



# THE RANCHER<sup>®</sup>

PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES, INC.<sup>®</sup>

*Winter 2017*



*Celebrate*  
**60**



FLORIDA SHERIFFS  
**YOUTH  
RANCHES**

*Mending Lives, Healing Hearts*



# President's Perspective

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

**“We must let go of the life we planned, so as to accept the one waiting for us.”**

**- Joseph Campbell**

All I ever wanted to be when I was a child was an airline pilot. Even though I had never flown in an airplane, it was all I talked about. My parents would take me out to the local airport and I could spend all day just watching the planes take off and land, while dreaming of being the “guy” flying the plane. In those days of childhood, it did not matter what type of plane it was as long as I was the one flying it. *It would not be until I was 27 years old that I would actually fly for the first time.*

I remember my mom and dad getting tired of finding pieces of the model airplanes I was constantly building left on the floor. That, of course, probably had something to do with discovering the model scraps by stepping on them with bare feet or hearing the racket they created by getting sucked into the vacuum cleaner!

Have you ever looked back on your life and thought, “This is not what I had planned, but I wouldn’t change a thing”? It’s funny, the number of people who have lived their lives not as originally planned, but in the end, the one not planned turned out really well. As you have guessed, I never became an airline pilot. My plans of a life in the sky, taking people to exotic places all over the world, did not occur. As I look back, though, my life has turned out really well.

I cannot tell you how many times I have heard children exclaim with great conviction that their plans include everything from becoming an NFL football player to a movie star. They know in their



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hearts that they are destined to become famous. They say that when they become rich, they will help support the Youth Ranches. Each time I hear this, I just smile and say, "I am going to hold you to that promise one day, when you make it big!"

Over the last 60 years, thousands of children have come through our doors, either in our residential programs or camps, all with big plans. Some even had very detailed plans about how their lives would be as adults. For the most part, the children I have gotten to know during my 32 years have not lived the lives of their original plans, but that does not mean that the lives they are living are not successful or grand.

A young boy who planned to become a doctor became a medic in the Army. A plan of an acting and dance career turned into a small-business owner. A plan to go to law school turned into an MBA and becoming a successful insurance broker. A plan to play in the NFL became a world-famous wrestling career.

The list continues to grow. Within the past 60 years, our children have become parents and grandparents. They have provided to their children and grandchildren what many of them never had until they arrived at the Youth Ranches: a stable and loving home, a home where children feel secure in the knowledge that Mom and Pop are there for them. A home where life plans and big dreams are always encouraged.

For the past 60 years, you – our donors, supporters, Sheriffs and others – have made it possible for our children to have a home, a place where opportunities abound and children are encouraged to build upon their dreams. While their lives might not always match their early childhood plans, they do turn out, for the most part, really, really well!

God bless,



Bill Frye

# Quotes & Notes



Thank you very much for all you do. My children had a great time and are ready to go back to summer camp! My son is 15 now and wants to be a counselor in training next year and his sister just wants to go. They came home with positive attitudes towards law enforcement. When they left they were afraid they would be picked up and go to jail and that police took kids from their parents. I have custody of them from a DV situation when they were 5 & 7 and were threatened that the police were bad. It has been a struggle to make them think otherwise, but this experience was every enlightening and great for them. Thank you so much. Thanks again and GOD Bless you.

~ A Thankful Mom

*Editor's Note: These are just a few of the notes we receive in the mail, Facebook or from our website – [www.youthranches.org](http://www.youthranches.org).*

*Minor adjustments may be made for clarity within the content, but the context remains the same.*

# Making an impossible dream a reality

It was a seemingly impossible dream that began with two Sheriffs, a pair of armed robbery suspects and a vision to change the lives of troubled youth across the state of Florida.



In 1955, Hillsborough County Sheriff Ed Blackburn and Marion County Sheriff Don McLeod made a long and tedious drive west to Amarillo, Texas. The duo had been tasked with retrieving a pair of teenaged armed robbery suspects and bringing them back to Florida for trial. For Blackburn and McLeod, the trip was routine and simply part of the job.

When they felt the need to stretch their legs while the extradition process was finalized by the local authorities, a local deputy, Curtis Travis, offered them a tour of some of the local sights. Due to their limited free time, Travis gave the men the choice: a tour of the beautiful Pala Duro Canyon or a visit to a nearby ranch for needy and neglected boys. They chose the canyon.

That easily could have been the end of

the story, but on their way to the canyon, Travis kept talking about the ranch. He explained the history of how a former wrestler, Cal Farley, purchased an old house that was now home to more than 200 neglected and unwanted boys – a home with love and discipline that helped turned their lives around.

The Texas lawman's enthusiasm and conviction about the ranch stuck with the Florida men and spurred

a conversation on the drive back to Florida that has changed more than 150,000 lives to date.



As they drove back to Florida, Blackburn and McLeod began to think about the



potential of a similar home that the Florida Sheriffs could use to get youth back on the right path and what a difference it could make in their lives. The two men couldn't help but wonder if a place like that might not have made a difference in the lives of their handcuffed passengers in the backseat of the squad car: an 18-year-old boy with a broken ankle and bullet wound, and his 16-year-old pregnant girlfriend, both throwing their lives away trying to rob a grocery store. They were little more than kids, but in very 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," Sheriff

Blackburn said years ago when recalling the journey. "We began talking to fellow Sheriffs about starting a boys ranch in Florida."

Later that same year, the duo presented the idea to the Florida Sheriffs Association Board of Directors. At the time, no money was available, so the idea was tabled.

Another year passed, but the idea was not forgotten. "Somehow miracles live on," Sheriff Blackburn said.

In early 1957, the Sheriffs of Florida cast a vote to approve an honorary membership program to raise funds for the project. Within six months, hundreds of Floridians became honorary members of the Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA). With a balance



start a Boys Ranch.

Even with the odds against them, the Florida Sheriffs persevered. At the following meeting, the Florida Sheriffs voted to found the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch. The Associated Press (AP) got wind of the exciting move and published a story that gave the plan some much-needed publicity.

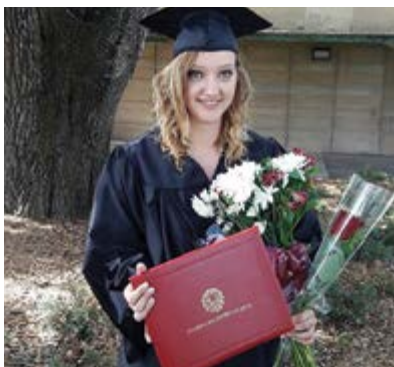
During this time, Suwannee County Sheriff Hugh Lewis took it upon himself to

of \$7,000, the dream to help troubled boys was alive again.

At the time, no one mentioned that Sheriffs didn't know how to run a Boys Ranch. No one told them about the State Welfare Department's licensing restrictions or the State Board of Health's inspection and permitting process. The group never even considered the painstaking task of getting the Internal Revenue Service to grant the Boys Ranch a Charitable Tax Exemption status. Perhaps most surprising of all, no one stopped to think that \$7,000 couldn't buy a paddy wagon, much less

move the efforts forward. Lewis knew that a Live Oak business owner, Thomas Musgrove, had given around 40 acres to the Elks Club for a youth project. Lewis also knew that Musgrove owned another 120 acres in Suwannee County. Sheriff Lewis persuaded the Elks and Musgrove to consider donating the land along the Suwannee River to be used for the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch. The Sheriffs officially accepted the offer during the FSA conference in August of 1957.

A few months later, the trustees met for the first time at the Gold Leaf Restaurant



## GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

### Alexis – Making a positive impact

Since her time at the Youth Villa, Alexis has earned her Bachelor's Degree from Florida Southern and is pursuing her Master's Degree while being a fifth-grade school teacher.

*"Being at the Youth Ranches taught me how important it is for children to have good role models. A lot of children don't have good family support. That's the reason I do what I do."*



who had died suddenly, just after helping to hire the architect for the new cottage at the Boys Ranch. Sheriff Saunders's 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.

in Live Oak. On October 18, 1957, the deeds for the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch were signed. Thomas Musgrove donated the entire 120 acres and the Elks Lodge gave the project the 40 acres they initially received. The group purchased an additional 562 adjoining acres for a grand total of 722 acres.

With property acquired, it was time to begin clearing land, preparing sites and constructing roads.

On August 1, 1958, ground was broken on the very first cottage. With that simple and symbolic act of thrusting the golden ceremonial shovel into the soil, the Boys Ranch became more than just a dream.

It became a reality.

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,

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 more 150,000 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®. ★



## GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

### Tasheen – Spreading a message of hope

Since Tasheen left the Youth Villa, she has dedicated her time to helping children just like her. Inspired by the care and attention she received at the Youth Ranches, Tasheen has earned her Master's Degree in social work and is working with foster children.

*"I couldn't have done it without the Youth Ranches. Because of the Youth Ranches, I can say I made it!"*



## Paving the way at the Youth Villa

**A**s the Boys Ranch grew in size and structure, its successful mission did not go unnoticed. Praise for the accomplishments of the program began to spread across the state and it became clear to everyone that the Sheriffs had a strong commitment to deserving boys... but something was missing.

What about the girls?

The need was clear, but the journey

was not. Fortunately, the sister of Pinellas County Sheriff Don Genung had carefully watched his efforts to help develop the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch. After bringing her idea to his attention and 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 without hesitation and immediately



### GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

#### Clay – Overcoming hurt to gain healing

Clay came to the Boys Ranch after his rebellious ways got him into trouble with his dad and stepmom. Before he realized it, he had better-than-average grades and saw his attitude and feelings of resentment toward his dad vanish. Clay works in management in the construction industry and enjoys time with his wife and children.

*"If it wasn't for the Ranch, I wouldn't be in the position I am today. It was a big help to my life."*



launched a focused fundraising effort to build a place for rebellious girls. The group's tenacity and determination quickly 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 in Bartow formerly known as Peace River Park.

Through the efforts of Polk County Sheriff Monroe Brannen and other community leaders, the Mobil Corporation, City of Bartow, and Polk County officials agreed to a 99-year lease for more than 125 acres of land at \$1 per year. The local community responded in a positive way

The need was clear, but the journey was not.

with the Bartow Classic, now the Youth Villa Classic, a long-standing gala event to support the Youth Villa.

Groundbreaking for the campus began at once, and soon the new location was



overflowing with deserving girls in need of a good, stable home.

Over the years, the name changed along with the needs of the community. The Florida Sheriffs Youth Villa, formerly known as the Girls Villa, has grown to include both boys and girls, along with a thriving independent living program to help our youth succeed from graduation to beyond. ★



## GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

### Catherine – Finding confidence

Catherine came to the Youth Ranches with low self-esteem and very little self-confidence. With the help of the Youth Ranches, she learned social skills and the confidence to earn her business degree, which landed her a job as a successful insurance broker.



# Finding ways to keep families together in Safety Harbor

With the dedicated support and generosity of so many individuals across Florida, the Sheriffs were recently ready to take another bold step – its first coed campus.

Thanks to a life estate gift of a ranch house and property from Mr. and Mrs. D.

A. Salls, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor was founded in 1976. This new Youth Ranch had a very specific purpose: to keep fragmented families together by serving sibling groups (brothers and sisters) on the same campus.

Since then, brothers and sisters who



## GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

### Victoria – Bright lights, big dreams

Victoria came to the Youth Ranches feeling lost and abandoned, and looking for direction. The caring and dedicated staff encouraged her to follow her dreams and now she has earned a Master's Degree from the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

*"Because of the Youth Ranches scholarship programs and generous donors, all of this is possible. I can't begin to express just how grateful I am."*



have come from broken homes or troubled pasts have had a place to live together and work through the challenges in their lives. Many times, the Youth Ranches is the only family they know and the only place they feel safe.

Although the Safety Harbor campus may be our smallest in size at 28 acres, the ideas founded at that campus have served as a benchmark for things to come.

As the years passed, Safety Harbor



became the model for expanding our sibling and co-ed programs across each of our campuses, enabling the Youth Ranches to keep families together by keeping brothers and sisters from being split up. ★



## GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

### Nekesha – Finding her way

Nekesha took the lessons she learned about discipline, hard work and compassion, and turned those into a career, earning her degree in Behavioral Healthcare with a minor in Applied Behavioral Analysis.

*“There are no bad kids; only kids who make bad choices. I am finally at a point in my life where I can understand exactly why I succeeded in life. And that reason is my time at the Youth Ranches.”*



## Finding new ways to serve: Bradenton/Sarasota

In 1991, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches took advantage of an 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 rallied in support of transitioning the site into the Youth Ranches network of residential campuses to help meet the



### GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

#### Jerry – A nurtured passion

When Jerry came to the Boys Ranch in 1961, he brought his passion for music with him. The nurturing and encouragement he received at the Boys Ranch gave him the confidence to pursue music professionally: Jerry is now an award-winning composer.

*“I am so blessed to have had this career in music, and it’s all because the Boys Ranch offered me the chance to live my passion for music.”*



needs of youth from the southwestern part of the state.

Since opening its doors in the 1990s, the Bradenton/Sarasota campus has expanded and grown in its efforts to benefit the specific needs of the area. We introduced a popular summer day camp on campus for local youth. In 2015, at the request of the Manatee County Foster Care System and the Safe Children Coalition, the Bradenton/Sarasota Campus was repurposed and designated to house foster children and sibling groups.

The multi-purpose campus is set on 62 naturally beautiful acres in the



eastern part of Manatee County and serves hundreds of boys and girls each year through its residential program and community outreach efforts. ★



## GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

### Bryan – Making a difference

Bryan was an angry young man when he came to the Youth Ranches. He came from a difficult family life and was headed down the wrong path. At the Youth Ranches, he found a stable home life and learned about setting goals. Bryan achieved his goals and became a firefighter.

*“Thank you for helping me build a solid foundation to help me accomplish my dreams and goals.”*

# Community outreach through summer camps

In 1981, Youth Ranches staff and law enforcement officers began to explore new ways to serve more of Florida's needy and neglected children. It began on the back acres of the Boys Ranch by setting up primitive camping facilities and inviting youngsters to a unique, rustic summer camp experience. The purpose of the camp was to provide an opportunity for kids to have a positive interaction with



law enforcement officers in line with the camp theme "Law Enforcement Officers are Your Friends."

The program was so well-received that the group took the adventure on the road the following year. They rented

and borrowed different camping facilities across the state to create connections with the local law enforcement officers.



As the group traveled the state from location to location, they found a Girl Scout Camp 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 with the communities that 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.



## GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

### Teri – Restoring stability

When Teri came to the Ranch, she was a teenage girl with a bad attitude and a chip on her shoulder. Her cottage parents taught her patience and compassion, and helped her to grow into a mother, career woman and stellar athlete.

*"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."*

The Georgia-Pacific Company donated an adjacent parcel of 60 acres of land for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Caruth Camp.

At both of our summer camp locations, boys and girls spend a week with volunteer law enforcement officers, enjoying a variety of educational and therapeutic outdoor activities, including canoeing, archery, swimming, horseback riding and many other self-esteem building experiences that give children 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 delinquency and develop healthy, positive relationships with law enforcement officers.

Summer after summer of successful camp experiences opened the door for other opportunities for community outreach. 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 and incorporated into



other highly successful programs over the years, such as Harmony in the Streets, Wellness in Nutrition and Harmony in the Schools.

Over the years, these programs have evolved and merged into one of our most popular and strongest community

outreach camping experiences, 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 communities 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 delinquency by keeping kids involved and busy in positive activities throughout the day.

Today the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Camping Services Program provides dynamic camping, social skills and self-esteem building 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 Enforcement are Your Friends." ★



## GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

### Thaddeus – Overcoming adversity

When Thaddeus came to the Boys Ranch, pretty much everyone in his life had given up on him, but the Youth Ranches refused to give up hope. With guidance and structure, Thaddeus succeeded, playing college football and going on to become a professional wrestler and dedicated family man.

*"The Youth Ranches refused to quit on me. They saw something in me, even when I didn't see anything in myself."*

# Celebrating 60 years of mending lives and healing hearts



**A**s our 60th Anniversary Open House and Horse Show weekend came to a close and after the offering plate had been passed around following the chapel service, a young girl named Emily walked up to our Boys Ranch Chaplain Dennis Young and held out her hand. In the palm of the small girl's hand was a crumpled and dirty bill. "You know that's a \$20 bill," she said softly as she eagerly stretched her hand out further, motioning for the chaplain to take it. "I found that on the ground and I was going to keep it," she said with the honesty of a child. "I was going to buy myself a toy, but then I realized I already have a lot of toys and some of the kids you help might not have any."

"They need it more than me," she said with a smile as she walked back to her family.

The words of a child seem to capture the spirit of the Youth Ranches so simply: The Youth Ranches is here because the children need it.

When the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches began 60 years ago as a home for



wayward boys to help them find their way and get back on track, what they found was a family and what the Youth Ranches created was home.

With the exception of last year, when Hurricane Matthew threatened the state, the first weekend of October is set aside to celebrate the miracle that is the Youth Ranches. "And what better way to celebrate 60 years than at the place that started it all," FSYR President Bill Frye said in his commencement speech.

At Open House, Grand Marshal and



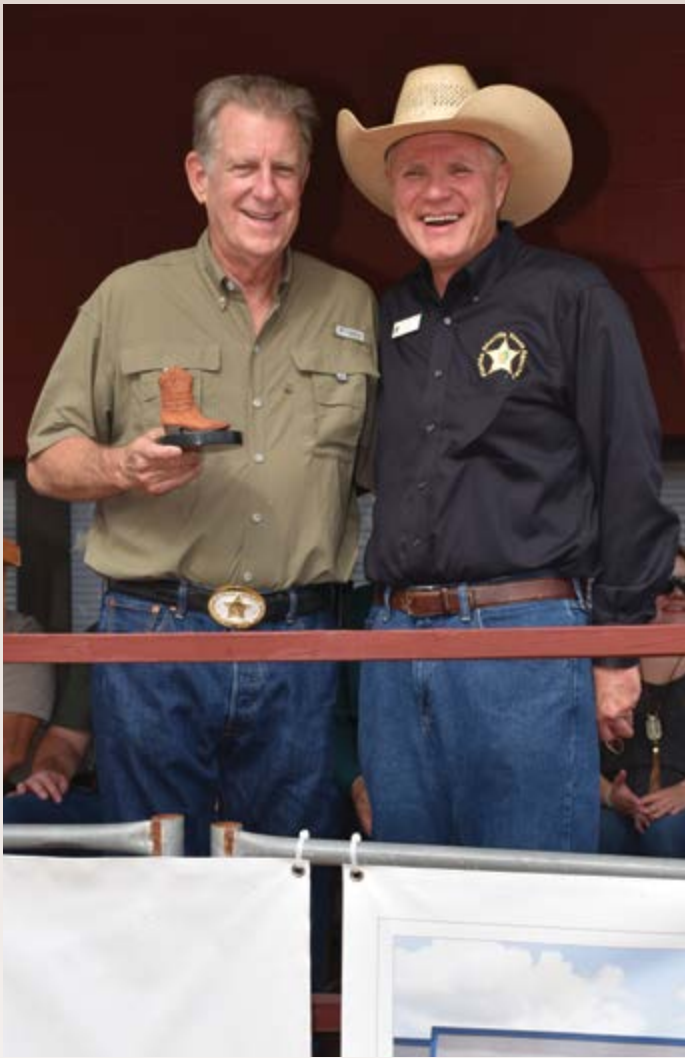
## GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

### Bill – Finding a home

Bill came to the Boys Ranch as an angry 9-year-old boy. There he found the best home he ever had. Bill went on to have a successful military career and has served as president of the Boys Ranch Alumni Association.

*"I honestly didn't know what direction I was going. I was angry and lost until I got to the Boys Ranch. I finally found my home."*





retired Sheriff Ben F. Johnson of the Volusia County Sheriff's Office was honored for his service and support of the Youth Ranches. Under his leadership, the Volusia County Sheriff's Office has raised funds for the Youth Ranches as well as supported our mission with countless volunteers. "We are grateful for his service and support to the children we serve," said Frye.

As with each Open House, Ranchers, families, alumni, staff and volunteers gathered for festivities, including a one-of-a-kind grand entry horse parade, recognition of horse clubs and Sheriff's Office volunteers, presentation of the annual Tweed Horsemanship award, campus tours, and a performance by our always-impressive Riding Ranchers.

With more than 1,000 attendees, an event as big as the Open House is a celebration of what we do and how far we've come, but there is always the fear that the fun might overshadow the message. However, if that young girl's selfless donation is any indication, the mission of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches is easily worthy of another 60 years and beyond.



With your continued faithful support, we are committed to preventing delinquency and developing lawful, resilient and productive citizens.

We are grateful for your willingness to join us on this journey of success. ★



## GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

### Tyler – Finding a family

Family problems and issues brought Tyler to the Youth Ranches. He was lacking stability and direction. He found both at the Youth Ranches. He also found a passion for farm work and now is a tour guide and ranch hand at the Grand Canyon.

*"They want you to be happy in whatever you are doing. They do everything they can to help you reach that goal. It's basically one big family. They're here to help."*

# Coming home – Boys Ranch alumni

“It’s good to be back. This place is home.”

Each year during Open House weekend, generations of alumni gather to share a meal and tell stories about their time at the Boys Ranch. Although decades may set them apart in age, each of them shares a special connection. They are family, they are brothers and they are Ranchers.

Like coming home at the holidays, being back at the Boys Ranch brings out a special kind of joy and happiness in these men. They laugh and cackle like schoolboys as they recall their days at the Ranch. Although the stories are sometimes embellished and often wrap up with a



families come together to celebrate their time at the Boys Ranch.

James, a former Boys Ranch resident and currently an EMT - First Responder at Volusia County Emergency Management, was excited about the opportunity to come to Open House and see his old stomping grounds. The moment he stepped foot in the cafeteria for the alumni dinner, his eye was drawn to the stage. On display is a large wooden canoe that was crafted by several of the young men at the Boys Ranch, and James was one of them.

As he ran his hand along the handcrafted canoe, James was home again.

He recalled the guidance they had received as they cut and sanded each piece of wood, and the persistence and hard



punch line at the expense of their fellow alumni, there is a precious nostalgia that fills the room any time these men and their



## GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

### Cody – A second chance

Cody was being raised by his grandparents, who couldn't keep up with him and weren't equipped to care for a boy with anger issues who was running the streets. Cody turned his life around because of the Youth Ranches. He is now a Correctional Officer, and he and his wife are excited about welcoming their first child this winter.

*“I got to the Boys Ranch strictly by grace. The Ranch offers a second chance – not just for people in trouble, but for people who are hurting.”*



work it had taken to get things to fit just right. He laughed as he thought about the months it took to make the craft before it was ever ready for its debut spin out on the Suwannee River. For a moment, James realized how much each of the boys and girls at the Youth Ranches are like this canoe: It takes time, guidance, persistence and hard work to get it right before it's ready to go out on its own.

Each of our alumni has a different story, follows a different path and finds the way back at different points in their lives, but the one thing they all share is that when they are back with us, they are home.

It is thanks to the generous and faithful giving of our donor family that young men



like James had a place to grow and learn and succeed. Thanks to you, to this day, they have a place to come home to. ★



## GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

### Willie – A heart for service

Willie was from the poorest part of town. He got a taste of the Youth Ranches at summer camp and knew the only way off the streets was to come to the Youth Ranches full-time. Willie graduated with his Master's in Criminology and is employed by the Polk County Police Department.

*"The Boys Ranch supported me in everything that I wanted to do. They taught me that success is not a destination, it is a journey."*

# Season of Giving



**M**any 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 have found a safe and loving home.

At the Ranch, they find guidance and support from caring cottage parents and other staff. They take comfort in knowing there is always food on the table and a place to call home. Encouragement abounds and each child's success is acknowledged and applauded.

Where many children have come to us lost, they have finally found a place to call home!

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!**

## 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 choose 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 \$5,000 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 Youth Ranches



- 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!***

# Looking to the future of the Youth Ranches

**W**hen people ask why we do what we do, or why the Youth Ranches is a worthwhile cause, the answer is simple.

There is a need.

Children across the state need a safe and stable home; children need to be loved by adults who care about them. Those needs continue to drive our mission. Those needs are what keep us moving forward and growing in an ever-changing world.

Earlier this year the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Board of Directors approved a plan to make all of our campuses co-ed. We have been accepting girls as a part of our program to keep siblings together, but we were still limited, until now. The Boys Ranch will keep their name; however, we now gladly accept both boys and girls. For the first time in our 60-year history, the Boys Ranch has a girls' cottage.

As we continue to try to meet the needs of communities across the state the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches is developing a college scholarship house. This off-campus housing will be used to help our graduating seniors as they transition from Ranch life to college life and beyond. The college-style group residence will be coupled with our



scholarship program and provide housing, structure and guidance to help college-bound students succeed as they further their education.

We will continue to grow our summer day camps. We believe that they, too, can benefit from the values we teach. They will continue to provide opportunities for disadvantaged children with the positive message of law enforcement as their friends.

It is only with support from our generous donor family that we can continue to provide quality services to deserving children across the state. We hope that we can count on you to continue to grow with us as we look toward the next 60 years! ★



## GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

### Jennifer – Discovering a new path

Jennifer's home life included easy access to drugs, alcohol and other dangerous situations that were leading her down a path of self-destruction. The Youth Ranches gave her a new direction. Jennifer is now a successful accountant in the Tampa Bay area, thanks to the dedication of the Youth Ranches.

*"I owe everything to the Youth Ranches. I know how to deal with problems better and in a healthy way. They gave me a fresh start and a fresh beginning."*

# Congratulations to an award-worthy young man

**A**s a part of the Boys Ranch Open House weekend, we honor one young man with a coveted award: the Carleton F. Tweed Award. This 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, high standards and positive behavior in all areas of Ranch life.

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

“I have been here at the Boys Ranch for three years. I have achieved many skills while here, as well as learned many things. One of my accomplishments has been to focus in school. I have learned what it takes in effort and work to be successful. This was my biggest obstacle that I had at home.

My grade point average went from a 1.20



to a 2.71. Staff are available to help me at all times, even though I argue and complain.

I also have improved my work ethic. Before I got to the Ranch, I never worked; the most I did was chores, and those were easy as it was just me and my Dad. I did not have to work hard.

I have learned communication skills while here at the Boys Ranch. I worked as a Florida Senate Page for a week; I am a Ranch Ambassador and give speeches and tours of the campus. I have met some great folks (donors)

who believe in our Ranch and value what it does for youth like me.

When I am done with high school next year, I would like to study to be a mechanic and then enlist in the Army.

Thank you for the honor of receiving the Tweed Award. I am proud of the efforts I have made to get where I am today, but also I respect and appreciate all the help I have had to meet my goals. Without the donors, staff and Ranch programs, I would not have come so far.” ★



## GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS

### Ana Nathe – Strength and accomplishment

Ana's mother had serious psychological problems and her father spent most of his time at work. It seemed like anything that went wrong at home was Ana's fault. At the Youth Ranches, she found the strength to overcome her past and has gone on to earn her Doctorate in Neuroscience from Boston University.

*“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.”*

## ★ AWARDS, EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS



Donor Relations Officer Jim Bowman accepts a donation from The Sandhill Shores Breakfast Club. The proceeds came from the club's Annual Night Out Ice Cream Social fundraiser. Thank you so much for your continued dedication to the boys and girls we serve.



Baker County Sheriff Rhoden recently presented a donation check to FSYR President Bill Frye and Rancher Greg. The gift of \$2,500 were proceeds from the Baker County Sheriff's Office Annual Golf Tournament. We are blessed to be partnered with so many amazing law enforcement offices across the state.



Bill Housley recently presented Donor Relations Officer Frank Kenny a gift for the Youth Ranches at the Annual State Convention from Englewood Moose 1933. Also pictured are Jay Andrade, Merle Koleberg and John Bienkowski. We are so grateful to the Englewood Moose 1933 for their continued generous support of the boys and girls in our programs.



Donor Relations Officer Janet Sampson recently accepted a gift to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches from the Free and Accepted Mason Jackson Lodge Number 1. Pictured left to right are Worshipful Master Lonnie Mayfield, Rancher Tony, Donor Relations Officer Janet Sampson, Rancher Alex and Mason Jackson Lodge Number 1 Secretary Dave Tranchand. Thank you so much for caring for our children!



Stuart Sailfish Club Tournament Organizer and Board Member David Powell presented a check for \$500 to Donor Relations Officer Jim Bowman from the Stuart Sailfish Club Jr. Angler Tournament which was held on Saturday, August 12th. Also pictured are Ranchers Sydney N., Jennifer T. and Clinton N. We are very grateful for this special gift to help our boys and girls succeed.



Donor Relations Officer Arvid Cowell, Pasco County District 2 Commander Captain Eric Seltzer and Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco accept a check from General Manager MINI of Wesley Chapel Andrew Harvie for \$5,800. June was their Month of Caring & Sharing where the dealership committed a gift of \$100 for every vehicle sold to the Youth Ranches. Their goal was 40 vehicles and they sold 58. Thank you so much MINI of Wesley Chapel for your commitment to our youth!



# AWARDS, EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS



The Florida Sheriffs Association presented FYSR President Bill Frye a check for \$230,000 at the Boys Ranch 60th Anniversary Open House and Horse Show. Pictured are Suwannee County Sheriff Sam St. John, Putnam County Sheriff Gator DeLoach, Columbia County Sheriff Mark Hunter, Retired Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson and Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Immediate Past Chairman Madison County Sheriff Ben Stewart and FYSR President Bill Frye.



Bradford County Riding Club presented a check to FYSR President Bill Frye and Volusia County Retired Sheriff Ben Johnson to support the children at the Youth Ranch.



Rayford Lennette, Ken and Linda Webster of Clay Mavericks presented a donation to FYSR President Bill Frye and Volusia County Retired Sheriff Ben Johnson at the Boys Ranch 60th Anniversary Open House and Horse Show. We are so grateful for their continued support.



Bradford Posse Representative Louette Hylton presented a check for \$1000 to FYSR President Bill Frye and Volusia County Retired Sheriff Ben Johnson. Thank you so much for your continued generosity.



Baker County Riding Club representative Jimmy Hodges presented FYSR President Bill Frye and Volusia County Retired Sheriff Ben Johnson a check to be used to help young boys and girls in the Youth Ranches care.



Southside Saddle Club Princess Allie Sutton and Southside Saddle Club Queen Nicole Welch presented a \$500 check to FYSR President Bill Frye and Volusia County Retired Sheriff Ben Johnson at the 60th Anniversary Boys Ranch Open House.



Union County Riding Club (UCRC) President Ken Owen presented a \$1500 check to FYSR President Bill Frye and Volusia County Retired Sheriff Ben Johnson at the Boys Ranch Open House. Also pictured is Union County Riding Club Vice President Gary Cothran, UCRC Secretary Shannon Ellington and UCRC Treasurer Tracy Whiteley.



# MEMORIAL GIFTS

## 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, 2017 - Sept. 30, 2017

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Ms. Mary Jean Shepard  
Ms. Janice Kulikowsky  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rylant
- JAMES REID ADAIR SPECIAL  
AGENT ATF US TREASURY  
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Mr. John Butler
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## 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.

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](http://www.youthranches.org).



**Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches®**  
Mending Lives, Healing Hearts®

P.O. BOX 2000 - BOYS RANCH, FL 32064  
[www.youthranches.org](http://www.youthranches.org)



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GRETTA WINQUIST  
Mrs. Martha S. Winquist Emrey

MARTHA C. WINQUIST  
Mrs. Martha S. Winquist Emrey

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Ms. Sandra Sale Ebberson

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Mrs. Gertrude Good

YOUR FATHER  
Ms. Sheila Sagar

YOUR HUSBAND  
Mrs. Gertrude Good

YOUR MOTHER  
Ms. Sheila Sagar

YOUR SISTER IN-LAWS  
Mrs. Gertrude Good

YOUR FRIENDS  
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**DONATE ★ SHOP ★ VOLUNTEER**

## Come visit the new Sheriffs Ranches Thrift Store in Spring Hill.

By shopping with us, or donating your non-cash gifts, you can help us serve Florida's dependent and neglected children. Your gift of items such as clothing, appliances, jewelry, antiques, furniture, cars, trucks, boats and even campers can help make a difference. For more information, employment inquiries or to schedule a free pickup, **call us at 352-515-1438, or 800-338-0377.**

**Open Monday - Friday, 9 am to 6 pm; Saturday - 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday - 10 am to 4 pm.**



*Sheriffs Ranches*  
**THRIFT STORE**

**Hernando West Plaza**  
**1430 Pinehurst Drive**  
Between Publix and Beall's Outlet

**[www.sre4kids.org](http://www.sre4kids.org)**

Supporting the funding efforts of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

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### Helping Our Children through an Honor Gift.

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.

**Honor Gifts from  
July 1, 2017 -  
Sept. 30, 2017**

**ALABAMA**  
Ms. Kristi Lontz

**JOHN ASH**  
Mr. Robert L. Benning

**FAY BLACKWELDER  
BIRTHDAY**  
Dr. Wayne D. Schwab

**C. B. BOOKER  
BIRTHDAY**  
Ms. Rebecca D. Booker

**AMY BRANNEN**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joel T. Brannen

**SKIP AND CAROL BRYAN  
ANNIVERSARY**  
Mr. Ed Greenawald

**WANDA CAMPBELL  
BIRTHDAY**  
Ms. Janice Wingate

**CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF  
JEFF DAWSY  
RETIREMENT**  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Bregger

**COAST 2 COAST FINANCIAL  
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Mr. Wayne M. Witzcak

**CARMEN DAVY-BEAULIEU**  
Mr. L. Paul Murray

**FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH  
RANCHES**  
Ms. Lea Mills

**THE BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE  
YOUTH RANCHES**  
Mrs. Joan K. O'Rourke

**FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH  
RANCHES 60TH ANNIVERSARY  
ANNIVERSARY**  
The Newman Family Foundation

**FREEDOM**  
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**MR. WILLIAM A. FRYE, JR.**  
The Reverend & Mrs. Leroy Dobbs

**JOHN HALL**  
Mr. Ronald A. Calsada

**TERESA M. HANLEY**  
Ms. Patricia A. Hanley

**HOMELESS CHILDREN**  
Sunnybrook Alliance Church

**THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
Mrs. Yolanda G. Dyer

**JUDY JORDAN  
BIRTHDAY**  
Ms. Janice Wingate

**MR. AND MRS. THEODORE  
KONSTANTINO  
ANNIVERSARY**  
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Konstantino

**LAKELAND POLICE MEN AND  
WOMEN**  
Ms. Matilda E. Garlan

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold C. Parisen

**LEE COUNTY SHERIFF MIKE  
SCOTT**  
Ms. Linda Frankhouser

**DR. R. DI LORENZO  
YOUR WEDDING**  
Mrs. Margaret M. White

**W. T. "BILL" MADDOX  
BIRTHDAY**  
Mrs. Donna Storter-Long & Mr. John C. Long

**BLAKE AND JOYCE MAKINSON  
ANNIVERSARY**  
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OFFICE**  
Mr. Joseph W. Hibbard  
Mr. Richard W. Stimson

**ALAN MAY**  
Mr. Richard I. McKee

**SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN**  
Miss Kristine A. Cimmy

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Ms. Allyson W. Sweat

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**MICHAEL RAGUSA**  
Mrs. Mary K. Ragusa

**PAMELA ROBERTS  
BIRTHDAY**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Hurner

**HANK SAMUEL**  
Ms. Myrna Levine

**SUE SAMUEL**  
Ms. Myrna Levine

**RICHARD SARAFIAN  
ANNIVERSARY**  
Ms. Janice M. Sarafian

## Estate and Trust Gifts

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### ESTATES

#### Consuelo Patricia Meyers

.....

*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, 2017 and September 30, 2017 from estates and trusts.*

**SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF  
TOM KNIGHT**  
Mr. & Mrs. Owen W. Woodyard

**SHERIFFS**  
Mr. & Mrs. Mario Lopez

**CAPT. KENNETH SIMONE  
BIRTHDAY**  
Mr. George Douglas

**SUWANNEE COUNTY SHERIFFS  
OFFICE**  
American Best Value Inn

**FRANK TOOLEY**  
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**MARIA WALLACE**  
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**RICHARD WALLACE**  
MSgt Michael P. Pagone

**HARRY WEAVER  
BIRTHDAY**  
Sheriff & Mrs. Geoffrey Monge (Ret.)

**YOUR GRANDCHILDREN**  
Ms. Ilse M. Dietz



## Please Donate Your Vehicle to the Sheriffs Ranches Enterprises

The Sheriffs Ranches Enterprises accepts vehicles in fair to great condition. If your vehicle has proper emission controls, fair tires, no major body or rust damage, and the engine/transmission are in good working order, please consider sharing this resource with our charity.

Your donation will be used to benefit the boys and girls of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

For more information or to set up an appointment for a Sheriffs Ranches Enterprises representative to pick up your vehicle, call us today at 800-338-0377.



[www.sre4kids.org](http://www.sre4kids.org)

**Please Note:** The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 contains new rules pertaining to the charitable deduction allowed for vehicles donated to a qualified charity after December 31, 2004. Basically, this law limits the donor's tax deduction to \$500, or the gross proceeds from the sale of the vehicle, if over \$500. We recognize that each individual's tax situation is different and the impact of any charitable deduction is based on a variety of circumstances. You are strongly encouraged to consult with your independent tax advisor.

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# MOVING?



Please fill this form out and return promptly if you're moving, even temporarily.

Use the envelope enclosed in the center of this magazine.



Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2000  
Boys Ranch, FL 32064  
fsyr@youthranches.org  
www.youthranches.org

- I'm moving. Please change my address as indicated below.
- My address will change temporarily.  
Date from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- Please delete my name from your mailing list.

Name (please print)

Street Address

City

State

Zip

## Mark Your Calendar

### Equine Trail Sports Obstacle Challenge Series

**November 17-19** – This event is located at the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch in Live Oak, FL. To register for events, please visit [www.equinetrailsports.com/events](http://www.equinetrailsports.com/events), or, for more information contact Cyndi Pittman at (703) 409-1138.

### BRDD Motorcycle Skills Challenge

**December 2** – For more information regarding this event, please contact Debi Girard at (800) 765-3797.

### Caruth Camp Challenge Golf Tournament

**December 4** – The tournament is being held at The Plantation, 9301 West Fort Island Trail, Crystal River, FL 34429. For more information contact Kayla Bianchi at (386) 842-5501.

### Palm Beach Sheriff's Office Golf Tournament

**February 9** – This event will be held at Madison Green Golf Course in West Palm Beach, Florida. For more information please contact Shannon McWilliams at (561) 688-3023.

### Annual Indian River County Sheriff's Office Barbecue

**March 7** – 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.

### Lake County Sheriff's Office Bass Tournament and Fish N' Fun Day

**February 10** – This event will be held at Hickory Point Recreational Complex in Tavares, FL. The address for the Hickory Point Complex is 27341 SR 19 Tavares, FL. For entry forms, or to become a sponsor, contact: Matt Farner at 352-551-5997 or [matthew.farner@lcsso.org](mailto:matthew.farner@lcsso.org). For specific tournament questions contact: Neal Lazarus at [neallazarus@earthlink.net](mailto:neallazarus@earthlink.net).



**Join us for our special events!**

For additional information visit [www.youthranches.org](http://www.youthranches.org), or contact the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Donor Relations Department at (386) 842-5501 or the Sheriff's Office sponsoring the event.

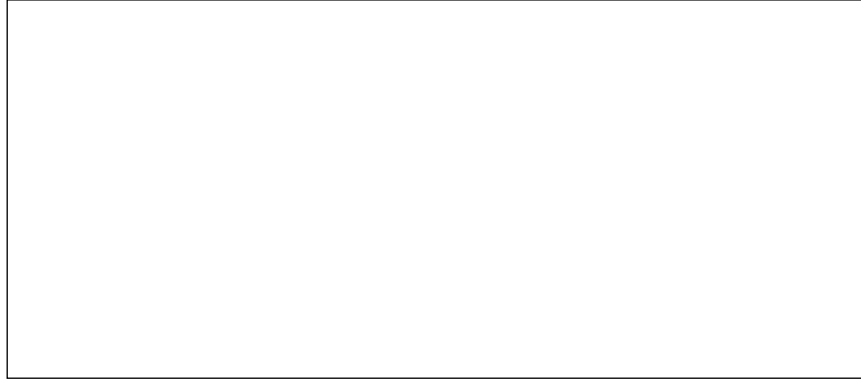
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