



Back At The Ranch...



Summer 2006

Founded by the Maryland Sheriffs' Association



Richard K. Stone,
Executive Director
12/00 - 06/06

FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES TO RICHARD K. STONE

Executive Director, Richard K. Stone, announced his retirement effective June 30, 2006. He was appointed Executive Director on December 11, 2000 and has been at the Ranch for 5 1/2 years. He came to the Ranch after a thirty year career in law enforcement where he held positions of patrol officer, investigator, supervisor, manager and administrator. He was retired from the Montgomery County Maryland Police Department, and served as Chief of Police in the cities of Brunswick, Maryland and Lewes, Delaware. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Maryland in Law Enforcement and participated in Frostburg's University's MBA Program.

During the 5 1/2 years that Mr. Stone has been Executive Director at the Ranch, many positive changes have been implemented. Mr. Stone has been instrumental in the fundraising and design of the new residential facility that we broke ground for in April 2006. During the time that he has been Executive Director, he has increased the average yearly resident population from 14 (2000) to 24 (2005).

He has maintained and upgraded many aspects of the buildings of the Ranch, including adding a security system, new telephone system, intra-net and inter-net communication systems, and an electronic in-house reporting system. Mr. Stone also established our Transitional Housing Program, increasing our license from 24 to 28 beds.

Mr. Stone has worked hard to make the Ranch what it is today - a positive and safe place for the young men that are placed here. He is known for the high standard that he sets for the employees of the Ranch, the boys at the Ranch, as well as for himself. Mr. Stone has been a wonderful role model for the young men that are residents at the Ranch. Daily he interacts with them, encouraging them to always do their best. The boys, as well as the staff, are truly going to miss him! His contribution to the Ranch and to the boys that it serves will long be remembered. We wish him and his wife, Carol, all the best! Happy Retirement!

Providing Guidance and Support to
the Youth of Maryland since 1974

After two years of working with the Frederick County Planning Department, the Maryland Sheriffs' Youth Ranch has broken ground to add additional living space for our foster children. We are licensed by the Maryland Department of Human Resources as a large group home for boys 10-18 years of age and have been located on Fingerboard Road since 1980. We are currently licensed for 28 young men, but with the addition of our new building, may increase our capacity to 36.



Breaking Ground!

Board of Directors from left to right:
John Cornelius, Robert Johnson, Virginia Shaw, Dean Stickell, Ted Luck, Debbie Childers, Jean Flory Maurhoff, Fred Price, Jayne Bongard, Frank Coviello, KC Cromwell, & Michael Burrier

The Ranch was founded by the Maryland Sheriffs' Association in 1974 to provide a home for homeless boys. We opened our doors on a farm outside of Cumberland, Maryland in 1978 with three boys and a husband and wife providing supervision. In 1980, we moved to our current location. Originally, residents had to be recommended by a Sheriff for admission, but as the program evolved and the Ranch grew, the Ranch contracted with the Department of Human Resources to provide homes for children taken into custody by the Department of Social Services throughout the state due to family illness, drug abuse, physical or sexual abuse, or other family crisis.

The boys attend Frederick County Public Schools, catching the bus at the end of our driveway, and work and play in the Frederick area. Depending on their individual circumstances, their stay at the Ranch ranges from three months to seven years.

The General Contractor for the project is Bruchey Builders of Frederick, Maryland. Expected completion is early September 2006.



left to right - Timothy DeLauder, MSYR Maintenance Supervisor, Robert Berry, SSI Director of Safety, Richard K. Stone, MSYR Executive Director, Ron Cavey, SSI Director of Transportation, & K. C. Cromwell, SSI Occupancy Manager

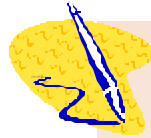
STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS, INC. DONATES TRUCK TO THE RANCH

On Thursday, May 18th, the Ranch was visited by K. C. Cromwell, Ron Cavey and Robert Berry from Structural Systems, Inc. (SSI) of Thurmont Maryland.

Structural Systems donated a 1988 Chevy truck to the Ranch! We are very grateful for the thoughtfulness and continued support that we receive from Structural Systems!

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

Ranch News



Director's Message

MARYLAND SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

The Maryland Sheriffs' Association held their monthly meeting at the Ranch on May 18th. During their meeting, the Maryland Sheriffs' Association recognized Executive Director, Richard K. Stone, for his leadership and dedication to the young men at the Ranch from December 2000 till June 2006 with a framed certificate. They also presented Mr. Stone with a Governor's Citation from Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. stating :



Chuck Cave, President of the Md. Sheriffs' Assoc. & Richard Stone

"Richard Stone, Greetings, Be it known: That on behalf of the citizens of this State, in recognition of a tribute to honor you for your outstanding service as Executive Director of the Maryland Sheriffs' Association Youth Ranch from December 2000 through June 2006 and for the exemplary efforts on behalf of Maryland's Criminal Justice System, the Maryland Sheriffs' Association, and the cause of preserving and improving Maryland's youth; and as our citizens join with your family, friends and many admirers in expressing our congratulations on the occasion of your retirement, we are pleased to confer upon you this."

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.



left to right - Herman Ingram, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention & Richard Stone with Governor's Citation

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."
-Leo Buscaglia



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

The Ranch is licensed by the Department of Human Resources for twenty-eight residents, 10 to 18 years of age. As of the end of May 2006, we are averaging 23.4 residents per month for FY 2006 (July through May). We currently have 22 residents. We continue to contact the Departments of Social Services throughout the state in an effort to fill our beds.

Our new building went out to bid during the last week of January. Bids were received from three local companies, and on March 9, 2006 a special meeting was held by the Ranch Board of Directors who awarded the contract to Bruchey Builders of Frederick, Maryland. The new residential cottage is expected to be completed during the first week of September 2006. All donations not otherwise designated will continue to be placed into the new building fund.

I will be retiring from the Ranch on June 30, 2006. I want to thank the Board of Directors for allowing me the opportunity to fulfill a promise I made to myself during the mid seventies. I was serving with the Homicide/Sex Squad for the Montgomery County Police when my partner and I responded to a call to check the welfare of a man who failed to show for work. We knocked on the door and received no response, but observed a curtain moving. We waited for a uniformed officer to ensure recognition and tried again with no response. My partner and the uniform officer positioned themselves at opposite corners of the house as I went to the rear door and knocked. As I knocked, I heard my partner talking to someone and when he asked her "Why do you have blood on your face?" I kicked in the rear door and entered the kitchen. I observed a male tied to a straight back chair with open wounds to his head and chest. I went past this person and entered the living room with my weapon drawn. I observed a female coming from the bedroom with a butcher knife, followed by a boy and girl four to six years of age. I pointed my weapon at the female and ordered her to drop the knife or I would shoot her. Today the voice of the little boy sounds the same as it did that day "Please don't shoot my mom". That day I promised myself that someday I would be in a position to help young people who live through such events and eventually end up in custody of the Department of Social Services who care for them. The Ranch is one of those places. We provide a home for young males who have been abandoned or otherwise traumatized by their parents or other family members and are in need of assistance.

The Ranch is only as good as the people who run and support it. With that in mind, I rest assured the Ranch will continue to do well in the future. Again, I thank you for your support.

Richard K. Stone
Executive Director

Donations received in Honor/Memory of:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mildred Abrams | John & Sarah McDonald |
| Jeanette L. Ambush | Tom Niblock |
| Brent Baker | Col. Joseph F. O'Brien |
| Wayne D. Clark | Ralph & Ruth Offutt |
| Parents of Cornelius E. Dorian | Willson Clark Poole, Jr. |
| Matthew Eaton | Austin Putman, Sr. |
| Nathan Ettelstein | Mr. & Mrs. William F. Rabbett |
| Dr. M. Friedman | William John Thaler |
| Mildred Kathaleen Gett Bielaski | Sandra "Sam" Welch |
| Stephen William Kelley | |
| John & Idella Leaman, Jr. | |
| David Lee | |
| John A. Makell, Jr. | |
| Sandra Mathis (nee Bready) | |

*Correction to our last newsletter
Virginia Shaw gave a gift in memory of
John D. Shaw, Jr. & Gertrude Melle*

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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John T. Cornelius

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Michael S. Burrier

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Virginia Shaw

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Robert Johnson
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Jean Flory Maurhoff
Robin L. McConaughy
R. Scott Mergenthaler
Frederick K. Price
J. Hunter Pugh, Jr.
Dean Stickell

Executive Director
Richard K. Stone

Legal Counsel
Bruce Dean, Esq.

On April 24, 2006, the Maryland Sheriffs' Youth Ranch Board of Directors unanimously appointed Mark Grover, LGSW, and current Clinical Supervisor for the Ranch, as the replacement for retiring Executive Director, Richard Stone, to be effective July 1, 2006. Mr. Grover holds a master's degree in Social Work and Certification in Divorce Mediation from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. Based on his cumulative 4.0 grade point average upon graduating he was invited to join the honors society of Phi Kappa Phi. He has also been inducted into Who's Who Among Students In American Universities & Colleges as well as Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals in Nursing and Healthcare. In 2001, he earned his License Graduate Social Worker certification. He is married with two children and lives in Frederick County.

Meet our newly appointed Executive Director, Mark Grover



Mark Grover, newly appointed Executive Director

Spring is a time for growth and change. I am reminded of this every time I look out of my window. I see growth and change not only in nature but also here at the Ranch. The physical face of the Ranch is changing as we have broken ground on a new cottage. When completed later this year it will not only allow us to serve our existing residents better but will also allow us to serve more children in need. Along with our changing physical landscape, we have a leadership change as well. Our long-time Executive Director, Richard Stone, is retiring. His tenure as Executive Director has marked a great transformation here at the Ranch. He has worked to ensure that the Ranch has a strong foundation from which to grow.

As the incoming Executive Director I am reminded of a saying that my grandmother used to tell me, "No matter how tall your father is, you need to do your own growing". Mr. Stone has left a solid organization that is ready to continue to grow. I am dedicated to ensuring that this growth happens.

The Ranch will need to face many changes in the near future. One of the most immediate changes is in the area of the children we serve. We are increasingly serving children with more severe and chronic emotional needs. The Ranch will need to change in order to meet these needs. It will need to incorporate a more clinical approach in caring for and treating our residents. This change must be made without losing the family atmosphere that makes the Ranch such a special place. We will need to ensure that we are giving our direct care staff the tools they need to serve our residents. This will mean more intensive training for our child care personnel. This brings me to another challenge facing the Ranch, funding. As the State tightens its' fiscal belt, the Ranch will need to find new sources for funding. We will need to explore grants and fundraising more aggressively. These monies will allow us to continue to provide superior care to our residents.

The Ranch is blessed with a caring, committed staff and a very supportive community. This will allow the Ranch to embrace the coming changes. We are, after all, agents of change and growth. We work with our resident to help them change and grow into productive members of our communities. If we ask for change and growth from our residents we must demand it from ourselves.

Ranch News

Marriott Corporation's "Give Back to the Community Day"



On Wednesday, May 17th, the Ranch was blessed to have the Marriott Corporation come for the "Give Back to the Community Day." Employees from the Marriott Corporation stained our decking, stairs and picnic tables, installed lattice and fencing, and weeded and planted our flower beds with beautiful flowers. Everyone at the Ranch was in total agreement - they did a tremendous job!!! A big thank you to the Marriott Corporation for thinking of the Ranch each year and to the following Marriott employees who participated: Folake Adeniyi, Mohammed Akther, Roberto Almelor, Paula Alvarez, Emir Amirullah, Gwen Bell-Kameka, Nicole Brizan, Lisa Chisolm, Jennifer Coble, Antwain Cross, Matt DiCello, Kevin Doyle, Galen Ellerbe, Donna Fickett, Ying Fu, John Geller, Judy Goldman, Jeremi Hale, Kayon Hutchinson, Ilyas Khan, Joe Kilty, Won Lee, Joan Lynch, Vinno Manikkam, Jason Miller, Azzy Nugmanov, Sean Ososanya, Beverley Seman, Jay Simon, Ed Skinner, Mary Sorial, Kyra Sosna, Kevin Strug, Florian Weigand, Claire Wong, and Chris Zoladz.



Ranch News



Spring Update

Youth for Christ

Impact 2006 - The Encounter

On March 24th through the 26th a couple of the boys from the Ranch were able to attend Youth for Christ's Impact 2006 - "The Encounter" in Ocean City, Maryland.

Arn Bjorndal, Executive Director of Central Maryland's Youth for Christ, who has been involved at the Ranch since 1998, was especially excited to invite our boys to this youth convention because the speaker was Reggie Dabbs. Mr. Dabbs had also been a foster child from birth until he was adopted when he was in the fourth grade. One of the main things he tells kids is "You can



Impact 2006 Speaker -
Reggie Dabbs

never change your past, but you can change your future!" He talks to kids about choices each of them are faced with like drugs and alcohol. He shares with them that he never chose to smoke, drink or do drugs - and that they can

make the same kind of choices! It was good for the boys to see a successful man who had come out of the same type of circumstances that they are in. The bands, Fusebox and Audio Adrenaline were at the convention and the boys enjoyed the music. It was a wonderful weekend to just get away from it all - and the boys were blessed to have the opportunity to go.

Youth for Christ also held their annual banquet and a couple of our boys attended.

A big thanks goes out to Arn Bjorndal for all the many things he does to enhance the lives of the boys at the Ranch. His dedication to our young men is truly remarkable!! Consistency is something that these boys have not experienced much of - so we are extremely grateful to Mr. Bjorndal for his faithfulness over the last nine years! The boys look forward to their weekly Bible Study and fellowship with Mr. Bjorndal.



Arn Bjorndal,
Executive Director
of Central
Maryland's Youth
for Christ



The Ranch is so beautiful at this time of the year with the bushes and flowers blooming! Thank you to Faithpoint United Methodist Church who came to the Ranch and helped to plant flowers around our buildings! Thanks also to Patti DeLauder who helped her husband, Tim, our Maintenance Supervisor, with the purchasing of the flowers.

At Easter, the Ranch was a flurry of activities! The boys participated in an Easter egg dying contest with Tyler B. coming in first place, followed by Chris S. in second and Chris B. in third!

We also had an Easter Egg Hunt where the boys searched the Ranch for hidden eggs with redeemable prize tickets inside. Justin R. found the first prize egg winning a gift certificate to Circuit City, followed by Damon M. who won a snack basket full of goodies, and Josh P. who won gift certificates to McDonald's! All other eggs had tickets for candies and small toys.

On Easter day, each boy received a sack of Easter candies including a Chocolate bunny, marshmallow peeps, and other sweet treats and were able to participate in attending church.



left - Dean Taylor,
right back to front -
Matthew Nam, Joe
Florimbio, Anthony
Florimbio, Tyler
Pearre, Greg Kuver
& Nicholas
Sparacino.

Special thanks go out to the Cub Scout Bear Den 2, Pack 369 from Kempton, Maryland for also preparing Easter baskets for each of the boys filled with candies, toys and surprises. The boys loved their baskets - it was like they were opening up surprise boxes - with each little goody bringing another smile to their faces. Thank you also to their leader, Julie Sparacino!!



Nicholas Sparacino getting ready to deliver
Easter Baskets to the Ranch!

Birthdays for the Boys. . .

June - James - 3rd, Chris - 5th & Keith - 20th

August - Brandon - 23rd

September - Joshua - 5th, Justin - 13th, & Nelson - 19th

www.msyr.org

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