

RANCHlife

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

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New Kitchen/Dining Hall in 2006



A new kitchen/dining hall is under construction at the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch to accommodate the growth of the Ranch. The project is expected to finish this spring.

January 2006 - Construction crews have broken ground for construction of a new Kitchen/Dining Facility at the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch. The new dining hall will seat 150-200 people compared to the current capacity of 75 at the existing facility. The need for additional dining space is due to the growth of the Ranch over the past several years.

An improved kitchen facility will feature separate cooking, food preparation, bakery and clean-up areas. It will also include indoor space for commercial freezers and refrigerators as well as an outdoor loading dock for deliveries.

The new facility was made possible through participation in the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) which provides Missouri state tax credits for donors who contribute to the project. Upon completion this spring, the Kitchen/Dining Facility will serve an estimated 300 meals per day for residents and staff.

A special thanks to Jim D. Morris, Wayne Morelock, Jim and Cathy Moore and others for their support of this project.

Giving a troubled child the opportunity for a better

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

Holidays at the Ranch

The holidays are an exciting time at the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch when members of the community work together to provide a joyous season for the boys who spend their Christmas here. This year was no exception as once again 99 Hit FM, Gordman's and the Bolivar Herald Free Press sponsored gift drives for the boys. Many thanks to the businesses and individuals who generously contributed this year.

A group of boys from the Ranch provided Christmas carols for residents at Citizens Memorial Healthcare Facility. Under the direction of music teacher Elaine Miller, the boys also performed for the annual Christmas Dinner hosted by the Ranch.



Other holiday programs included a dinner on December 5 hosted by the Bolivar Rotary Club where club members presented equipment for the Equine Program at the Ranch (photo above). Several area churches visited the Ranch over Christmas including Fair Grove Baptist Temple.

Celebrate with 417 & The Ranch

The Good Samaritan Boys Ranch will team up with three other non-profits and 417 Magazine on Sunday, February 19 to present the third annual "Best of 417" Party. This year's event will be held at the University Plaza Convention Center located at 333 John Q. Hammons Parkway in Springfield from 2 to 5 p.m.

Proceeds from the event will be shared among the four charities to help children in the Ozarks. The party features food from 30 area restaurants, entertainment by Art Bentley and M-Dock, wine/beer tasting and a raffle including a whole processed beef donated by the Ranch. Tickets are available in advance for \$25 at area Price Cutter Supermarkets or at 417mag.com.

Save the Date!

**Bolivar Insulation
Charity Golf Tournament
Monday, April 3, 2006
Millwood Country Club**

**11:30 a.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m. Tee Time**

**Benefiting the
Good Samaritan Boys Ranch
Call 376-2238 to reserve your spot!**

Winter Outings

An important part of the treatment programs offered at the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch is the Recreation Program. A variety of recreational opportunities are offered including swimming, hiking and horseback riding. PACK (Providing Awareness Change & Knowledge) Expeditions are offered several times each year in which the residents and staff leave the Ranch for outdoor experiences.

The first winter PACK Expedition was on December 28. With temperatures in the mid 60's, the group traveled 7 miles on the Niangua River. The boys who floated had previous training and experience from past trips conducted during the spring and summer. Two boys went for the first time – they had training consisting of written materials, videos, and time with the kayaks in the pool. Treatment issues focused on de-



veloping trust, self –confidence, teamwork, leadership and developing judgment and decision making skills. The group spotted three bald eagles on the trip which was a first for many of the boys (photo above).

Future outings are planned for this spring including a Leadership Development Expedition in April and a weekend camping trip in March to Paddy Creek where the boys and staff will hike, ride horses and experience nature. These activities are a great learning experience for the residents.

Ranch Success Story

There are only a few residents each year who graduate from the Ranch School. That's why when Alarie put on his cap and gown in December, it was a joyous occasion. A child of the foster care system for a great deal of his life, Alarie was resistant when he came to the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch.

But with the help of the staff, Alarie says he turned his life around. "I felt that the staff really cared about me and what happened to me," he says. "I had a problem with anger and not taking responsibility for

what I did. The staff and therapists helped me complete the program."

Alarie plans to attend college where he will study either pre-law or pre-med. He is now living at Footsteps - the transitional living program operated by the Ranch. With the guidance from staff at Footsteps, Alarie will enroll in classes at OTC or Missouri State University this spring. He has been assigned a staff advocate at Footsteps who will provide one-on-one support for him as he makes the transition into independent living. "I was worried about leaving the Ranch, but I know I will always have that support I can call on if I have problems."

From the Director's Desk by Kevin Killian

When you look around the country and the world lately, you realize how lucky we are to live in the Ozarks. We are so thankful of the generosity in this area. Because of people in the Ozarks, our boys had a tremendous Christmas season and every boy received gifts. This was especially moving because a majority of our boys were not able to go home this Christmas. Knowing that someone cared enough about them to buy presents, was overwhelming for some. Many of our boys receive more attention and gifts while they are

with us than they do when they are at home. The boys also learn that they are not forgotten and there are people who are interested and concerned. It teaches them appreciation and empathy for others. Our boys did have the opportunity to help others before Christmas. They filled food baskets for needy families in Bolivar. This was a great experience for our boys because it helps them to know that they can help others in times of need. I want to say thank you to everyone who supports the Ranch and the boys we work with.

Good Samaritan Ranch Community Partners

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RANChlife

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