



Back At The Ranch...



Winter 2011

Founded by the Maryland Sheriffs' Association

Christmas at the Ranch

Providing Guidance and Support to the Youth of Maryland since 1974



Deandre greets Santa

The Ranch's Annual Residents' Christmas Party was held on December 22, 2010. The party was attended by the residents and their families, as well as staff, board members, and volunteers along with their families.

The gym was decorated in a "Down Home Christmas" theme with sets of a small town. There were huge stockings along one wall with the boys' names and their gifts in front of them. E & E Tree Farm of Walkersville donated a beautiful twelve foot Christmas tree. Everyone enjoyed delicious refreshments served by Ms. Regina. Homemade cookies were donated by Middletown Primary School First Grade girls, Peggy Neeb, Janice Martin and Montgomery County Association of Family & Community Education (MCAFCE).

The following individuals and groups adopted a boy's wish list, or a portion of a wish list this year: Barry Martin & Family, Fran Townsend, Daniel & Carol McDougall, Robert & Ruth Bare, Fred & Roberta Chichester, Dorothy Clark, Casey Clark, Ralph Worthington Offutt, Jr., Dennis & Leslie Whitestone, William & Peggy Neeb, Robert Hallman, Joseph Morra, and MCAFCE.

Thomas & Leslie Wendorf, Robert & Linda Butcher, and Montgomery County FCE donated funds to cover the party. Frank Coviello, MSYR Board Advisor, presented shirts to each boy, Faithpoint UMC gave each boy a Target gift card, and St. Paul AME gave the boys each a gift bag filled with goodies.

The generosity of all who gave to make this Christmas a special one for the residents of the Ranch is very appreciated!



Middletown Primary School First Grade girls baking cookies for the Ranch Christmas Party

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



Trevor & Deandre dressed up for dinner

Holiday Dinner at Holly Hills

The Ranch held its Annual Holiday Dinner at Holly Hills Country Club in Ijamsville, Maryland on December 6, 2010. The party was attended by residents, staff and their families, Ranch volunteers, and board members and their families. The evening began in the lounge where the boys, dressed in their best, enjoyed sitting at the bar and sipping soda from long stem glasses. The group of more than eighty attendees then feasted on a delicious buffet meal served by the Holly Hills staff. Many thanks to Robin McConaughey and Jayne Bongard, Board Advisors, for raising funds, and to OBA Bank of Germantown and M&T Bank of Walkersville for donating the funds for the affair.



MSYR Board Members, Fred Maurhoff, Dave Clark & Valinda Hile

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.

C. S. Lewis

Ranch *News*



Director's Message



*Ricky Bowie
December 28, 1957 -
December 25, 2010*

MSYR Mourns the Loss of One of Their Own

Ricky Bowie, Ranch Maintenance Engineer, died suddenly of a heart attack in his home on Saturday, December 25, 2010. Mr. Ricky, as he was called by co-workers and residents, was a vital part of the Maryland Sheriffs' Youth Ranch. He had been employed by the Ranch since April of 2000 and was a very hard working and dedicated man. In addition to taking care of the grounds, buildings, and vehicles, he cleaned all the buildings, ordered all the maintenance supplies and scheduled all repairs. He would sleep at the Ranch in the winter to take care of the snow removal during any storms. Now that he's gone, its obvious just how many things he took care of. He also came up with many creative ways to solve problems. Mr. Ricky was a really sweet guy who was never in a bad mood or said a bad word about anyone. He was greatly loved by the residents as well as the staff. He had a special way with the boys and would take them under his wing. He set an example as a man of integrity. Although he was survived by many family members, everyone at the Ranch considered him family. Mr. Ricky was not only a blessing in what he did, but in who he was. He will be greatly missed!



*Mark Grover,
Executive Director*

What a wonderful year we have had here at the Ranch. Our relicensure was an overwhelming success, we were awarded one of the few Requests for Proposals (RFP) for group homes in Maryland. In 2010 we helped a larger percentage of our youth transition to a less restrictive level of care than in the previous seven years. Without the support of a giving community none of this would have been possible.

Christmas was a tremendous success thanks to many of you. I have been lucky enough to be a part of the last nine Christmas celebrations here at the Ranch. I can safely say that this last year was the best I had 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.

While we take time to enjoy the victories of the past year, we are also gearing up to meet the challenges of 2011. One of the biggest challenges will be to operate the Ranch with a budget that has been frozen by the state for the past four years. This year will be especially challenging because of our need for two new vehicles. In 2011 we will be raising money to purchase two new vehicles. The first will be a vehicle to transport our kids. We currently have a van that has over 150,000 miles on it and is in need of repair. A new van will ensure that we can safely transport our youth to and from work, doctor's appointments, and special events. The second vehicle for which we will be raising funds is a maintenance truck. Last year's record setting snow falls took a toll on our work truck. We depend on this vehicle to plow and salt all of the roads at the Ranch. Ensuring that the roads are passable is a big job and requires a reliable vehicle. We are reaching out to the community to assist us in our efforts. With your help we can ensure that the boys at the Ranch have safe and reliable transportation and a maintenance fleet that can keep the Ranch up and running for years to come.

Mark Grover, LGSW, CRCCPA
Executive Director

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



www.msyrg.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.

Board of Directors

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Bruce Dean, Esq.

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

www.msyrg.org

Ranch Needs

Below is a list of current Ranch needs. Due to state budget cuts, two very urgent ones are funding for recreational activities and new mattresses for the boys. We are also seeking funding to have the feral cats at the Ranch spayed, neutered and vaccinated. If you would like to make a donation toward any of these needs, please make checks payable to Maryland Sheriffs' Youth Ranch and designate to "recreation", "mattresses" (\$130.00 each), or "cats" and send to Maryland Sheriffs' Youth Ranch, P.O. Box 42, Buckeystown, MD 21717.

Other items needed include:

- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Detergent
- Postage Stamps
- Movie tickets

Donations Received In Memory Of...

William P. Hall
Charles B. Pruitt
Wayne D. Clark
Ralph W. Offutt, Sr.
Ruth E. Offutt



Ralph Offutt
Dewey T. Jordan
Helen Bennett
Maureen Butler
Clarence Kyte
Frank Linthicum
Bill Hall
John D. Shaw
Charlie Fowler
Charles B. Morley
All Veterans
Tom Thurgood
Betty Summers
Mark Nicodemus
Mark Wilde
Col. Joseph F. O'Brien
Mary Louise Coviello
John & Claudia Noell
George & Anna Heliman
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond L. Thomas
Margaret, James & Thomas Morrison

Ranch News

Board of Directors Corner

Your MSYR Board of Directors would like to use this forum to give you periodic updates and highlights of our progress and perspective of MSYR activities.

The focus of this column is our building and grounds activity. Although the year 2010 was a year of moving forward with many small but essential improvements, it was also a year of difficulties due to the weather. The record snowfall of last winter and lightning strike of the summer played havoc with maintenance vehicles and caused damage to our phone, security, and computer systems.

The Ranch was very fortunate to receive assistance and support again this year from the Marriott Corporation, Kohl's, EADS-Fairchild Controls, and Calvary Chapel Frederick Church. We thank these organizations for their ongoing support and their donation of time and supplies.

Maintaining our infrastructure is always a challenge, especially with the state budget cuts. However, your generous donations of time, talent, and funds continue to make the Ranch a highly regarded youth home facility. If you would like to make a donation to the building and grounds fund, please make checks payable to Maryland Sheriffs' Youth Ranch, designate to "Building & Grounds" and send to P.O. Box 42, Buckeystown, MD 21717.

Our current needs include the following:

- Industrial 75 gallon gas hot water heater
- New furnace
- Electrical service upgrade for a generator in the pump house

The Board of Directors and staff thank you for your donations. Our goal is to do more to ensure that our facility remains operational for our youth for years to come.

Michael Stauffer
First Vice President
Chairman of Building and Grounds

Ranch *News*



*Ms. Joyce & Ms. Linda
chaperone boys at
Summer's Farm*

Fall Fun at the Ranch

October of 2010 was a month filled with lots of fun fall activities at the Ranch. On the afternoon of October 15th, boys piled into the

Ranch van to head to Summer's Farm to pick pumpkins, ride go-carts, and find their way through the large corn maze. The pumpkins that were gathered at Summer's Farm were carved by the boys on October 26th. Deon won first place, Jonathan won second, and Chris won third place for the best carving. The pumpkins were displayed at the Annual MSYR Bonfire and Laser Tag event held on October 29th. Our appreciation goes out to Broadhurst Tree Service of Frederick who donated the wood and started the fire for the bonfire, and to TagParty of Ellicott City who hosted laser tag for the boys again this year. The evening began with roasting hot dogs and marshmallows over the fire and sipping hot chocolate. The boys and staff then played two hours of laser tag in the dark. The Ranch's annual Bonfire and Laser Tag has become one of the most popular events of the year.



*Austin has fun at the MSYR
Bonfire*

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.

Meet Our New Tutor... Mr. Robert Dickie

Robert Dickie, a history teacher at Damascus High School, began to volunteer as a tutor in the MSYR Education Department in August of 2010. Since that time he has reorganized all of the books and educational material and redecorated the library. He put paneling on the walls and added pictures, mirrors, and comfortable reading chairs with small tables and lamps, all of which were donated by himself, his sister, Mary Branscome, and his father, Robert W. Dickie. Because of the new atmosphere and Mr. Dickie's enthusiasm, the Ranch has begun having group reading and game sessions with hot chocolate and cookies on Tuesday afternoons in the library.



Robert Dickie



Our sincere appreciation to the following individuals and groups for their support:

- Penny Larson of the Pajama program for donating new winter pajamas for all the boys
- Carroll Manor Recreation Council for donating bed linens, pillows, toiletries, laundry detergent and movie tickets
- Montgomery County Association FCE for donating new gloves, socks, and various other items
- Gordon & Joy Reeves for donating canned goods, toiletries, & paper goods from their birthday party where guests brought donations for the Ranch.

Maryland Sheriffs' Youth Ranch
P. O. Box 42
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