



# Back At The Ranch...



July 2010

Founded by the Maryland Sheriffs' Association

## Saddle Up for Success

Providing Guidance and Support to  
the Youth of Maryland since 1974



*Education Coordinator, Tom Hamm,  
presents Deandre with an award*

On June 30th, the Ranch held its Annual Education Banquet. This year's theme was a western one complete with a western town set, western decor, and of course, western vittles! The mood was complete with photos of each youth dressed in western garb that was

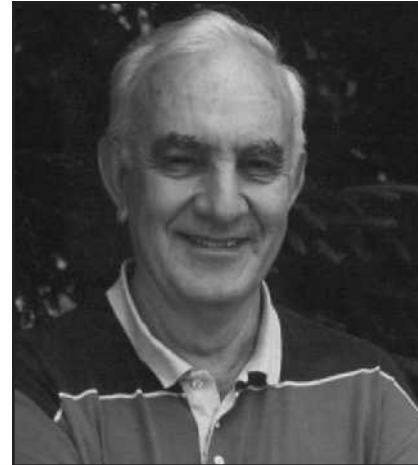
Photo-shopped into a western setting by Executive Director, Mark Grover.

Tom Hamm, MSYR's Education Coordinator, presented the awards to the boys. Awards were given for Academic Achievement, Honor Roll, and Excellence in Attendance. Chris A. won the Excellence in Education Award, presented by Executive Director, Mark Grover and Education Coordinator, Tom Hamm. The Ranch was proud to have two 2010 high school graduates, Chris P. and Robbie G. Dave Kennedy, Pupil Personnel Worker for Frederick County Public Schools, then addressed the crowd concerning how effective Mr. Hamm is in coordinating the education of the residents.

Guests for the evening included many of our board members, mentors, CASA workers, and various faculty members from the schools where residents attend. Ms. Regina and Mr. Rene prepared and served a delicious meal. It was a very festive celebration of the boys' achievements.



*Trevor's western photo*



### Ranch Tutor, Edward Stacy, Retires

It is with great sadness that the Ranch bids farewell to Edward Stacy after ten years of volunteer tutoring with the residents of the Ranch. Mr. Stacy retired from the Navy as a Commander after serving for 24 years, part of which was as a Naval Academy instructor. Since coming to the Ranch, he has played a vital role in the Education department. Mr. Stacy has tutored algebra and math as well as coordinated other Ranch tutors. He developed relationships of such influence with some of the boys, that he became somewhat of a job coach to them. The impact he has made in the lives of those around him will never be forgotten. Best wishes, Mr. Stacy, on all your future endeavors.

The greatest danger for most  
of us is not that our aim is  
too high and we miss it, but  
that it is too low and we reach it.  
Michelangelo

# Ranch *News*



## Director's Message

### *The Ranch Gets A Facelift*



*Wright Building before Marriott*

On Wednesday, May 19th, the Maryland Sheriffs' Youth Ranch was buzzing with activity as Marriott Corporation made a very special visit. Tools, paint, supplies, and two busloads of people filled the parking lot to begin a day's work. The dining room received not only a fresh coat of paint, but a beach scene mural. The barn fence, the railing in front of the Administration Building, and the picnic tables in the pavilion were painted. Shrubs were pruned and old bushes were removed and replaced with new ones. A vegetable garden was planted with a fence and a Marriott Scarecrow to guard it. The landscaping around the flagpole was reconstructed. The Ranch looked fresh and new when they were finished. What a blessing it was to witness the hard work and the willing hearts of the volunteers. We are so fortunate to have organizations such as Marriott who give back to the community. Thank you, Marriott, for putting action to your beliefs!



*Wright Building after Marriott*

Over the past few years, the State of Maryland has actively sought to reduce the number of group homes in the state. Their efforts have been successful and many group homes have closed throughout the state. Last year, the State issued a Request For Proposals. This process was designed to ensure that only the best group homes would have contracts with the State. I am pleased to announce that the Maryland Sheriffs' Youth Ranch was recently awarded one of those contracts.



Unfortunately, the state continues to enforce a freeze on spending. What this means for us is that we are operating on a budget from 2008. Not only that, but in the past two years the state has taken 2% away from that 2008 budget. Through careful budgeting we have been able to continue to provide our residents with the best possible care. Unfortunately, this has forced us to cut back on 'nonessential items'. One of the areas that has been hardest hit is recreation. We are committed to ensuring that our boys have the opportunity to enjoy the same leisure time activities as their peers. This is only possible through the support of our community. Every donation to our general fund allows us to meet the needs of our boys, be it for recreation, education, or emergency needs.

I want to thank everyone for your continued support. Your donations help us protect and support some of Maryland's most vulnerable children.

Mark Grover, LGSW, CRCCPA  
Executive Director

If you would like to make a donation on-line, please visit:  
[www.donationdepot.com](http://www.donationdepot.com)



### *Our Mission*

*The mission of the Maryland Sheriffs' Youth Ranch is to provide disadvantaged and "at risk" youth with guidance and support in a healthy, safe and supportive residential setting, accompanied by caring staff and counselors, to assist them in becoming productive members of society.*

#### **Board of Directors**

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##### *Executive Director*

Mark Grover

##### *Legal Counsel*

Bruce Dean, Esq.

To make a donation or to offer your gift of time and talent, please call Joyce Wargny at the Ranch office:  
301-874-4701, ext. 101



Urbana Mom's Club presents a check to Executive Director, Mark Grover

## **Urbana Supports the Ranch**

On Tuesday, May 25th, members of the Urbana Mom's Club, led by president, Juliann Sacco, arrived at the Ranch to present Executive Director, Mark Grover, with a check from the proceeds of several fundraisers done by the club for the Ranch. Thank you to the community of Urbana and Nate's Barbershop for supporting the Urbana Mom's Club in their fundraising efforts. This is a wonderful example of community involvement in the life of the boys and the work of the Ranch.

*Thank You*

Thank you to Frederick County Bank for choosing the Ranch for their Casual Day for Charity.

### *Donations Received*

#### *In Memory of...*

Sam & Michael  
Col. Joseph F. O'Brien  
Charles Bishop Pruitt  
Byron G. Stronsky  
Catherine V. Conley  
Louis W. & Sophie Parkhurst  
Wayne D. Clark  
Dr. M.E. Friedman  
Sam Lloyd  
Edwin Fuller  
Bob Maddox  
James Windsor



# Ranch News



## **Take Me Out to the Ball Game...**

The Ranch would like to express its thanks to Valinda Hile, Jill Caravaggio, the Frederick Keys, and all of the members of the Urbana Rotary Club who donated tickets, money, and snacks to the boys of the Ranch this summer.

The game of Friday, May 21st was a very special one for the boys. The evening began when the boys met some of the Rotary members at a pavilion for refreshments before the Keys game. Not only did they each receive a Frederick Keys t-shirt and hat, but one of the players visited and spoke with them before the game. During the game, the youth were able to eat food from the stands with funds that were donated for that purpose. Thanks to all who gave of their time and resources to give the boys such a memorable experience!

And also, thanks to Jayne Bongard for donating tickets to a Frederick Keys game this summer!

### **Kohl's Cares**

Thank you to Kohl's Department Store for coming to the Ranch on April 22nd to do landscaping, and for their generous monetary donation. We really appreciate all of their help!

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

# Ranch News

## Resident Updates

### Easter at the Ranch



Executive Director, Mark Grover playing Peep Golf

Easter is a holiday that is full of activity at the Ranch. Good Friday began with an egg dyeing contest. James took first place, Quintin won second, and Elijah came in third for the most original and colorful eggs. The boys then took their eggs outside to play Easter Egg Bocce Ball. James again won first place, with Brandon second, and Elijah third. Staff and residents then played a game that was new to the Ranch: Peep Golf. Everyone had loads of fun hitting dried peeps down the hill with a golf club! Victor and Hakeem tied as the ones who hit their peeps the farthest!

After lunch, the festivities continued with an Easter egg hunt. Boys scattered over the fields in search of plastic eggs containing a slip of paper with a picture of a prize. Everyone went inside to claim their prizes of candy, cereal, snacks, drinks, games and microwave meals.

Easter Sunday, the boys woke up to receive Easter baskets filled with candy and goodies. Many of the youth were ecstatic since they had never experienced this kind of Easter celebration!

If you are receiving a duplicate mailing, please let us know by calling Joyce Wargny at 301-874-4701, ext. 101, or by sending an email to [jwargny@msyr.org](mailto:jwargny@msyr.org).

### JEFFREY'S GARDEN

Because MSYR resident, Jeffrey, has a deep interest in studying agriculture, the Ranch made provision for him to create a vegetable garden. With the help of Mr. Ricky, MSYR's maintenance engineer, the ground next to the kitchen was tilled. Then Marriott Corporation planted vegetables and flowers, put up a fence, and even set up a scarecrow! Once the garden was planted, Jeffrey has been faithful to cultivate and water it. There are peppers, carrots, tomatoes, green beans, beets, potatoes, squash, zucchini, cantalope, and watermelon. Not only was the garden beautiful, but the harvest was plentiful! It has certainly been a summer project that was enjoyed by all!



Jeffrey's garden with Marriott Scarecrow

### Birthdays

#### July



Deandre B. - 5th  
Robert B. - 6th  
Victor D. - 12th

#### August

Trevor H. - 30th

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