Summer 2015

a place to call home...

Ranch Report
Published by the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches, Inc.
Another successful school year is behind us. Everyone graduated who was supposed to graduate, and all of our boys and girls are promoting to their next grade. Evenings full of sports events, extracurricular activities, and homework are behind us for a few months. Excitement is everywhere as the boys and girls anticipate the fun and freedom that summer brings.

The girls at our DeGray Lake campus are eagerly waiting for the lake level to drop so they can swim and canoe. You may not know this, but the girls at the DeGray campus built their own canoes under the guidance of master woodworker and houseparent Jim Fortner. This seems appropriate for a site that was once home to Caddo Indians.

The boys from our Reynolds campus and their house parents (and their horses) are summering at our Batesville campus giving them access to more activities and other Ranchers to have fun with. They are all getting along great, saddling up for a big horse ride over the weekend, and getting some time in with the precious black and gray lambs.

Amidst all this fun and activities, it is often easy to forget the not so pleasant part of our boys and girls’ lives, the unseen scars, and ongoing hurts. They wouldn’t be living with us at the Ranches if something unfortunate hadn’t happened in their lives.

When the two little girls living at Gratton Hall are jumping on the trampoline laughing or running around squealing, it is easy to forget that they miss their mothers and badly want to go home. It breaks our staff members’ hearts when an eagerly anticipated visit from a parent doesn’t happen because the parent doesn’t show up. Equally difficult is the knowledge some of our precious, gifted and smart boys and girls have no one, no place to go home to, no one to ever visit them. Our house parents spend a lot of time wiping away tears of heartbreak.

Staff sometimes hears the older boys and girls comparing stories of their parent’s substance abuse and their anger and sadness because they believe their parents chose drugs or alcohol over them. Some of these boys and girls ask to stay at the Ranches even when there is an opportunity to return home because they don’t believe their parents will maintain sobriety. We always say “yes.”

Many of our boys and girls carry deep, invisible wounds from the physical and sexual abuse they have experienced and the secrets they have had to keep. Some actually feel guilty if the abuse is revealed and reported and believe it is their responsibility if the perpetrator “gets in trouble.” We are blessed to have access to skilled mental health workers who have specialized training in treating children who have been victims of trauma.

Arkansas Sheriffs’ Youth Ranches are now housing more boys and girls than it has in many years mainly because of you, our generous donors. We always have a waiting list and daily receive calls from across the state.
Easter Party

It was that time of the year when people are dying eggs, shopping for Easter clothes, and hiding candy filled eggs everywhere in the yard. The kids here at the Ranches got a chance to experience that as well. Everyone made food and brought it up to the gym so we could all celebrate Easter together. After everyone had their fill of food the little kids searched for eggs in the tall grass. The older kids tried to help them find their eggs and carried their baskets for them. After the sun set, our older kids got to have a flashlight egg hunt to find prize eggs and candy. Everyone had a flashlight and a bag to store their eggs in.

Graduation

Having so many kids of such varying ages ensures that the Ranch gets to be a part of some of the most important achievements in their lives. William and Erin graduated from Batesville High School in the class of 2015 wearing a red cord for their achievements in Agriculture. Both of our graduates already have plans to continue their education.
First Community Bank hosted its 18th Annual Charity Golf Tournament to benefit the Youth Ranches on May 13, 2015. This year’s tournament raised over $20,000 bringing the total the bank has raised with this tournament to more than $212,000! We are very grateful for First Community Bank’s continued support of the children at the Ranches.

Arkansas Gives

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who made a gift to the Arkansas Sheriffs’ Youth Ranches using ArkansasGives! Thanks to your giving plus bonus dollars from the Arkansas Community Foundation, a matching gift from The Ross Foundation, and generous support from the Schmieding Foundation, we raised $13,706 during ArkansasGives! It is because of supporters like you that the Ranches can provide safe, healthy, and loving homes for Arkansas boys and girls who need it most.

Thank you also to Saddlebags Saloon for hosting its 2nd Annual Cruisin’ for the Youth Poker Run in support of the Ranches’ DeGray Lake Campus. We appreciate their continued support of our DeGray girls!

Two Motorcycle Rides Benefit the Ranches!

Many thanks to the Elmer G. Bradshaw Veterans of Foreign War for hosting its 4th Annual “Ride for the Ranch” motorcycle poker run to benefit the ASYR. Thank you to the many Marianna area merchants and participants who made this year’s ride a great success!
Supporters

Pepsi Bottling

The Pepsi Bottling Company in Batesville recently donated bottled drinks for the kids. They helped make our 2015 Senior Graduation Party a festive occasion for our boys and girls who enjoyed the refreshing treat!

Corvettes of Arkansas

Many thanks to Corvettes of Arkansas, Ltd. At their car show in Searcy this May, they accepted donations for the Ranches and also donated proceeds from a drawing to support our boys and girls.

Arkansas Department of Rural Development

Thanks to a grant from the Arkansas Department of Rural Development and a partnership with Arkansas Senator Larry Teague, the United States Corps of Engineers, South Central Arkansas Electric Cooperative, the Ranches DeGray Lake Campus was able to replace the main power. The new line is a welcome improvement and will allow for future development on the South Arkansas campus of the Arkansas Sheriffs’ Youth Ranches.

Dude Ranch Boot Store

Thank you to The Dude Ranch Boot Store of Mountain View and a very special donor who helped outfit our Ranchers with brand new boots, shoes and shirts today! Our boys and girls had a great time picking out the perfect fit and style.

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Cabe Hall

By John Briggs, Houseparent

Summer is here and most of the rain is thankfully behind us. We got so much rain that there were little streams popping up around the hills next to our house. After the rain stopped for a day or two we took the boys out to explore and discovered that a waterfall had formed close to us. The boys really enjoyed our walk through nature.

We had two birthdays in the month of May. The two boys ended up deciding they wanted to celebrate their birthdays together. One side of the dining room was decorated in a fishing theme and the other side ended up as a basketball theme. Ms. Angie was very busy baking and decorating two different cakes but in the end there wasn’t any left over.

Easter morning the boys woke up to find that they had all been left an Easter basket. Some of our older boys were excited to get a basket and told us it was a lot like getting a Christmas stocking but in April. The younger kids had their Easter egg hunt at the front of the house while the older kids had a little more difficult hunt in the backyard. Overall we had a very pleasant Easter.

With the onset of all this warmer weather the boys have been out fishing, swimming and riding bikes as much as they can. After attending the Razorback’s red and white game that is played to promote breast cancer awareness the boys are excited to find out what else summer has in store for them.

DeGray

By Teresa Fortner, Houseparent

Summer is finally here with all of its bright, warm days, and I am so glad that it has finally stopped raining. Recently the DeGray girls had the opportunity to meet with a photographer friend who took gorgeous portraits of our girls. The girls looked lovely and had a great time at the photo shoot. We took a series of ‘Sister Pics’ because we had 4 sets of sisters!

Our summer schedule is a busy one. The senior high girls have an internship program at our church this June and July. All of our girls promoted to their next grade level in school, and we once again have a senior – Graciela who has been with us for nearly a year and will graduate in 2016. Merissa has been in Prep Academy, the College Preparatory program at Henderson State University this year. Since school has ended, she will attend a 2-week summer day
Cottage News

Independence County
Batesville Campus
100 St. Vincent Place
Batesville, AR 72501
870-793-6841
Tours: Emily Ives
★ Cabe Hall
★ Keith Hall
★ Faith Hall
★ Gratton Hall

Camp at Henderson to complete her 2014-15 program. Trista has plans to attend summer basketball camp in anticipation of playing next year. Two of our girls have signed up for band and have begun learning the basics on their instruments. Trista has chosen the clarinet, and Nicole plans to play the flute, as well as basketball. Diana will be spending time off campus this summer as she prepares to transition home. Our newest girls, Aireyanna and Aliseyanna are looking forward to a summer slow-down and some playtime. Mr. Jim and Natasha, our 8 year old, attended the “Father Daughter Dance” at Centerpoint Primary School. They were all dressed up in ‘50’s costumes and had a great time. Earlier this month she toured her new school and was thrilled to discover some of the opportunities she will have next year in the 4th grade.

Recently some friends of the Ranch treated our girls to manicures and pedicures. They had a wonderful time at the salon getting pampered and painted. All hands and feet were beautiful, and afterwards the group took our girls out for a birthday dinner at Olive Garden. We love when our girls get to spend time with the friends who are actively supporting them.

Plans for the summer include church events and activities, trips to Magic Springs and a visit to the Mid-American Science Museum thanks to our partnership with the museum and a grant from the Arkansas Community Foundation. The dock, as always, will be a substantial part of our summer plans here on beautiful DeGray Lake.

Faith Hall
By Cheyenne Ingram, Houseparent

I looked up Summer in the dictionary and it said season in which the sun shines most directly. Here at the ranch it means so much more. It’s about chores that have to be done. Animals that have to be taken care of. Yards that have to be mowed, and mowed, and mowed. It also means lots of swimming, fishing, and fun. Faith Hall is starting out this season without one of our residents because he graduated and has enrolled in A.C.T. I. in Hot Springs. Change is hard but also exciting for our residents who have spread their wings. We wish William the very best and know he will do well. Corey, Keegan, James, Hunter, and Kaleb all finished school up with wonderful grades. I am so proud of them. Once again I want to thank the great teachers in the Batesville School District who work with my guys, they are so good to go that extra mile to help them out. Most of all thanks to all of you for supporting the ranch, you may never know just how much you make a impact with your donations but believe me we could not see children graduate and move on to bigger things in their lives without all your help. Thank you!

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Life at the Ranch Report

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he Ranch

Ranch Report - 9
All About The Kids

Brandon

**Nickname:** Bran-do  
**Grade:** 11th  
**Favorite Color:** Blue and Red  
**Favorite Movie:** The Green Mile  
**Favorite Subject:** English  
**Favorite Farm Animal:** My lamb  
**Favorite TV Show:** I watch whatever is on  
**Hobbies:** Sleeping  
**Goal in Life:** Finish High School and go to College  
**What I like About the Ranch:** The people.

Isaac

**Nickname:** Isaac-ina  
**Grade:** 4th  
**Favorite Color:** Blue  
**Favorite Movie:** Ninja Turtles  
**Favorite Subject:** Math  
**Favorite Farm Animal:** Cow  
**Favorite TV Show:** Ninja Turtles  
**Hobbies:** Fishing and Nerf guns  
**Goal in Life:** I want to be a builder when I grow up  
**What I like About the Ranch:** We get to go fishing and walk to the barn and I get to see my friends and sister all the time.

NEEDS LIST

People often ask us what kind of things we need at our campuses for the children. The following is compiled by our houseparents and staff. For more information, call Jenny at 870-793-6841 ext. 300.

- Sturgis Hall Kitchen
  - Pots and Pans
  - Cabe Hall
  - Picnic Tables
  - Bath Mats/Rugs
  - Microwave
  - Wall Décor
  - Large Skillet
  - Shower Curtain
  - Recreation Equipment: Skateboards, etc.

- Gratton Hall
  - Cereal Bowls
  - Baking Dishes (casserole)
  - Dining Table with Chairs (seating for 10)
  - Forks
  - Non-Stick Cookware
  - New Jeans
  - Curtains (12 panels)
  - Bath Mats/Rugs
  - Couch

- Faith Hall
  - Commercial Washer and Dryer
  - Lawn Mowers
  - Weed Eaters
  - Curtains
  - Outdoor Furniture
  - New Jeans
  - New Shoes
  - Recreation Equipment: Baseball Gloves, Skateboards

- Keith Hall
  - New Jeans
  - Microwave
  - Lamps

- Batesville Campus Farm
  - Wheelbarrow
  - Water Hoses
  - Livestock Soap
  - Sawdust/Shavings
  - Stall Forks
  - Automatic Waterers

- DeGray Lake Campus Farm
  - Gas Powered Log Splitter
  - Small Roto Tiller
  - Hand Tools for Woodshop
  - Oxy/Acetylene Torch Set
  - Cattle Panels
  - Fencing
  - Chainsaw

Needs List

Non-Cash donations to the Youth Ranches are tax deductible.
asking if we can place “just one more.” It is always hard to say no, but we are currently at the capacity that we can afford to support.

You can help us meet the need for “just one more” by making a gift this summer to support the Ranches. Or better yet, you can be a Hope Builder for our boys and girls by committing to a monthly gift. There is a form on the back of this newsletter to help you with your contribution.

There are so many boys and girls in Arkansas who need safe, secure and nurturing homes, and with all of us working together, we can turn a “no” into a “yes” for that “just one more.” Thank you for believing in the Arkansas Sheriffs’ Youth Ranches to save that “just one more.” We couldn’t do it without you.

Weaver
(continued from page 2)

Cottages
(continued from page 7)

Gratton Hall
By Patricia Holder, Houseparent

The girls have been on the go since the beginning of summer. We like to go out to the park or walk by the horses as much as we can. One of our girls, Erin, just graduated from Batesville High School. We are all so proud of her for sticking with all the work she had to get done. This summer is going to be full of activities for everyone and the girls are all really excited. Plans include going to the zoo, going zip lining and even going to Trampoline World.

The girls busy themselves around the house by playing and drawing in the dining room. I have even caught a few of them doing math workbooks when they get really board. We often get to go to the local swimming pool in town and the girls really like being able to cool down from all of this heat! With a house full of girls we end up having a lot of birthdays, and we have already had quite a few this year already. Our newest girls celebrated her 18th birthday and choose a chocolate cake for the house.

Emiela has been working up at the barn with her lamb, as of late. She hopes to eventually be able to show her at the fair. The younger girls don’t have the patience to work with animals just yet but they enjoy coming up to visit the lamb. On the whole, the girls have had a great summer so far. We still have plenty more days ahead of us to enjoy time off from school and we hope to have a little fun.

Keith Hall
By Ashley Holder, Houseparent

Keith Hall boys are so excited for summer time and being out of school! The warmer weather means swimming, grilling, bonfires, and fun weekend trips! It also means helping out around the ranch with Mr. Jake on work crew each morning, learning life and working skills each day! The boys are taking care of the cows and lambs each day.

We had several birthdays come up all at once. Brandon celebrated his 16th birthday by going out to eat with all the boys as a family, later we had cake and ice cream as a dessert. Dylan, who turned 15, celebrated his birthday at Loco Ropes with cupcakes. Our oldest boy Chris turned 17 and wanted an ice cream cake.

Needless to say after all the birthdays our whole house was a little burnt out on cake for a while.

The boys are excited about what all we are going to do for the rest of the summer. We are planning to go to the Little Rock Zoo, Lake Charles, Trampoline World, and Magic Springs! Summer 2015 is going to be awesome!
One of my favorite things about the Arkansas Sheriffs’ Youth Ranches is our mission. The Ranches’ mission was born out of a grassroots effort by our county sheriffs to give children who have been abandoned, abused, neglected a place to call home. Because of the nature of being a grassroots nonprofit, for the last 40 years The Ranches have been almost entirely funded through private donations from individuals, businesses, and foundations. We are eternally grateful for those who have joined us in this mission by investing in the Ranches. Because of your support, the Ranches have provided safe, healthy and loving homes to more than 1,200 Arkansas boys and girls.

We love sharing our boys and girls’ success stories with you in the Ranch Report. We love being able to show you that you have invested wisely when you have made a contribution to the Ranches. We love showing you smiling faces of boys and girls who are grateful for the opportunities the Ranches are giving them. Because when you invest in the life of a child, it is an investment that has far-reaching significance and impact.

One way you can continue to invest in the Ranches’ mission is by becoming a Hope Builder through a monthly gift to the Ranches. Our Hope Builders provide consistent, much needed support to the Ranches on a monthly basis. Becoming a Hope Builder is an easy and secure way to give to the Ranches. Just fill out and return the form at the back of this Ranch Report, select the Hope Builder box, and your gift will be automatically processed each month via your credit or debit card. Even a small monthly gift can make a BIG difference in the life of a child.

Another special way supporters have invested in the Ranches over the years is by joining our Homestead Legacy Society. The Homestead Legacy Society is for individuals who have remembered the Ranches in their estate plans. Gifts given through bequests (willed gifts), trusts, insurance policies, etc. have made a tremendous impact on the Ranches. We would not have been able to build and expand over the years if it were not for the thoughtfulness of friends and supporters who have remembered the boys and girls at the Ranches when planning for the future.

If you have included the Ranches in your estate plans, we would love to hear from you! Just check the box on the form at the back of the Ranch Report and return it in the envelope provided. If you would like more information about including the Ranches in your estate plans, please contact Matt Cleveland at 501-940-3440 or matt@youthranches.com.

We thank you for investing in the Ranches, and know that the boys and girls whose lives have been changed at the Ranches thank you, as well.
Eugene Anstan
Barry and Marie Butler
Tommie Anthony
Ronnie and Jane Duke
Barbara Arnold
Ms. Carolyn E. Terry
Annemarie Wolfe Avery
Mrs. Erica E. Sommer
Karyl Suzanne Bearden
LtCol and Mrs George Murphy
Scott Beisenstein
Ms. Cindy L. Newton
Terrell Bishop
Searcy & Associates, LLC
Helen Blair
Jerry and Melody Henderson
Scott Cameron Bradley
LtCol and Mrs George Murphy
Emery and Mildred Browers
Ms. Cheryl Maxine Cavness
Charles Cady
Ms. Bobby Simpson
Pete Campbell
Barry and Marie Butler
Ralph Canterbury
Ms. Diane Canterbury
John Carroll
Donald and Pam Boles
Dennis Cavette
Donnie and Clarice McMickle
John L. Chapin, M.D.
Ms. Bernice Chapin
Jesus Christ
Mr. Ernest Little Jr
Homer Cogbill
Ms. Connie French
Mr. Billy Bert French
Whitley Tauth Cooper
Jeffrey and Cyndi Tauth
Creed
Ms. Irma Nix
Melanie Cumnock

Mrs. Martha Williams
Mr. Matthew Cleveland
Ms. Patricia Cumnock Cook
Ms. Lou Neighbors
Jack Currie
Mr. Jimmy Cross
Brent Davis
Ralph and Angela Kyzer
Lois Deikl
Ms. Judith D Sholmire
Steve Dowler
Mark Coates
Angela Duncan
Chaplain Don Childers Mississippi County Sheriff’s Office
Rayburn Easton
Ms. Shirley Eaton
Preston Edmondson
Ms. Sandra M Edmondson
Eumee ‘Ed’ P. Edwards
LtCol and Mrs George Murphy
Fallen Police Officers
Mr. Charles D Carter
Dr. Jim ‘Mickey’ Farmer
Mr. Randy Lann Arkansas Furniture Association
Myron Farrar
Ms. Carolyn Watts
Edith Felsenthal
Ms. June Bell
Mike Fife
Ms. Jeanette Hall
Walt Finley
Kay and John Thomas
L. B. Franks, Jr
Cecil & Linda S. Smith
Dick Gilmore
Mr. Jimmy Cross
Patey Girkin
Mr. Jim Girkin
Robert Lee ‘Bob’ Graddy
Calvin and LeDon Bonds

Donny C. Graves, Jr.
Mr. Don C. Graves Graves and Associates
Robert Griffith
Ms. Linda A Shepherd
Billy Ralph Hasley
Ms. Pat Hasley Bennett
Dick Hays
Mark Coates
Louis Hinton
Ms. Euta Hinton
Lee Hodges
Ms. Pauline Hodges
Ron Hoffmann
Ann Hoffmann
Doris House
Mr. Mac E. Elms
Curtis Hutchins
Jim and Jennifer Sharpe
Sadiebel Shirley Hutson
Ms. Irma Goodwin
Jan Irwin
Mr. Jimmy Cross
Rudine Jeffery
Ralph and Angela Kyzer
Neil Jenkins
Ms Doris Lee Jenkins
Jennifer Kifferley
Ms. Sharon Shafer
Lynda Kimbrough
Ms. Bitsy Davis
Minnie Lee Kreutzer
Ms Mary Crowe
Don Lawrence
Tony and Stacy Gunderman
Charles ‘Chuck’ Lorffing
Fred and Marlene Dougan
Terrence Louis
Ms. Cindy Louis
Barbara Martin
Mr James B. Martin
Dale S. Martin
Ms. Cay Jones

February 1, 2015 - June 8, 2015

Our mission is to address, remedy, and prevent child abuse and neglect by creating safe, secure, and healthy homes for children.
Interested in Grass-Fed, High-Quality Beef?

Stay tuned to our Facebook page to find out when we will have ground beef available from our own farm.
Want to leave a Legacy for a child?

Please consider naming the Arkansas Sheriffs’ Youth Ranches in your will to give abused, abandoned, and neglected children a brighter future. Contact Matt Cleveland, 501-940-3440 for more information.

Our Speakers’ Bureau

We can provide someone to tell “the Ranch story” at your meeting or event. To schedule a Ranch representative to speak, please contact Matt Cleveland, (501) 940-3440 or matt@youthranches.com

Memorial Request

To make a memorial gift for a loved one, or to honor someone with a donation—Send in his/her name to Arkansas Sheriffs’ Youth Ranches, P.O. Box 3964, Batesville, AR 72503. Please include: name and complete address of those to be honored so they may be notified, and the name and complete address of the person to receive notification of the donation.

Privacy Policy

The Arkansas Sheriffs’ Youth Ranch is very sensitive to protecting the privacy of our donors. We do not sell our list and we do not participate in any telephone solicitation.

We only call donors when we have a question or wish to thank them.

Address Change

To submit an address change, call Emily at 870-793-6841 ext. 300. You can also e-mail her at emily@youthranches.com
Yes, I want to support the boys and girls at the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches!

Name __________________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________
City_________________________ State ___________ Zip ______________

☐ I wish to donate $ _____________ to support the children.

☐ Enclosed is my check  or   Charge $ _____________

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Acct # ________________________________
Exp. date ____________________ Signature ___________________________

☐ I would like to become a Hope Builder by making this gift a monthly contribution.
I would like to make this gift:

☐ In Honor of _________________________________________________
☐ In Memory of ________________________________________________

Please send acknowledgement to_____________________________________

☐ I have placed the Ranch in my will.
☐ I would like more information about how to leave the Ranch in my will.

You may also give online at www.YouthRanches.com or by calling 870-793-6841.