

RANCHlife

PUBLISHED FOR THE FRIENDS & FAMILY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN BOYS RANCH - SPRING 2006 EDITION

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Preparing for Adulthood

FOOTSTEPS TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

A special house exists in Springfield that not only provides a safe and stable environment for young men, but also gives them an opportunity to start a new life and prepare for being on their own.

Footsteps Transitional Living Program (formerly Attitudes) is a project of the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch. The program serves boys age 16 to 21 who are transitioning from residential care to independent living. Residents must either be in school or employed.

While living at Footsteps, young men learn a variety of skills which will help them transition to living on their own. Budgeting, house-keeping, time management and life skills are taught by

Footsteps staff and adult mentors.

A converted nursing home in central Springfield houses the program, but normal wear and tear have left it in need of a facelift. The Good Samaritan Boys Ranch has launched a make-over project for the facility and plans to get underway in June.

“The quality of our environment impacts our self-esteem. With just a small investment, the facility can be made more home-like and welcoming for the boys, their families and friends

and the staff,” says Casey Wray, Footsteps Director. The make-over project will improve the common areas that provide benefit to all 10 residents and staff. The living room, kitchen and dining room all need improvement and a storage area is needed for freezers and equipment. The makeover will also renovate 5 bathrooms.

Individuals, churches and businesses in the community can help with donations of cash, materials and services. To help, call the Ranch at 376-2238.



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,

Giving a troubled child the opportunity for a better

Enjoying the Outdoors

Warmer weather means more outdoor opportunities for the residents at Good Samaritan Boys Ranch. On March 16, staff took a group of 27 boys to Paddy Creek Wilderness Area in the Mark Twain National Forest and camped for five days. Despite some chilly and wet weather, it was a great trip!

Activities included horseback riding, hiking, using a map/compass and a variety of games. Residents learn the value of teamwork and leadership while developing trust and self-confidence.

In mid-April, a PACK Expedition (Providing Awareness Change & Knowledge) was led by Recreation Director John Whittaker. He took a group of boys kayaking on the Niangua and Eleven Point rivers. Boys are chosen to participate based on their treatment



plan.

Outings such as these give the boys a chance to experience the natural world, develop an appreciation for nature and learn how their behavior impacts the environment. "It was great! I didn't think I could do it but I did. It really made me feel good about myself. It also helped me to talk to my peers and staff about how I was feeling," says George, a 14-year-old resident of the Ranch.



A group of boys will travel this summer to participate in the Summer H'Olympics involving kids from residential treatment facilities across the country. The event will be held June 16—19 at Mellon University in Pittsburg. Competitive events include softball, basketball, volleyball, swimming and track. Although the boys will be competing, added benefits are teamwork, sportsmanship and fun!

Ranch Establishes Education Fund

A generous donor has set the stage for the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch to establish an Education Fund which will assist high school grads with furthering their education. The fund has been started with a \$100,000 anonymous challenge donation and the Ranch hopes to match the gift dollar for dollar by the end of the year.

Once established, the Education Fund will

assist residents of the Ranch who are graduating or receiving their GED and wish to continue their education. "Many of our kids come from economically disadvantaged families and lack the resources to pay for higher education," explains Executive Director Kevin Killian. "This generous donation will help the Ranch offer our residents a chance to realize their dreams by attending college or technical school." To donate to the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch Education Fund, contact the Ranch at 376-2238.

Graydon Springs Camp

Looking for an outdoor location to hold summer camp? Need a place to hold your next corporate retreat? The Good Samaritan Boys Ranch acquired Graydon Springs Camp several years ago from Camp Fire Boys and Girls. The facility is available for businesses, churches and other non-profits to rent.

Located 30 miles north of Springfield near Walnut Grove, the camp has lots to offer from simple day camp to overnight camping. Graydon Springs offers a rustic wilderness setting convenient to Springfield, a variety of lodging options, a large dining hall with kitchen, large outdoor swimming pool, several creeks, horseback riding and over 200 acres to explore.



The Camp is also located adjacent to the Frisco High Line Trail which is ideal for biking or hiking.

To request a brochure or rate information for Graydon Springs Camp, contact Julie Conway at 376-2238 or visit our website at www.ranchlife.org

Longhorn Grill Charity SweepSTEAKS

The Price Cutter Charity Championship is set for July 16-24, a month earlier than previously. That means you have less time to purchase a 2006 Longhorn Grill SweepSTEAKS Season Pass. The pass will gain you entry into all tournament play and give you a chance to win great prizes.

This year, two grand prizes are up for grabs—a 2006 Cadillac CTS and \$10,000 cash. Each day, drawings will be held for gift certificates to area restaurants and attractions. The pass is \$25 and all passes sold by the Ranch means more dollars for the charity. Contact the Ranch to purchase your season pass.

Save the Date!

**Millwood Children's
Charity Auction
Sunday, June 11, 5:00 p.m.
Millwood Golf and
Racquet Club**

**Benefiting the
Good Samaritan Boys Ranch
\$500 for table of 8, \$75 per person
Includes Poolside Buffet
Call 376-2238 to reserve your spot!**

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

RANCHlife

Thank You Friends of the Ranch!

The 4th Annual Bolivar Insulation Charity Golf Tournament on April 3 was a success!

Thank you to the following sponsors:

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Best of 417 Party a Success!

Thanks to 417 Magazine, four local charities including the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch shared in the proceeds from the Best of 417 Magazine Party which netted \$37,480. Over 1,800 people attended the event on February 19 at University Plaza Convention Center.