



# Back At The Ranch...



Spring 2007

Providing Guidance and Support to  
the Youth of Maryland since 1974

## *Easter at the Ranch*

The boys had a fun-filled Easter season at the Ranch. A number of the boys signed up to dye Easter Eggs. The eggs turned out to be so special that each of the boys won a gift certificate to Target for their hard work and artistic talent!

We also had an Easter cookout for the boys which included an easter egg hunt. The boys feasted on hamburgers, hot dogs, fried chicken, beans and Miss Regina's famous homemade potato salad and then headed out for the hunt. Eggs were hid around the grounds of the Ranch. After the boys collected their eggs, they gathered back for the prizes.



Each egg held a raffle ticket, and tickets were drawn to give away a number of prizes which included snacks, candy, gift certificates, portable CD players and the grand prize of a 15 speed trail bike. The bike was won by Chris. It was nice to see the boys that had already won a prize give the rest

of their raffle tickets away to boys that had yet to receive anything. As a result, all of the boys that participated walked away with a prize!!

A big thank you to ESS (Engineer Systems Solutions) for bringing easter bags filled with easter candy and surprises for each of the residents! The boys were thrilled with the bags!

## *Youth for Christ's "Impact 2007"*



*Greg Jackson, MSYR resident at  
Youth for Christ's Impact 2007.*

On March 23rd through the 25th, Arn Bjorndal, Executive Director for Central Maryland's Youth for Christ, took a couple of our boys to Ocean City Maryland for Youth for Christ's annual rally, "Impact 2007". The boys enjoyed the weekend, including the speakers, the music and the time spent on the boardwalk! A big thank you to Mr. Arn for his continued involvement with the residents of the Ranch!



*Melvin "Tom" Hamm,  
Education Coordinator*

## *Meet our Education Coordinator*

Melvin "Tom" Hamm has been the Ranch's Education Coordinator since 1995. Tom was born in Salisbury, North Carolina. His father was a pastor and director of a foster home and his mother a nurse. Tom grew up in Chapel Hill

North Carolina and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. As a child, he earned an Eagle Scout Award. He graduated from Gettysburg High School and in 1979 from Gettysburg College. Tom is married to his wife, Lenora, and has a son and two daughters. He is a Philadelphia Phillies fan as well as a former Baltimore Colt fan.

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# Happy Spring!



Visit with us on the web: [www.msyr.org](http://www.msyr.org)

# Ranch News



## Upcoming Events

Spring is here and people are ready to get outside for fun in the sun. We have three big fundraising events scheduled in the next few months. The first is the Fourth Annual Golf Tournament hosted by FaithPoint United Methodist Church. The tournament will be held on Monday, May 14th at Holly Hills Country Club. You can call Cindy Trawick at 301-514-3133 or visit [www.faithpointum.org](http://www.faithpointum.org) and click on the golf tournament link to find out more.

On Wednesday, May 23rd, Structural Systems will hold their Fifteenth Annual Golf Tournament. Over the years, this tournament has raised nearly \$200,000 for the Youth Ranch. This year's event will once again be held at the beautiful Whiskey Creek Golf Club (888-883-1174 or <http://www.whiskeycreekgolf.com>). For more information on how to participate in this event, please contact Kristi Woods at 301-271-3734 ext. 5303.



Finally, on Sunday, June 10th, the Mid-Maryland Ford Club will hold its Third Annual 'Round-up at the Ranch'. This car show is always loads of fun for both participants and spectators. There will be 55 trophies, 150 Dash Plaques and door prizes given out. Registration is from nine in the morning until noon and there is a \$10 entry fee. This event will feature the best in show in the car, street rod, motorcycle and truck classes. All winners of the show will be chosen by the kids of the Ranch. This year promises to be the largest turn out yet. With room for over 500 cars, there will be plenty of great vehicles to see. When you need a rest from viewing all of the unbelievable custom cars and bikes, there is a covered pavilion for relaxing and enjoying the great food, music and scenic view of Sugar Loaf Mountain. For more information please contact Dave at 301-570-2077 or Michael at 301-694-4721. In case of rain, this event will be postponed until June 17, 2007. The location of this event will be 7902 Fingerboard Road (Rt. 80) in Frederick, Maryland. We will look forward to seeing you there.



## Director's Message

What a wonderful year we have had here at the Ranch. Our newest cottage, the Kimmel Cottage, is populated with young men, our relicensure was an overwhelming success, we have a new church utilizing our multipurpose building, and in 2006, we helped a larger percentage of our youth transition to a less restrictive level of care than in the previous five years. Without the support of a giving community, none of this would have been possible.



Mark Grover  
Executive Director

Christmas was a tremendous success thanks to many of you. I have been lucky enough to be a part of the last six Christmas celebrations here at the Ranch. I can safely say that last year was the best I have seen to date. We had a great turnout from the community, the Board of Directors, staff, and family. I can not express the joy that was present at the Ranch that night.

I am always touched by the outpouring of kindness and generosity during this time of year. Year after year I am privileged to be able to witness a child celebrate Christmas for the first time in their lives due to the generosity of a loving community. This generosity is bearing fruit in our young men. This year, our kids decided to give back to the community that has given them so much. For Christmas, each boy at the Ranch donated \$25 to a charity. This represents a turning point for many of our kids. It represents their first steps into becoming part of a community and seeing themselves as part of something much larger than themselves.

I also want to thank a few people directly. A big thanks goes to Linda Clark for her hard work in coordinating this event. The joy and love she has is infectious. And finally, it would not be Christmas without Santa. Thank you Sean Parkinson for three straight years of jolliness. You made the night!

Mark Grover, LGSW  
Executive Director



[www.msyr.org](http://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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## The Ranch enjoyed a wonderful Christmas season!

Many thanks go out to all of the people that contributed to making Christmas extra special for our residents. At our annual Christmas dinner, employees and residents, along with our Board Members came together for a festive evening at Dutch's Daughter. The Board presented gift certificates to the residents and also had gifts for the Ranch employees.

Winter Wonderland was the theme for the residents' Christmas party. The evening was fast paced and fun filled!! It started with the residents receiving a game system, big screen television and cabinet from Matthew Hoffman to be put in the recreation room. This was a wonderful surprise that our residents will be able to enjoy throughout the year. Santa then entered the room and handed out gifts and stockings to all the boys - making their Christmas wishes a reality!

Thanks go out to Tim DeLauder, Robert Turner, Regina Davis-Constant, William King, Jenna Clark, Emily Clark and Mark Grover for their help in making this event happen! Thank you to Fredericktowne Baptist Church and Mary Ann Gouldin and neighbors for the home baked goodies, as well as to Miss Regina who laid out a wonderful spread of food! We also want to thank those that adopted our boys for Christmas, including Karl Steinkraus & family, Charles County Sheriffs, Engineering Systems Solutions, Montgomery County Sheriffs, St. Paul's AME Church, Goddard School, Christina Calantonio, Margarete Coleman and Assistant Attorney General, Holly Knepper. Many other people donated monies towards making Christmas happen for the residents, prepared stockings for the boys, purchased gift certificates or gifts for the boys - thank you for making everything so special!

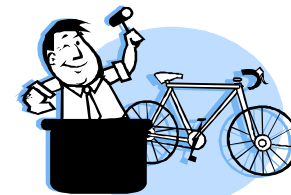
Poinsettias were purchased by Frances Townsend, Elizabeth Sell in memory of J. Robert Sell, and Webster Ambush in honor of St. Paul's AME church. The flowers added a special touch to our resident's party!

# Ranch News

## Educational Auction

Many of the kids that call the Ranch home have one thing in common - prior to coming to the Ranch, education was not one of their top priorities. Many of them have told us that they have not been to school more than two days in a row their entire lives. The Ranch works hard to change that dynamic. We have a comprehensive approach to education. Upon their arrival at the Ranch, each child is assessed using the PLATO educational system. After the assessment, the PLATO system sets up an individualized educational plan. This allows each child to learn at their own pace and helps to fill in any gaps in their education so that when they begin school they are on equal footing with their peers. In addition, the Ranch has tutors available after school each day. Our educational coordinator, Mr. Hamm, is in constant communication with the schools to ensure that our kids receive all of the help they need to reach their potential. Our staff also stands behind these boys offering encouragement and praise.

This year, we are planning a special event for our kids to show them how proud we are of their academic achievements. On June 14th we will hold an educational auction. Our kids will



receive 'Ranch Dollars' for their academic achievements (honor roll, attendance, improvement in grades, classroom effort, etc.). At the auction, we will have a professional auctioneer auctioning off various prizes. We are hoping this auction will foster a love of learning in our boys that will serve them for a lifetime. We are in the process of acquiring these prizes and are asking our faithful supporters for their help. If you would be interested in making a financial donation towards this event, or in donating a prize, please call Mark Grover at 301-874-4701 X107. Some ideas for prizes might include portable disc players, video game systems, cases of soda, gift certificates to local shops, mp3 players, sports equipment, etc. Won't you be a part of this event and make a difference in a young boy's life?



# Ranch News



## Donations received in Honor/Memory of:

Alpha Delta Kappa  
 American Legion Dorchester Post 91  
 Grace C. Avery  
 Brent Baker  
 Wayne D. Clark  
 Mona Lisa Clifford  
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 Charles Bishop Pruitt  
 Mae T. Rowley  
 John Shaw  
 St. Paul's AME Church  
 Betty Summers  
 Those fighting overseas  
 Suzanne Johnson Weed  
 James Windsor



## 3rd Term 2007 Scholastic Awards

### Urbana High School

#### Honor Roll

Jesse -3.50 GPA

Greg - 3.50 GPA

#### Commendable Achievement

Brandon -2.75 GPA

Dominic - 2.70 GPA

### Frederick High School

#### Commendable Achievement

Jamal - 2.75 GPA

### Tuscarora High School

#### Honor Roll

Keith - 3.50 GPA

### Heather Ridge School

#### Honor Roll

Andrew - 3.75 GPA

#### Commendable Achievement

Renake - 2.75 GPA

Robbie - 2.70 GPA

Steve - 2.70 GPA



**March**  
Damon- 27th

**April**  
Dominic- 14th  
Jason- 15th

**May**  
Jerron- 17th



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Tom first came to the Youth Ranch as the food service coordinator in 1992. Tom states that the Maryland Sheriffs' Youth Ranch has become a very important part of his life. He does his best to help the boys with their education while they are here at the Ranch. Mr. Hamm has kept in contact with many of the boys that have left the Ranch. Many of the boys, as well as the staff members, have become an extended family for Mr. Hamm. Mr. Hamm states that he is proud to be associated with this organization and considers himself blessed to be a part of the "Ranch Family".

***It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life, that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.***  
 --Ralph Waldo Emerson



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

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