

RANCHlife

PUBLISHED FOR THE FRIENDS & FAMILY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN BOYS RANCH - FALL 2009 EDITION

Upcoming Events

Run for the Ranch
Sponsored by Ozark Mountain Ridge Runners
Sunday, December 27
2:30 race start time
5K/10K/Half Marathon
and Full Marathon
Register online at
www.omrr.org

Ranchlife is a publication of the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch. Please mail address changes, questions, or comments about Ranchlife to the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch Development Department P.O. Box 617, Brighton, Missouri 65617.

The Good Samaritan Boys Ranch has provided a home to abandoned, abused, and neglected children since 1959.

Give a Boy A Golden Christmas

Good Samaritan Boys Ranch invites you to be a part of Christmas festivities as we wrap-up the 50th Anniversary year.

The holidays are always a special time for the residents at Good Samaritan Boys Ranch. This year we continue to mark our golden anniversary and hope you can take part in our holiday festivities.

Adopt a Boy Holiday Gift Drive sponsored by Bolivar Herald Free Press and KADI Radio - This annual event sponsored by local me-

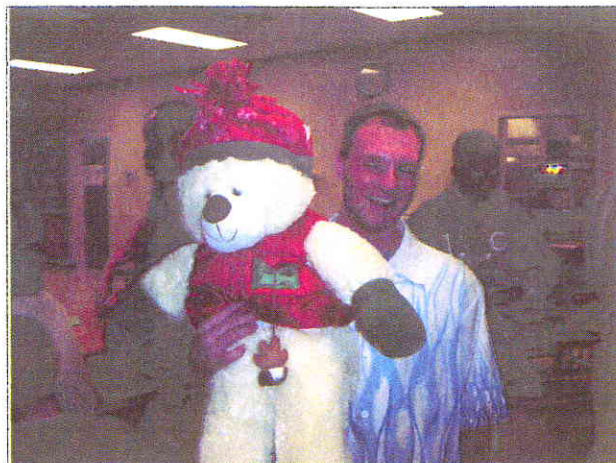


Christmas Dinner at the Ranch
Tuesday, December 15, 6:00 p.m.
A holiday feast and entertainment
RSVP 376-2238

dia provides an opportunity to adopt a boy for Christmas and provide gifts for them. Wish lists are published in the Bolivar Herald Free Press each week and are available on the KADI website at

www.99hitfm.com or by listening to the station. Boys can also be adopted by contacting Dennis Parks at the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch.

Share Christmas Dinner with the Boys - Our annual holiday dinner will be held on Tuesday, December 15 and we invite all our friends and supporters to join us for this special evening. No charge for the meal but donations are welcome. Please RSVP!



Celebrating 50 Years of Helping Kids!

Success Stories at Good Samaritan Boys Ranch

Boys Ranch Graduate Serving Our Country

Corporal Travis Barnes left for the border of Iraq and Jordan on November 19 but before that he paid a visit to the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch where he was a resident three years ago (pictured on the right with Recreation Director John Whittaker). Corp. Barnes is in the Army stationed in Illinois and engaged to be married. He says he considers his time at the Ranch when he was a rebellious 16-year-old to be a turning point in his life. "I was very angry at that time in my life and the staff here helped me learn to deal with stress in a positive way," recalls Travis. He especially enjoyed working in the arena with the animals. Travis is leading a unit of military police on the border in Iraq and we very proud to be part of his family!



Ranch School Excels in Math, MAP Testing

Three students at the Pleasant Hope R-6 Ranch School placed in the top 100 in the region at the Back to School Math Mania Challenge, part of World Math Day, the world's biggest online educational event. Of the 26 Good Samaritan Boys Ranch students that participated in the event, the highest scorer was 37th

place with 6,438 correctly answered questions. The Ranch School placed third overall with an average of 2,698 correctly answered questions per student.

With the push for the United States to keep up with the world in math and science, the Ranch School received an invitation to compete with students from



an eight-state region in real time over a 48-hour period. The competition ran from midnight Sept. 15 to midnight Sept. 16.

For the first time, students at the Ranch School met the average scores on Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) testing for 2009. Great work!

Footsteps Succeeds in School

Footsteps, the Transitional Living Program sponsored by Good Samaritan Boys Ranch, is seeing success among its residents who are staying in school and moving on to a stable living environment when they leave, according to Program Director Casey Wray. "Our data shows our residents have a 5% drop-out rate for education which is much lower than the norm for kids their age." Statistics also show that residents who remain in the program at least one year have a 100% transition rate to stable and safe housing.

Save on Taxes, Help the Ranch

What if you could help support improvements at Good Samaritan Boys Ranch and save money on your taxes when you donate? Tax credits issued to the Ranch by the Missouri Department of Economic Development enable donors to receive a 50% - 70% tax credit on every dollar they donate to Ranch capital improvement projects.

Money raised through the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) and the Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) will help renovate dorms on the campus in Brighton and fund the construction of a new group home in Springfield. Tax

credits can be issued to individuals or businesses and can be used for Missouri income taxes over the next five years. You can direct your tax dollars to local projects such as the Boys Ranch. To receive credits for 2009 taxes, donations must be made before December 31, 2009.

Call Julie Conway, Director of Development at 350-9694 for more information.



Letters From the Ranch

The Good Samaritan Boys Ranch has helped me change my point of view about life and how I should take care of myself and care for others. The Boys Ranch has helped me with changing my views by the caring staff talking things through with me whenever I had a problem and raising my self confidence in many different ways. One of my favorite ways is Mr. Whittaker and the treatment team taking me on a couple of different kayak and mountain biking trips. That really raised my self confidence from "I can't do anything right" to "I can do most things to some degree".

- Dalton

Before I came to the Ranch my life was rough and chaotic. I was always fighting with people. I became very involved working with the barn and turned things around and left on a positive release. I got to move the Footsteps, the Transitional Living Program. It's good because I'm meeting new people and getting to experience new situations. I'm looking forward to getting a job and going to college in the fall.

- Andrew

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Visit us on the World Wide
Web at www.ranchlife.org

"Giving a troubled child the opportunity for a better life"

RANCHlife

Thank You Friends of the Ranch!

Rock N' Ribs BBQ Festival presented a record \$135,000 to children's charities including the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch. Many thanks to all the members of **Rotary Clubs of Springfield** who make this event possible.

Back to School supplies were made possible by generous donations from businesses such as **Staples, KADI Radio and Duck Creek Technologies**. In addition, the community dropped off supplies in barrels located at area Staples locations.

Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts donated tickets for the boys to see a variety of live musical entertainment including bluegrass and classical. This is a great way to introduce our residents to the arts!

Reading is a great way for our residents to learn important lessons and explore the world around them. **Embracing the Child** and the **Townsend Foundation** donated books for

the dorms at Good Samaritan Boys Ranch and the **Bolivar Area Community Foundation** made a \$500 grant which will also be used to

purchase new books. GEO Kevin Killian (center) presents the grant from Lindsey Godfrey (left) and Dorothy Isdell.



TGIFriday's donated the proceeds of their 2009 Bar Champs bartender competition to the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch. Many thanks to Manager Clint McConnell and staff!

BioLife Plasma Services sponsored Run for the Young - a 5K/10K to benefit the Ranch. Over 100 runners participated on August 30 and this will become an annual fundraiser for the GSBR. Our residents also participated and several took first place in their age group!