



Back At The Ranch...



June 2008

Providing Guidance and Support to
the Youth of Maryland since 1974

Founded by the Maryland Sheriffs' Association



*Resident Greg
enjoying the potato
sack race!*

Field Day Fun

On April 17th, the Ranch held a "Field Day" for the residents. The boys were able to show off their various talents through both individual and group events! Their ability to work together as a team to

gain points was remarkable. The group activities included: a scavenger hunt, relay race, tug of war and a potato sack race. The activities the residents participated in individually included: a three-point shooting match, a word search, a game to rank staff ages, as well as a poetry contest (refer to page 4 for the winning poem). Although all of these activities were

greatly enjoyed by the residents, the biggest hit was the "Fear Factor" Milkshakes. The boys picked several numbers out of a hat, each number representing either a



good or a bad ingredient. After all the numbers were picked, the ingredients were mixed together with ice cream and made into a milkshake! The boys gained points for drinking their milkshakes, and gained even more points if they could guess the ingredients of their shake! After all the games were completed and the final scores were tallied, the top three contestants were recognized. The Grand Prize winner for the day was Anthony, who received a \$25 gift certificate to Target. The second and third prize winners were Quintin, who received a \$15 gift certificate to Best Buy and George, who received a \$10 gift certificate to Target. Residents, as well as staff, had a fabulous time and are looking forward to the next Field Day! A big thank you goes out to Kristin and Greta for all of their hard work in planning this event.

Easter at the Ranch

Springtime is always an exciting time at the Ranch. The residents had a fun-filled day of dyeing easter eggs and participating in an Easter Egg Hunt on April 22nd.



*Resident Rod
searches for Easter Eggs!!*

Our residents are very creative and always enjoy an opportunity to show their talents. Dyeing easter eggs always brings out the competitive spirit in them. Each resident received three eggs to dye and decorate. The eggs were then judged by Mark Grover, our Executive Director, and the winner, Robbie, received an FSK Mall gift certificate!



200 prize filled easter eggs were hidden around the Ranch for the Easter Egg Hunt. The residents had a fantastic time racing to be the resident to find the most eggs. The prizes ranged from Hershey Kisses, small bags full of candy, bags of chips, bottles of tea, an Easter bowling set, a deck of cards, all the way up to gift certificates. The winner of the Grand Prize was Josh who won a \$25 gift certificate to Best Buy. The second prize winners were Quintin, who received a \$10 gift certificate to Regal Cinemas, and Andrew, who received a \$10 gift certificate to McDonalds.

On Easter morning, each of the boys received an Easter basket filled with candy and surprises!



Thank you to Kristin, Barb Andrew, and everyone who helped to make Easter special for our boys.

Visit with us on the web: www.msyr.org

Ranch News



Director's Message



Donations received in memory of:

Wayne D. Clark
 John D. Shaw, Jr.
 Mr. Harry Tonneman
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 All fallen officers
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 Seth Zebovitz

Donations received in honor of:

Gail Cody-Sims



If you are receiving a duplicate mailing, please let us know by calling Kristin Andrew at 301-874-4701, ext. 101, or by sending an email to kandrew@msyr.org.



Mark Grover,
Executive Director

As I write this message, my desk is littered with correspondence from the State of Maryland. The State is currently redesigning the Foster Care System. This will require every service provider, the Ranch included, to reexamine and redefine their programs. One of the exciting programs that the State is proposing is the 'Ready by 21' initiative. This addresses the need to ensure that children in the state system are ready for adulthood by the age of 21. One of the goals of the 'Ready by 21' initiative is "Maryland will have an infrastructure that promotes, sufficiently funds and is held accountable for the preparedness of transition-aged youth for college, work and life".

The Ranch has been diligently working to accomplish this goal. We have initiated many programs to meet these needs: the 'Fred Price Education Auction', our mentor program, summer tutoring, life skills training, work programs and many more. These programs are designed to ensure that our children are prepared to meet the challenges of life now, and in the future.

As we face this time of change, your support is more important than ever. The new programs that we have put in place require support from the community to ensure their success. The support of the community also helps our boys see themselves as part of a larger community. This is invaluable to their future development.

Many programs are focused on helping a child become independent. We, at the Ranch, believe that it is more important to be interdependent; to be part of a larger community.

**"No man is an island, entire of itself
 every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main".**

When our young men leave the Ranch they have had practical experience in becoming part of a community. They have not only received support from the community, but they have gone to school in, worked in, volunteered in the community. They are part of the community. This is a skill they can use to build an enriched life anywhere they decide to live.

Thank you all for your support in helping us aid our boys in reaching their potential.

Mark Grover, LGSW, CRCCPA

www.msyr.org

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.

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Flower Gardens



On May 12th, several residents began creating their own "Flower Gardens" right here at the Ranch. The boys were given large flower pots that they were able to decorate in any way they desired. They were then able to choose the seeds of their choice to plant in their flower pots. Some of the flower seeds that were chosen by the residents were Larkspur, Nasturtium, Convolvulus, Sunflower, Safflower and Gazania. The residents amazed the staff when they planted their seeds so meticulously in the flower pots. The boys are looking forward to taking care of their flowers and watching their very own creations grow!



"Sometimes when we are generous in small, barely detectable ways it can change someone else's life forever."
Margaret Cho

Ranch News

Marriott Gives to the Ranch



Once again the Maryland Sheriffs' Youth Ranch was blessed by Marriott as a bus load of workers, as well as many individual cars arrived on May 21st to volunteer by doing renovations and repairs for the day! The workers spread out through the entire Ranch painting the railings at Kimmel, painting the picnic tables at the pavilion, repairing the pavilion roofing, painting the fence around the barn, installing lights in the pavilion and landscaping throughout the property. The Ranch looks wonderful and a big thank you goes out to all of those at Marriott who took the time out of their day to help make the Ranch more beautiful!



Trees Planted at Ranch

In April, 1,000 trees were planted here at the Ranch. This event was coordinated by the Maryland Forestry Service. All of the trees were donated by the Potomac Conservation and were planted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We would like to thank each of the companies who played a role in this event.

Ranch News

Resident Updates

Poetry Contest Winner
Brandon

“Blacks and Whites”

Is it the color of my skin?
That makes you sin.
Do I offend you by the way I walk and talk or look?
Don't think you took my pride away.
I will hold my head up
Regardless of what you say or do.
I will still love you.
I will hold my head to the sky until I die.
Because I am black and I am proud.

But how I wish this wasn't so
There are still fights between the blacks and whites though.

Don't judge me
Or hold a grudge between you and me
Because of my skin tone.
Although my race is alone I speak for my race
I speak everyone's case.
I speak loudly and clearly
I will say it loud - I am black and I am proud.
But how I wish this wasn't so
There are still fights between the blacks and whites though.



June

Andrew - 24th
Quintin - 25th

July

Josh - 29th



3rd Term 2008 Scholastic Awards

Urbana High School Honor Roll

Jesse - 3.50 GPA
Brandon - 3.50 GPA
Greg - 3.33 GPA
Ray - 3.00 GPA

Heather Ridge School Honor Roll

Quintin - 3.25 GPA

Urbana Middle School Honor Roll

Josh - 3.00 GPA

Jefferson School Honor Roll

Chris. - 4.00 GPA
Roderick - 3.50 GPA
Anthony - 3.50 GPA

*Congratulations to our recent
graduates!*



Urbana High School
Brandon
Greg



If you would like to make a
donation on-line, please visit:
www.donationdepot.com

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