon paid off.

In 1969, the Sheriffs of Florida formally adopted the idea of establishing the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa. A search committee was formed, and by 1971 they had secured a beautiful piece of property formerly known as Peace River Park. Through the efforts of Polk County Sheriff Monroe Brannen and other community leaders, the Mobil Corporation, the City of Bartow, and Polk County Officials agreed to a 99-year lease of over 125 acres of land for \$1 per year. The local community in Bartow responded in a very positive way through the Bartow Classic, a long-standing gala event to support the Girls Villa.

Groundbreaking for the new building began at once, and soon the campus was overflowing with deserving girls in need of a good home.

Over the years, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Villa (formerly known as the Girls Villa) has grown to include five cottages, an Activity Center, Learning Center, Pool, Chapel, Towey Administration Building, IZARD Barn, and other facilities to help young women become productive members of our community.

In 1973, Youth Villa Resident Director Bob Haag takes time to talk with some of the girls on their way to class.



Groundbreaking for the Youth Villa took place on August 27, 1971. Those present for the event were (from left) Lt. Governor Tom Adams; Pinellas County Sheriff and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Don Genung; Putnam County Sheriff and President of FSA, Walt Pellicer; Chair of the Polk County Commissioners, Aldine Combee; Bartow Mayor George Gause; Girls Villa Trustee Mrs. Doris Hough; and Polk County Sheriff Monroe Brannen.





Keeping Families Together

Supported by the individual generosity of so many Floridians, the Sheriffs of Florida were soon ready to take another bold step – a coed program. Thanks to a life estate gift of a ranch house and property by Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Salls, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor was founded in 1976. This new Youth Ranch had a specific purpose to keep fragmented families together by serving sibling groups (brothers and sisters) on the same campus.



(Top photo) With the stroke of a pen on March 18, 1976, Catherine and D.A. Salls finalized the gift of property destined to be the Youth Ranch.

(Bottom photo) The Salls were very involved in the renovations to what would become Salls Cottage.

Since then, brothers and sisters who have come from broken homes or a troubled past have a place to live together and work through the challenges in their lives. Many times, this may be the only family they will know, the only place they will feel safe. The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor is a haven to heal the wounds of days gone by and a place to build a brighter future.

Today, the small 28-acre campus has three cottages, the Don Genung Activity Center, Chapel, Pool, Elmer and Nancy Pilcher Administration Building, and other facilities to help develop healthy boys and girls.



The Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor welcomes brothers and sisters who have come from troubled homes in hopes of building stability in their lives.



*Your will
should be
reviewed
annually.*

Don Genung is standing in front of the Activity Center that bears his name. He always enjoyed spending time with the kids from the Ranch.





Youth Ranch-Bradenton/Sarasota residents pose at the entrance of the campus.

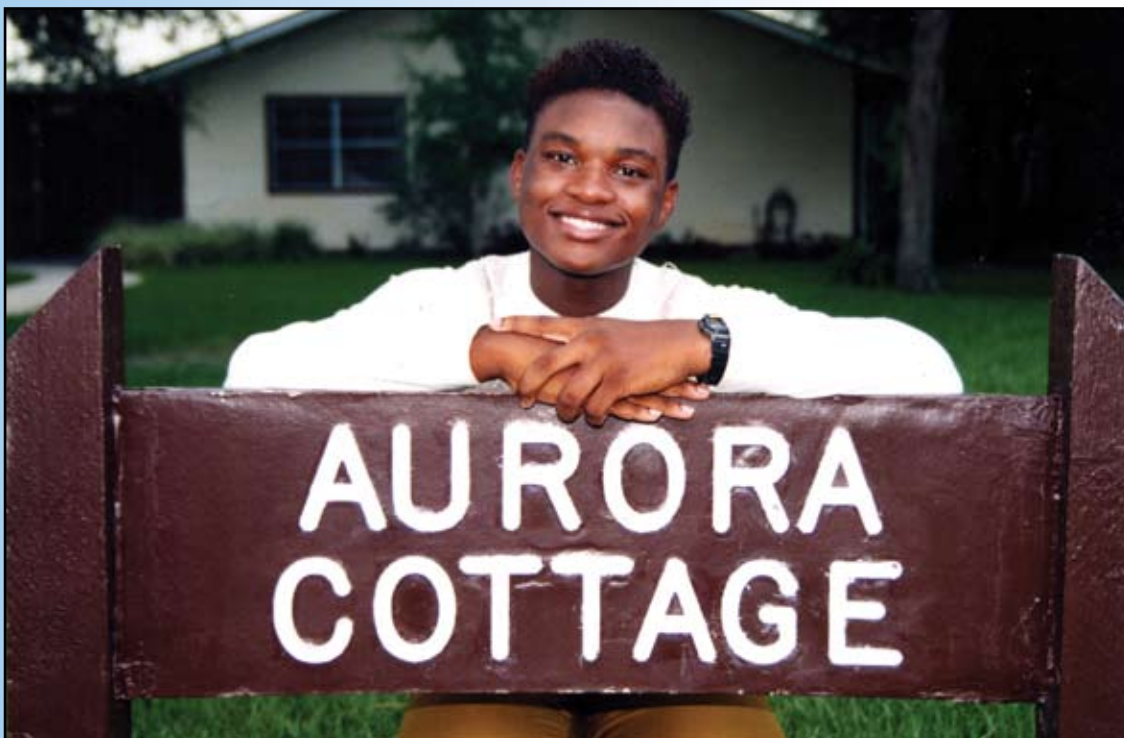
In 1991, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches had the opportunity to develop another campus site in the Bradenton/Sarasota area. The Manatee River Youth Ranch had been founded in 1984 through the joint efforts of concerned citizens, the Kiwanis Club of Bradenton, and the Manatee County Commissioners. Many individuals involved in both programs supported the merger of the site into the Youth Ranches network of residential campuses to help meet the needs of boys from the southwestern part of the state.

The campus is set on 62 naturally beautiful acres in the eastern part of Manatee County and currently serves 29 boys. It includes three cottages, the McCune Maintenance and Vocational Center, the Ruth Bell Learning Center, the Wilson-Wood Activity Center, Selby Barn, the Kiwanis Club of Bradenton Administration Building, Linnie Dalbeck Memorial Pool and various other recreational facilities.

The Tradition Continues...



The signing of documents to add the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch in Bradenton/Sarasota as the newest site to serve deserving youth was complete on October 1, 1991. Witnessing this great event were (seated l-r) Sarasota County Sheriff Geoff Monge, Youth Ranches President Harry K. Weaver, Manatee River Board Member Barbara B. Smith, Youth Ranches Board Member Ben Sizemore. Standing (L-R) Counselor Dale Thompson, Youth Ranches Internal Auditor Wesley Goff, VP Planned Giving Bill Brown, Board Member Dan Hager, Staff Member Delores McKinny, Regional Director Bill Aust, VP Youth Services Jim Strayer, Group Care Worker Judy Winterton, Regional Director Bill Biebuyck and Staff Member James McKinney.



Aurora Cottage was the original cottage at the Youth Ranch/Bradenton Sarasota. Sotatee and Flink Cottages were added in later years.

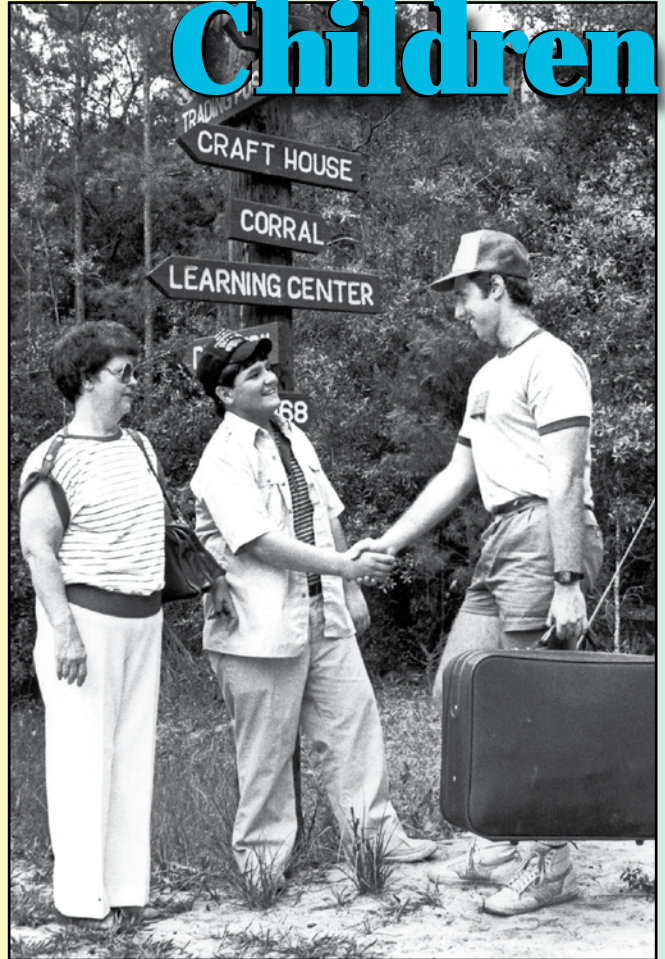
*Thank you
for supporting
Florida's
Charity for
Florida's
Children!*

Reaching Out to Serve More Children

In 1981, Youth Ranches Staff and Law Enforcement Officers began to explore new ways to serve more of Florida's needy and neglected children. On the back acres of the Boys Ranch, they set up primitive camping facilities and invited youngsters to a unique summer camp. The purpose of the camp was to provide an opportunity for kids to have a positive interaction with the Officers to promote the camp theme "Law Officers are Your Friends."

The program was so well received that the group took the adventure on the road the following year. They rented or borrowed different camping facilities across the state to create a local connection with the Law Enforcement Officers. As this group traveled the state, a Girl Scout Camp was found in Volusia County that would be the perfect setting for a permanent facility. The Florida Sheriffs Youth Camp was acquired in late 1982 and began serving children in 1983.

The programs offered at the nearly 200-acre Youth Camp were so popular, Youth Ranches officials began to look for an additional site. In 1986, Mr. and Mrs. Will Caruth provided 182 acres of land near Inglis/Yankeetown. The Georgia-Pacific Company donated an adjacent parcel of 60 acres of land for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Caruth Camp.



Camping Staff welcome campers and their families to a week of fun at the Youth Camp in Barberville.



In 1986, Mr. and Mrs. Will Caruth (seated) leased a large piece of property to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches for only \$10 per year. Serving as witnesses to this commitment to children are (l-r) Alachua County Sheriff L. J. "Lu" Hindery, Levy County Sheriff Pat Hartley, Citrus County Sheriff Charlie Dean, Sr., and Youth Ranches Regional Director Mac Stones. Ten years later as the lease was due to be renewed, Mrs. Caruth donated the property known as the Florida Sheriffs Caruth Camp.

In 1996, Camping Services developed a revolutionary program called Project Harmony®. This program was a week-long leadership retreat for middle school students aimed at reducing violence, racial tension and negative behavior. Project Harmony increased cultural understanding and built positive leaders among today's youth. This nationally recognized program has been redesigned into other highly successful programs known as Harmony in the Streets, Wellness in Nutrition and Harmony in the Schools.

Today the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Camping Services Program provides dynamic services for thousands of Florida's children each year. Each service teaches boys and girls traditional values through positive, healthy recreational activities and embraces the camp theme "Law Officers are Your Friends."



"The Wall" is team building exercise at camp where campers learn to trust and rely on each other to work together to solve problems and reach goals.



These girls enjoyed the many activities brought to their neighborhood by the "Harmony in the Streets" Mobile Camp teams.



The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Whitaker Campsite at Caruth Camp was held in 1992.

*Reaching Out to Serve More Children
continued...*

SUMMER CAMP – Boys and girls spend a week with volunteer Law Enforcement Officers enjoying a variety of educational outdoor activities. Canoeing, archery, swimming, horseback riding and many other self-esteem building activities allow kids the opportunity to participate in groups as they learn about teamwork and build positive peer communication skills. The primary focus of Summer Camp is to prevent juvenile delinquency and develop healthy, positive relationships with Law Enforcement Officers.

HARMONY IN THE STREETS – This mobile day camp program is a community-based service for underprivileged youth that combines the valuable lessons of Project Harmony with the exciting activities of Summer Camp. Camping teams spread out across the state and spend a week onsite in the local community providing positive, interactive opportunities for children of families who typically have limited resources for productive summer fun. The program is designed to teach youngsters about respect, responsibility and appropriate behavior. Our goal is to prevent juvenile delinquency by keeping kids involved and busy in positive activities throughout the day.

HARMONY IN THE SCHOOLS – Harmony in the Schools is a leadership and team building program including an anti-bullying curriculum, conflict resolution skills, decision making skills and cultural awareness education. This school-based program brings the highly successful program, Project Harmony of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, directly to the local school during the school day. Each school identifies the needs of the students and the Camping Services staff tailor the program to the school's needs. With this delivery model, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches is able to deliver the message of the program to hundreds of youth each week.



The Harmony in the Streets campers enjoy a few moments explaining some of the drawings they made to Youth Ranches President Roger Bouchard.



During the Harmony in the Streets/Wellness in Nutrition program, kids learn how to develop healthy eating habits.

All of the camping programs and services provided by the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches are accredited by the American Camp Association. Each program has also received national recognition for making a dynamic impact on thousands of Florida's boys and girls.

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches – Florida's Charity for Florida's Children.®



“Law Officers Are Your Friends”



Sending out an S.O.S.

*Helping the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches can be a matter of
Sacrifice, Opportunity, and Security*

Helping those in need requires sacrifice, determination and will power. Over the past 50 years, our generous donor family has shouldered the responsibility of providing extraordinary gifts of love and devotion to help end juvenile delinquency and neglect. Thanks to countless concerned citizens and friends, thousands of needy youngsters have benefited from the therapeutic nature of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches programs and services.

Without the personal **sacrifice** of so many donors and volunteers, the boys and girls at the Youth Ranches might have turned to a life of delinquency. Instead, because of the concerned retiree who mails a generous check each month or the caring widow who remembers the children of the Youth Ranches in her will, deserving boys and girls are successfully redirecting their lives and finding rainbows of hope to build a brighter future.

By repairing broken families and providing guidance to troubled youth, all of the citizens of Florida reap the benefits. As you support the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, you have the **opportunity** to help these young men and women become productive, law-abiding members of our communities. This, in turn, may reduce crime and stop violence as we educate the next generation of young adults by building upon the traditional **work,**

study, play and pray philosophy taught at the Ranches.

An investment in the life of a child is an investment in your own future.

Those who believe in the lifesaving work of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches have several ways to further the ongoing mission to prevent juvenile delinquency and develop lawful, productive citizens through a broad range of family-centered services.

By making sound and generous investments today, you can expect to enjoy added **security** and other unique advantages in your golden years. The benefits of investing in the lives of children through a registered, nationally accredited, nonprofit charity like the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches may include income tax savings, reduced capital gains tax, freedom from investment pressures, and most importantly, a reliable and stable income for your future.

Several options are available, such as a charitable gift annuity, gift of stock or other appreciated asset, and charitable remainder trust or charitable lead trust, which may provide benefits worthy of consideration.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES allow a donor to make a gift to the Youth Ranches and receive fixed payments periodically (monthly, quarterly or annually) for life. The annuity payment an individual receives is based on the amount of the gift and the age of the donor when the



transfer is made. The older the donor, the higher the gift annuity rate. A portion of the gift is immediately tax deductible, while a portion of the periodic payment is tax-free during normal life expectancy. A gift annuity may be funded with the cash or appreciated securities.

THE CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNITRUST allows donors to permanently transfer money, securities, or both to a trustee who pays them income for life. The income paid is based on a percentage of the trust assets valued annually. The trust can also provide income for a survivor (i.e. spouse) for life. After which, the trust assets become the sole property of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc.

THE CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST allows donors to permanently transfer money, securities, or both to a trustee who pays the charity a set payment for a fixed number of years. Then, the trust corpus is distributed to heirs or other named beneficiaries as designated by the donor.

Cash donations, gifts of stock or other appreciated securities are outright and immediate ways that many concerned citizens can help the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches save the life of a child. Your support of a boy or girl living at the Ranch makes all the difference in the world!

By donating to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, you will help meet the needs of future generations of children. Thank you so much for being a part of the miracle that is the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

Income tax deductions for life income arrangements are calculated based upon life expectancies of the income recipients and certain other factors prescribed by the Internal Revenue Service regulations and current tax laws. We encourage you to seek the advice of a qualified attorney or financial planner. For additional information about one of the above mentioned options for charitable giving, please contact Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches President Roger Bouchard at PO Box 2000 Boys Ranch, FL 32064, or call (386) 842-5501. Visit us on the web at www.youthranches.org.



SHINIING STARS

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE
to the CHILDREN and FAMILIES of FLORIDA**

The Sheriffs of Florida and the Board of Directors join with Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches President Roger Bouchard in expressing deep gratitude and appreciation to the following people who have made a commitment of \$50,000 to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Endowment Fund in honor of our 50th Anniversary!

**Leonard Russek ~
Boys Ranch Alumnus
JM Rubin Foundation ~
Mr. Robert Owens
Mrs. Bessie Ruth Weil
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Leavenworth
Dr. Charles Jackson
Dr. John McGuire
Mr. and Mrs. John Fichera
Mrs. Mae McCune
Mr. William "Bill" Howard
Mr. and Mrs. George Faist
Mr. Hugh Buie
Mr. and Mrs. George Lehor
Mrs. Elli Jensen
Colonel Walter Sonnenberg
Mrs. Margaret Endres
Mr. and Mrs. Erik Fahnoe
M. Austin Davis Foundation ~
Mrs. Carole Crocker
Mr. and Mrs. Don Hart**

We are seeking a total of 50 people who will make a very special gift to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Endowment Fund in honor of our 50th Anniversary. If you would like to join this very prestigious group, please contact President Roger Bouchard.

Helping Hand Society



From the earliest days, the image of the Boys Ranch was conveyed by a tall, determined Sheriff who was leading a young wayward boy under the archway and down the right path to a better life.

In reality, the only thing missing from this photograph is YOU...holding tightly to the other hand of this young lad. Over the years, some very special and thoughtful people have decided to include the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches as a beneficiary of their will, trust or estate. This extremely generous way of sharing has made a significant impact on our ability to prevent juvenile delinquency and develop lawful, productive young men and women.

Today, over 50 years later, deserving boys and girls still need a "Helping Hand" to help provide them with a brighter future. Will you consider making this "Ultimate Gift" and include our youngsters in your written estate plans?

Should you desire to share your intentions with us, you will be honored as a special member of THE HELPING HAND SOCIETY. Members will receive a unique lapel pin bearing the symbol of the Sheriff and boy, along with a handsome certificate quietly acknowledging your commitment of support for the children in our care.

As you make the decisions about your will and want to give something back for all the blessings in your life, please remember our children and lend them "A Helping Hand."

One of the most powerful things you can do for our children is to leave a charitable gift to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches in your will, trust or other estate plans. For the past 50 years, gifts like this have made it possible to provide deserving boys and girls with a home, solid values and a good education as they build a brighter future.

We know it takes a lifetime of hard work to build your nest egg and understand the need to ensure the care of loved ones. Still, one of the most generous ways to make a significant charitable gift is by naming the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches as one of your primary beneficiaries.

One example of this is a donor who started his life with nothing – built a successful business and took the advice of his Sheriff to name the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches as the residual beneficiary of his estate. He made generous provisions for friends and family but never imagined how much his estate would grow over the years. After all his wishes were fulfilled, over 2.7 million dollars remained to support the children we serve.

What an incredible and unexpected blessing! Over the years, nearly a third of our revenue has come from gifts like this. Simply stated, we would not be here without this type of generosity that helps us build the buildings and pay the day to day bills of raising so many boys and girls.

YOU can make this choice, too. The amount will vary but the commitment remains the same – Leaving a gift to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches by bequest or as a beneficiary will impact the lives of so many children today and many years into the future.

Statement of Faithful Stewardship

Founded by the Sheriffs of Florida in 1957, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches has always embraced and applied the principles of faithful stewardship in all of our donor-based relationships. We recognize and understand that we would not exist without the charitable gifts of our donor family. The resources they provide are purposefully given in support of our mission to prevent juvenile delinquency and develop productive, law-abiding members of our communities through a broad range of family-centered services.

Many caring individuals have chosen to support the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches by making an unrestricted gift that can be used to further the general purposes of the organization. Each year, the Board of Directors approves the annual budget. When a gift is made payable to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, without any specific restrictions, it is carefully and thoughtfully used where it is needed most.



The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches has always valued and respected the right of a donor to designate or restrict the use of a particular gift for a specified purpose or service. We are committed to honoring these clearly defined requests with great care. Our goal is to work diligently with the donor to carefully plan a gift that will best meet the donor's wishes and appropriately serve the needs of the children in our care.

At times, we have had to decline a gift because we could not, in good faith, fulfill the donor's wishes. On other occasions, we have defended the donor's gift in court as others have tried to change or alter the donor's specific directions. Proper planning and complete documentation helps us maintain our ethical commitment to the donors who choose to share their gifts with us.

The bottom line is the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Board of Directors and Staff pledge to honor and respect each donor's instructions regarding the use of their gift.

Reaffirmed on February 15, 2007 ~ Board of Directors ~ Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc.

Ways You Can Help

Without faithful friends like you, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches could not have survived and prospered over the past 50 years. Thanks to our generous donor family, more than 100,000 youth and their families have received help from the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

Listed below is just a sampling of the variety of ways in which you can help continue the Youth Ranches tradition of saving young lives.

- ❖ Cash Gifts ❖ Volunteering
- ❖ Stocks & Securities ❖ Gift Annuities ❖ Memorial Gifts
- ❖ Non-Cash Gifts ❖ Bequests

For more information about making a tax deductible contribution, please contact the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches at (800) 765-3797.

www.youthranches.org



How Your Support Can Change Lives!

The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches could not exist without the help of interested and generous donors. You give us the tools to help us change the lives of deserving boys and girls.

Why should you commit your hard-earned money to help the needy youngsters of our organization?

The answer is simple... We value the same things you value!

We believe in raising children the old fashioned way by teaching them to:

- | | |
|-------|--|
| WORK | A day's wage for a day's work. |
| STUDY | A good education can never be taken from you. |
| PLAY | Healthy recreation can reduce boredom and delinquency. |
| PRAY | Faith in God does make a difference. Commitment and love will enable you to build a strong marriage and help you raise healthy children. |

Work, Study, Play and Pray...it sounds simple, but not easy. We strive to provide consistent love and care within a family setting. Back to the basics - dinner around the family table, homework, helping with chores, going to church - all the things many of our youngsters are missing in their lives.

As our children grow into healthy young men and women, we want them to accept responsibility for their behavior, build a brighter future for themselves and become successful parents who provide for their families.

But the answer is not always so simple. In today's world, it is not easy to raise other people's children...and it's even tougher to do it with other people's money - but this is what charity, responsibility and stewardship is all about.

We recognize and understand we would not exist without the charitable gifts of our donor family. The resources they provide are

purposefully given in support of our mission to prevent juvenile delinquency and develop productive, law abiding members of our communities through a broad range of family-centered services.

We are asking you to join us with your financial support to help us serve the next generation of children in Florida.

If you would like to join our donor family and help turn youngsters' problems into solutions and bright new futures, please consider making a donation. There are many ways you can help continue the Youth Ranches tradition of saving young lives. One way to start is by making a cash gift with the coupon below.



YES! I want to give youngsters the opportunity to become productive, lawful citizens. Enclosed is my gift for the needs of the children at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches:

Enclosed is my gift of:



\$15 \$30 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Use this form to make certain your gift is properly identified and return it in the enclosed envelope.

Yes I would like more information about including the Youth Ranches in my estate plans.

Please send me more information on:

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

The proper legal name to provide a bequest is:
"I bequeath to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc., Boys Ranch, Florida 32064..."

Thank you for your support!



Glimpses of Success...

Willie Nickerson *Just One More Boy*

Willie came from the poorest part of town – an area full of crime and delinquency. He knew his future would be very limited if he stayed on the street. In his mid-teens, a Counselor asked him if he would like to attend a free summer camp. Without hesitation, Willie agreed.

After experiencing the Florida Sheriffs Youth Camp, Willie asked about the Boys Ranch. “Was there room for just one more boy?” The answer was yes, and he began the journey that gave him the opportunities to succeed. Gratefully, Willie knows how very different his life could have been.

Willie spent four years at the Boys Ranch. Initially, the school wanted to put him in special classes, but Willie objected - pleading to stay up an hour past bed time to complete his homework. Night after night, the lamp stayed on at his desk as he worked twice as hard to be successful.

Not only did he graduate from high school on time, he went on to get his AA, BA and Masters Degree. Today, Willie is employed by the Polk County Sheriffs Office. He has fulfilled his dream of becoming a law enforcement officer.

We are proud of Willie’s success. From those early days at camp, through his years at the Ranch, he made good choices that led to great opportunities. He stands tall among his peers, but never hesitates to reach out and help a child in need.



“The Boys Ranch has supported me in everything that I wanted to do. They have taught me that success is not a destination, it is a journey.”

- Willie Nickerson





Glimpses of Success...

Teri Marino From “Soccer Star” to “Soccer Mom”

Just like any family, we love to brag on our kids. We celebrate their achievements and rejoice in their success. We admire their courage and applaud their accomplishments. We stand with them and by them as they begin to make their own way in the world.

Terry lived at the Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor from 1991 until 1994 and became known as our great “Soccer Star.” Throughout her high school years, she won many awards for her skills and drew great attention from several colleges seeking her athletic ability.

She selected Anderson College in South Carolina, attending on both an athletic scholarship and a Youth Ranches scholarship. We knew she was well on her way to a productive, successful life.

All of our kids are encouraged to develop positive employment skills, so Teri combined her athletic knowledge with her outgoing personality and landed a job at a local sporting goods shop. There she met Scott and they became high school sweethearts. No one was very surprised to learn when she moved to South Carolina, he did, too.

In 1997, they were married and began a new life as husband and wife. They returned to Florida and Scott continued his career as a cellular communication commercial real estate expert. Teri had just become certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) when she learned she was pregnant. She decided to delay her employment in this profession so she could be a full-time mom.



“I no longer think about things in terms of just ‘me’...‘we’ think as a family. I enjoy my new role as a mother...”
- Teri Marino



With the birth of young Nicolas, our “Soccer Star” has become a loving, nurturing “Soccer Mom.” There is no doubt being a “Mama” is her first priority. “I no longer think about things in terms of just ‘me’...‘we’ think as a family..”

Scott agrees, “She has been a great mom from day one.” And in the background, Teri received a smile and nod of approval from her mother-in-law. We echo this unspoken affirmation and high, quiet praise of this new mother’s love. We welcome young Nicolas and his siblings, Gianna and Vito to the Youth Ranches family!



Glimpses of Success...

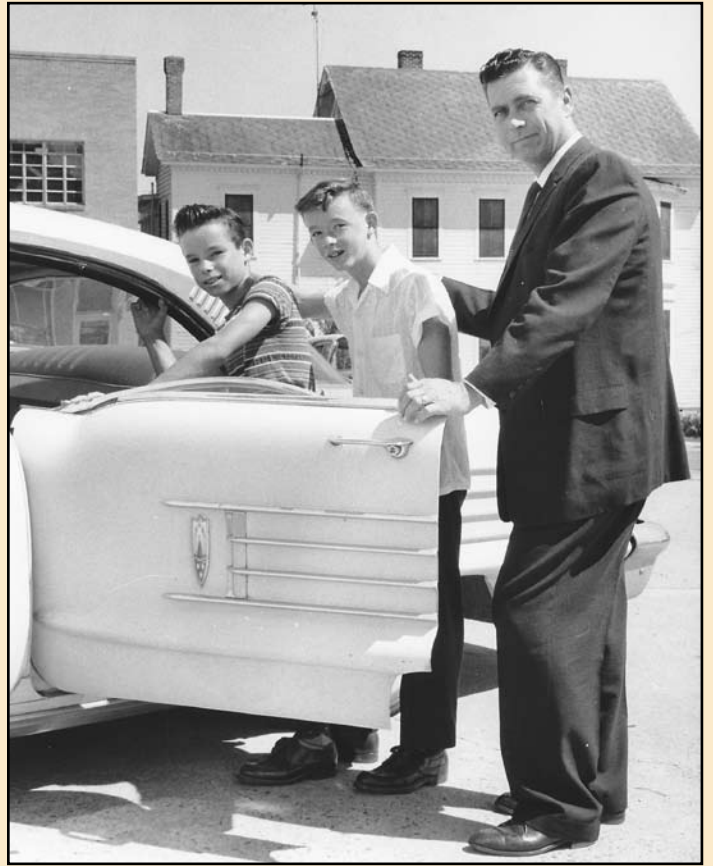
Mike and Wally Edwards A Future in Law Enforcement

Take two unsupervised boys, add some extra time, and a mischievous nature and you have a recipe for trouble. Fortunately, the local Sheriff recognized the need for these brothers to have a stable home environment and a good education. So he recommended them for placement at the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch.

With rolling hills and wooded acres of trees, the Ranch was the perfect place for these boys to grow up. The “work, study, play, and pray” philosophy paid off. This became their home and the time they spent here changed their lives forever.

Mike joined the Marines after graduating from High School. When he returned from a tour in Vietnam he went into law enforcement. Mike recently retired from his career as the Chief of Police in Trenton, FL. If not for the Boys Ranch, he could have easily ended up on the other side of the law.

Wally left the Ranch, attended and graduated from North Florida Junior College, and joined the Marines. Later, he returned to marry his sweetheart in the Boys Ranch All Faiths Chapel. After several years as a Deputy Sheriff, he is now the President and CEO of a safety/security business in Bartow, Florida.



“My early childhood was sad, but being at the Boys Ranch yielded adventures, good times and a stepping stone to my future in law enforcement.” - Mike Edwards



Wally and Mike visit the Boys Ranch during the annual Alumni Reunion.



Glimpses of Success...

Ana Nathe A Girl With a Book and a Dream

Ana was a very shy and quiet girl. Her mother had some serious psychological problems and her father spent most of his time at work. No matter what went wrong at home or who was responsible, it was always Ana's fault.

At the Youth Villa, Ana found the strength to overcome this rejection and learned that life could be so very different. She made new friends and developed a new understanding of the word "family." Ana excelled in school and was selected to represent the Youth Ranches on a special trip to Washington DC. Her confidence soared and she grew into a very responsible, poised young woman.

Ana finished high school and went on to obtain her Bachelor's Degree from Wellesley College. Today, she has completed her doctorate degree in neuroscience at Boston University and uses her education in the healthcare field. Ana has been married for several years and is building a new family of her own.

"The Youth Ranches plays a role in my life that a family would. They have given me a sense of accomplishment and belonging like no one else has." - Ana Nathe





Glimpses of Success...

Jeremy Goodrich ***A Boy Who Needed*** ***Help Now Helps Others***

For Jeremy, the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch was a “Ranch of Renewal.” Before coming to the Ranch, he would stay out all night, then skip school and sleep all day. Every behavior he had led him further down a path of destruction and delinquency.

During his three-year stay at the Boys Ranch, Jeremy doubled up on his classes to make up for lost time. He achieved his goal, graduated with honors and obtained a full scholarship to Santa Fe Community College.

Jeremy completed his academic degree and sought out additional training as an Emergency Medical Technician. He continued his education through the Youth Ranches scholarship program and now works as a Registered Nurse.



“I learned a strong sense of responsibility at the Ranch. I had a lot of support, encouragement, structure and proper guidance to make the right decisions.” - Jeremy Goodrich



Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches

50th Anniversary A Golden Moment in History!



**50 years...100,000 boys,
girls and their families!**

Our Riding Ranchers stand tall beneath the large star in the pasture of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch. These boys are particularly proud of this land that has been home to thousands of boys over the past 50 years.

“Welcome to My Home,” he said with pride as his voice quivered ever so slightly. The feelings of that small boy who entered these gates so many years ago seized his heart and he had to pause...

The crowd waited patiently...his words so meaningful, so well chosen, so full of emotion. As the President of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch Alumni Association, he spoke for all the children, both boys and girls, whose lives were changed because of this place they now call home.

Once you enter these gates, no one walks the path of life alone. Here, there is a family waiting for you. People who will dedicate their lives to making your life better. Here, there is love, care, concern, structure, discipline, education, recreation and so much more. Here, you will always have a home.

Celebrating 50 years of service, thousands of lives have been changed – not

just those who lived here, but of those they marry, their children

and yes, now after 50 years, even their grandchildren. Generations have been born into brighter futures because of Florida’s Sheriffs, the Florida Sheriffs Association and the kind, generous people of Florida.

This is what charity is all about... and the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches is “Florida’s Charity for Florida’s Children.” With the trust and dedication of Florida’s Sheriffs, thousands of people have made contributions that have sustained us for the past 50 years.

Sharing and caring...reaching out to help a child in need, our donor family can see the tangible results of their support.





During our 50th Anniversary celebration the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch Alumni Association served as Grand Marshal of the Grand Entry Parade. Seated on the wagon is an Alumni Rancher who lived here in each decade for the past 50 years. Joining the boys on the wagon (2nd from left) is President Emeritus Harry K. Weaver who led the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches for nearly 40 years and helped it grow into a statewide network of Ranches and Camps serving deserving boys and girls from throughout the state of Florida.

50th Anniversary - A Golden Moment In History continued...

Giving from the heart and making sure these kids have the family values needed to build a positive and productive life is the goal of the Youth Ranches.

Together we celebrate 50 years of remarkable success! Yet, we are just beginning this journey. We must sustain the legacy we have been given and prepare to serve the children of the future.

So many more children need a helping hand, not a handout. We stand ready to guide them along the path of life, teaching them to stand on their own two feet and build a successful life.

Confident and steady, we look to the future and know our donor family and the citizens of Florida will continue to stand with us as we fulfill our mission to prevent juvenile delinquency and develop productive, lawful members of our community.

Thank you for your partnership, friendship, prayers and faithful commitment to our boys and girls. Our success is truly a reflection of your overwhelmingly generous support!

These beautiful young ladies from the Florida Sheriffs Youth Villa sang for the crowd gathered for the 50th Anniversary Donor Dinner. Their voices lifted the spirits and emotions of the many special guests attending the event.



Chairman of the Board Madison County Sheriff Pete Bucher presented Dakota (left) with the coveted Tweed Trophy award for the young man with the best overall horsemanship skills at the Boys Ranch.





Every little bit of support is welcome at the Boys Ranch! Young Mathew saved his dimes all year long and presented Boys Ranch Alumni and Polk County Deputy Sheriff Willie Nickerson with a very special 50th Anniversary contribution of \$200.



All 82 boys living at the Ranch were given new outfits and cowboy hats by one very generous donor. They looked fantastic for our 50th Anniversary celebration.



From boys to men - these former Ranchers returned to the Boys Ranch for the weekend celebration of the 50th Anniversary. After the annual Alumni reunion banquet, several stepped up to the stage to share some stories of days gone by and paused briefly for a group photo. We are so proud of their achievements and accomplishments over the past 50 years!



As always, the Sheriffs of Florida stand together in support of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. (l-r) Madison County Sheriff Pete Bucher, Manatee County Sheriff Brad Steube, Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder, Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond, Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill, Desoto County Sheriff Vernon Keen and Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer present Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches President Roger Bouchard with a check for \$174,000 from our founding organization the Florida Sheriffs Association. The charitable support from the Florida Sheriffs Association and the generous citizens of Florida have made this dream a reality for the past 50 years!



SHERIFFS RANCHES ENTERPRISES



www.sheriffsrancheenterprises.org



Sheriffs Ranches Enterprises, Inc. (SRE) is a nonprofit charitable organization which was formed to provide direct support to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. Revenue is raised for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches through the sale of gifts-in-kind, which are sold at one of our four thrift stores or through quarterly public auctions.

For many years, the non-cash operations which benefit the boys and girls programs of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches were actually managed as a part of the Youth Ranches. From the early days of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch (founded in 1957), non-cash gifts were a growing and vital source of support. Eventually, the Boys Ranch could not use or house all of the items given so the Board agreed to hold periodic auctions to move surplus inventory.

Auctions progressed to four each year. Over time, the surplus items continued to increase and the Board looked for additional ways to turn the non-cash items into cash to provide needed operational funds.

Thrift Stores, operated by the Youth Ranches, had been discussed for some time and in February 1987, the first store opened in Live Oak.

Currently, there are three additional stores located in Crystal River, Dunedin and New Port Richey.

In 2005, the Board of Directors of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches decided to establish a separate legal entity to operate these non-cash operations and "SRE" was born. The mission of SRE is to prevent juvenile delinquency by providing support to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, a non-profit charity providing services to children and families in the State of Florida. The Youth Ranches has served over 100,000 needy boys and girls and their families.

You can help us serve Florida's needy children by donating your non-cash gifts. Your gift of items such as clothing, appliances, jewelry, antiques, furniture, cars, trucks, boats and even horses will be appreciated!



FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

**Preventing Delinquency
Since 1957®**



**Florida's Charity for
Florida's Children®**

**BOYS RANCH/
OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT**

YOUTH CAMP

CARUTH CAMP

YOUTH VILLA

YOUTH RANCH

YOUTH RANCH

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches
Office of the President
P. O. Box 2000
Boys Ranch, FL 32064

Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch
P. O. Box 2000
Boys Ranch, FL 32064

Florida Sheriffs Youth Villa
3350 State Road 60 E.
Bartow, FL 33830-8471

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch
3180 Enterprise Road E.
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Florida Sheriffs Youth Camp
P. O. Box 1000
Barberville, FL 32105

Florida Sheriffs Caruth Camp
P. O. Box 10
Inglis, FL 34449-0010

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch
751 Rye Wilderness Road
Bradenton, FL 34212-9461

	Florida Sheriffs Association
	Boys Ranch/Office of the President
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www.youthranches.org



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