

RANCHlife



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

Upcoming Events

Golden Anniversary Golf Tournament, Monday, April 6 @ Millwood Country Club, 11:30 am lunch, 12:30 tee-off. Four person scramble.

Downtown in Denim, Thursday, April 9 @ The Tower Club. Enjoy a four course meal, silent auction and entertainment from the Boys Ranch Chorus along with special guests.

Rock n' Ribs BBQ Festival, April 17 & 18, Bass Pro parking lot. Sample the best BBQ around and hear live music to support the Ranch.

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.

Celebrating 50 Years of Helping Kids

It began as a vision for Reverend Robert Johnson who was leading Seminole Baptist Church in Springfield. He wanted to open a home for orphaned boys and believed this was his family's mission, according to his widow Mary.

"Bob woke me up one night and said I know what we need to do!" she recalls. "So we began searching for a farm and located the property on Highway 13."

The congregation at Seminole Baptist was a great support to Rev. Johnson. They worked tirelessly in remodeling the original farmhouse. They helped raise money for a down payment on the property. They helped provide

food and clothing for the first Ranchers.

There were many other supporters in the community who were instrumental in spreading the word about the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch. David Woodruff, Greene County Juvenile Officer in the early 1960's often referred boys for help.

"I remember calls in the middle of the night from David asking if we could take a boy," says Mary Johnson.

KWTO Radio was a tremendous help to the Ranch airing a weekly radio program which often featured Stan Hitchcock, the nephew of Rev. Johnson. Hitchcock would later move to Nashville where he became well-known in

the country music world.

Stan Hitchcock and the Waymakers - a local



Rev. Bob Johnson founded the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch in 1959.

gospel group - released an album in 1961 which was a benefit for the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch. It has been recently re-released on CD by local recording company MayApple Records.

Rev. Johnson operated the Ranch completely on donations and was very creative in marketing the facility to the public. He often held concerts featuring local talent and the Boys Ranch Choir.

The Good Samaritan Boys Ranch has grown from that original farmhouse to a state licensed facility serving 76 boys in seven dorms and a transitional living program in Springfield. Rev. Johnson had a dream 50 years ago and that dream has helped thousands of young men turn their lives around.



A 50th Anniversary Reunion Celebration will be held on Saturday, June 13 at the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch on Highway 13. The day will feature live entertainment, food, fun activities and tours. The event is free and open to the public.

A Ranch Success Story

*"I credit GSBR with saving my life. I would have been dead or in prison if it weren't for here."
Mike H., a resident of GSBR*



As staff and family looked on, a young man donned a graduation cap and gown and was presented with his diploma at a ceremony held in January at the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch. Resident Mike H. credits the positive influences he encour-

tered at the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch with turning his life around. Mike has been a resident at the Ranch for the past year and a half. In addition to earning his high school diploma, Mike has been introduced to a skill he hopes to one day be his profession - cooking. "I love cooking at the Ranch. Austin (head chef) is a great teacher. Creating a dish is like painting a picture."

Mike has been transferred to Footsteps Transitional Living and will enroll at Ozarks Technical College where he plans to take culinary classes. He would like to open his own restaurant and says he learned valuable lessons at the Ranch. "I learned the value of teamwork and how you accomplish more by working together."

Tax Credits Awarded to Ranch for New Building

While the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch is celebrating the past 50 years, the agency is also looking to the future and planning for an expansion.

Footsteps Transitional Living is the newest project of the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch. It provides services for young men ages 16-21 who are aging out of the foster care system but have no family to help them make the transition to adulthood. Without proper guidance, these youth are at-risk for becoming homeless as adults.

Footsteps provides housing and supportive services at a 10 bed group home and six apartments in Springfield. But a constant waiting list for services means that

not all the youth who need help are getting help. Good Samaritan Boys Ranch is planning to develop a campus in north Springfield to serve this at-risk population.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development has issued \$250,000 in tax credits which will be given to donors who support Phase I of the project - the construction of a 20 bed group home. For information on how you can help the Boys Ranch plan for the next 50 years by supporting the Footsteps Expansion Project, contact Julie Conway at 376-2238.



Thank You Friends of the Ranch!

The holidays are always a special time at the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch and the community reached into their hearts to help provide for the residents at Good Samaritan Boys Ranch.

OakStar Bank hosted their second annual fund raiser at **Tong's Thai Cuisine** and treated 56 residents at the Ranch to an ice skating party at Media-com Ice Park.

Many thanks to all who helped provide gifts so that each boy had a happy holiday. Businesses who participated this year include the **Bolivar Herald-Free Press, 99 Hit FM, BankCorp South, Big Fish Screenprinting, Nadia Canner Group, Chase Card Services, All-Comm Technologies, Noble Communications, US Bank of Bolivar, Bio-Kinetic, McKesson Corp.**

Bolivar Rotary Club joined residents for their annual Christmas dinner on December 8. Club members dined with the boys and gave each resident a gift as well as donating two flat screen TV's for the dorms and a DVD player.

Two local groups held Christmas parties at the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch to brighten the holidays for the boys. **Fair Grove Baptist Church** and **Nemra and Dale Rhoden** celebrated the season with gifts and Christmas caroling during the holiday.

The 9th Annual **Run for the Ranch**

was held on December 28 and attracted over 400 runners who braved the cold tem-

perature to compete and raise money for the Ranch. The event is sponsored by **Ozark Mountain Ridge Runners.**



WalMart celebrated the Grand Opening of a new Supercenter in Springfield by presenting grants to several agencies including the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch who received a check for \$2,000.

Sunshine Bike Shop presented the Recreation Program at the Ranch with new bikes, helmets and riding gear for the boys. The gift is made possible through the **Kevin Umlauf Foundation.**

Improvements to the on-site medical clinic at the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch have been made possible with a grant from the **McKesson Foundation.** Funds will be used to purchase equipment and supplies.

Dillion's employees raised money at three store locations and purchased gifts for each boy as well as a flat screen TV for the dorms.

Dynamic Earth sponsored Boys Ranch nights at the Springfield and Kansas City stores encouraging patrons to donate equipment to the Recreation Program.

Good Samaritan Boys Ranch
P. O. Box 617
Brighton, MO 65617
417-376-2238

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Springfield, MO
Permit #200

Ranchlife is a quarterly
publication of the
Good Samaritan
Boys Ranch

Mark Speight Chairman
John Horton Vice-Chair
David Carlton Treasurer
Brent Baldwin Secretary

Kevin Killian Director

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

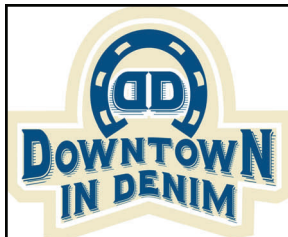
“Giving a troubled child the opportunity for a better life”

RANCHlife

50th Anniversary Events

Downtown in Denim - Thursday, April 9
Tower Club in downtown Springfield
Silent Auction/Social
Hour @ 6:00 p.m.
Dinner @ 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Empire Bank and featuring a performance by the Boys Ranch Chorus and special guests.



Tower Club Chef Brad Lyons will prepare a four course meal. Highlights of 50 years at Good Samaritan Boys Ranch will be on display. Tickets are \$70 per person or \$500 for a table of 8. All proceeds benefit the Ranch. Call 376-2238 for reservations.

Golden Anniversary Charity Golf Tournament, Monday, April 6 @ Millwood Country Club. Four person scramble tees off at 12:30. Lunch, gifts, contests, prizes and an appetizer

buffet following play. Sponsored by Bolivar Insulation and Springfield Brake Company. Four person team registration is \$600. Call to reserve a team and learn about other sponsorships.



Speakers Bureau and Tours of the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch. See how the Ranch has grown over the past 50 years. Contact us to schedule a presentation for your group on the history of the agency featuring many archives, photos and interesting facts. Tours of the facility followed by a meal are also an option for a group outing. Call Julie Conway at 376-2238 to schedule.