“It’s better to build boys than mend men.”
From the Executive Director:

Dear Friends,

When John Newton sat down one evening and penned the words to the timeless hymn, “Amazing Grace,” he said he was responding in worshipful wonder to how good God had been to him personally. I’m sure that is the reason when you ask for favorites to sing with a group – be it a youth meeting or church congregation – folks always seem to get this song in the mix – because God has been so good to them. Scottish bagpipers at funerals and weddings alike always seem to showcase this familiar tune.

The word “Amazing” is just that and defined as “to fill with great surprise or sudden wonder; astonish.” And that is pretty much the whole Webster definition. It’s all one can say about the word – but when you put the word Grace with it – “Amazing Grace” – it puts things in high gear. Grace is commonly defined as “beauty or charm of form, composition, movement, or expression (esp.) of God’s good will and unmerited favor.”

One of Mr. Homer Rodeheaver’s nephews made it to our annual meeting this past month and took a tour of the ranch after the program was finished due to arriving a little late. He was thrilled that this simple working ranch, began in 1950, is still functioning. Mr. Rodeheaver and local rancher, Mr. Westbury, provided the foundership and leadership to make this vision a reality.

Through the 61 years, others have sensed this “Amazing Grace” and desired to help this dream continue in reality. After all, boys have the same needs as they did back in the 40’s and 50’s.

Realizing that one is part of God’s Amazing Grace has a sobering affect and prompts one to do some soul-searching. It might not be politically correct to say any more, but we really are doing God’s work and enjoying His Amazing Grace.

And if that thought doesn’t wind up the hand dial of your “happy meter,” talk to some of the boys – they are wise beyond their years about this concept of enjoying God’s blessings on each of them.

Thank you for being a part of this “Amazing Grace” with your faith, your prayers, and your gifts.

Sincerely,

Ken Johnson
Executive Director

The history of Rodeheaver Boys Ranch would be incomplete without emphasizing the work and dedication of its longest serving board member, R.T. “Tommy” Clay, Sr.

2011 marked 59 years of service on the Ranch Board for Tommy. He was the assistant County Agriculture Agent for Putnam County in 1950 when the ranch was founded, and worked with the boys through the school 4-H program.

In 1952 he accepted an invitation and joined the Board. Later, Homer Rodeheaver recognized his passion for the Ranch and offered him the Executive Director position. Tommy declined but remained on the Board and worked tirelessly on behalf of the Ranch for decades to follow.

Tommy was involved in every aspect of the Ranch operations, from assuring that the boys had plenty of food to eat, to making sure the Ranch had enough money to pay its bills. Fundraising was a constant challenge and almost every Ranch function involved the legendary “open pit barbecues” by Tommy, (then Sheriff) Walt Pellicier, and the crew.

The early years of the Ranch were a struggle almost on a daily basis, in almost every area. However, Tommy’s hard work and leadership were instrumental in guiding the Ranch through some difficult times.

Because of this solid foundation, the Ranch was well prepared as it moved into the 21st century. In 2007, the Ranch presented Tommy with a “Lifetime Achievement Award” in recognition of his unique service to the Ranch.

Long time friend and board member, Judge Ed Hedstrom, states “We owe Tommy a huge debt for all he has done and to Lorene for being the woman behind the man. We wish them the best in life.”

2011 Marks 59 Years of Service For
Tommy Clay...Longest Serving Board Member
GIVING DYNAMICS AND THE MEANING OF LIFE

There have been numerous articles written by a host of qualified fund raising professionals explaining the psychology of how different emotions motivate people to give to charities. Some of the most common emotions attributed to philanthropic behavior are:

1. To help those less fortunate
2. To enhance one’s image or status
3. To fulfill a sense of obligation
4. To find meaning in life
5. To make amends for personal transgressions

While the above list may represent reasonable explanations of why people give to charities, we feel that the relationship between Rodeheaver Boys Ranch and its donors is a little bit different.

We believe our donors have already found meaning in life and give to the ranch because they identify with our mission of feeding, housing, clothing and educating/mentoring homeless, abandoned, neglected or under-privileged boys.

We believe our donors give because they truly understand the Biblical concept that the greatest joy in life comes from the satisfaction of knowing that your life has meaning when you invest your time, talent, and treasure to help meet needs of those who are hurting.

Donors, who give to charities because they truly believe they are making a difference in someone else’s life, always get back (satisfaction in life) more than they give.

This principle of finding meaning in life through giving to those in need is described in Luke 6:38, “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again (KJV).”

While we believe in and take advantage of modern technology that simplifies and improves the process of finding new potential donors, we also understand what attracts donors to Rodeheaver Boys Ranch and what develops relationships that last for a lifetime.

Our donors are like family. They come, sit down, and eat with the boys and staff. They listen to a young man describe catching his first fish in the St. Johns River, about riding his first horse, or maybe even making his first B, or even an A on his report card.

Our donors know they are welcome here. Like those of us who actually have the privilege of living here, our donors know that Rodeheaver Boys Ranch is unlike any other place in the world.

A loving God through the giving heart and generosity of a Godly man established this place, with a mission and motto that has stood the test of time. The programs offered by the ranch are still changing the lives of maladjusted, angry, hurting, young men by teaching them to work and fulfill personal responsibility in a loving Christian, agricultural environment.

Our hope is that every potential donor who visits the ranch will see what Paul Harvey saw during his visit in 2002. After spending a day and a half with the boys and staff, with tears in his eyes, he made the statement, “I did not know a place like this still existed in America.”

To all of you who help us continue on...

Thanks and God Bless!

SENIORS, AMOS BETONIO, BRETT BUCHANAN, AND ZACH DINA CELEBRATE THEIR GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL

Brett Allen Buchanan

Amos Ted John Betonio

Zachary Roger Dina

Brett is one of our staff children and has lived at the ranch since he was four years old. His parents, Greg and Lisa Buchanan, manage our vehicle program and Greg is also our Boy Scout troop leader.

Brett graduated from Temple Christian School in Palatka on June 3. He has been accepted into the Florida School for the Arts photography program where he plans to continue to develop his talent. For those who have seen his photography portfolio, it’s obvious that Brett has made a very good decision.

Amos is also one of our staff kids. His mom and dad are the cottage parents for Boeing Cottage and the family has been on the ranch for over five years. Amos graduated from Peniel Baptist Academy on June 9. While at Peniel, Amos has been a standout in varsity athletics, especially basketball.

After graduation he will be attending St. Johns River State College in Palatka where he will take classes to pursue a career in nursing. Amos was recently awarded the rank of Eagle Scout in a ceremony here at the ranch.

Zach is the only ranch boy that is graduating this year. He has been a resident since June of 2007 and has really made the ranch his home during the last four years. He graduated from Palatka High School on June 10.

Zach has done very well in the Exceptional Student program at the high school and they are currently working on an after graduation program to ensure his future success. There will be many challenges for Zach after the ranch, but we believe that he has developed the foundational life skills to meet them head on and prevail.
We Invite You to Take a Leadership Role by Investing in the Future as a Rodeheaver Dream Builder.

Yes, I want to invest in the future of Rodeheaver Boys Ranch.

Name:_________________________________________________(please print)
Address:_________________________________________________
City/State/Zip_____________________________________________
Ph:____________________________________________________
Email:__________________________________________________

Please indicate total gift/pledge to the capping:
I/We wish to contribute a total gift/pledge of $_______________

Please indicate payment options:
I/We are enclosing $______________as payment in full.
I/We pledge the entire amount to be paid over:

1  2  3  4  5 years.

Please bill: Quarterly  Annually

My/Our gift qualifies for a matching gift from:
(name of company)__________________________________________

My/Our gift is in honor/memory of:

________________________________________________________

I/We wish to remain anonymous (if this option is not selected I/We will be listed in campaign materials)
I/We would like information on naming opportunities.

Signature_________________________Date_________________

Rodeheaver Foundation
3400 Crill Avenue, Suite 1
Palatka, FL 32177
Rodeheaver Youth Shine
At The 2011
Putnam County Fair
Livestock Show and Sale

Rodeheaver Participants Top Out
With A Blue Ribbon Booth

Arts & Crafts Winners
Display Ribbons In Various Categories
Rodeheaver Boys Ranch is a unique place for young men to thrive. The Vehicle Program provides a way for the boys to learn minor mechanical skills and personal responsibility. The boys come over after school and study hall in the afternoons and help get the donated cars ready for the next auction.

The boys love hands-on learning mechanical skills and the auctions play a major role in fundraising.

Volunteers like Russel Terjung save the ranch thousands of dollars through the services they provide. Russ is an IT Specialist and helps the Development Department upgrade their ability to manage the ranch's database and he also teaches the staff and boys valuable computer skills.

Russ and his wife, Sharon work together to make their knowledge available to staff and boys.

Boys, ranch staff, and our many ranch friends contribute to the Ranch Cookbook. Volume 4, is now on sale. The book can be purchased through the ranch office or at the ranch store during our on-ranch fund raising events for $10.00.

Bill and Bonnie Huntley
Friends At The Ranch

Few couples have had the impact the Huntley’s have had on the ranch in its 60 year history. Their unselfish support and encouragement have resulted in being a part of a winning team that works very well.

Mr. Huntley has served on the board of directors for decades and took his turn as president of the board in 1991 – 1992. He also just celebrated his 90th birthday.

In 2006, Mr. and Mrs. Huntley provided the means to initiate, plan, build, and furnish Huntley Cottage. Cottage parents and 10 boys call it home.

This addition brought the number of cottages to 5 which enables the ranch to house 50 boys with no space issues.

The Huntley’s have been involved in all aspects of the ranch’s needs. Their interest in the horse program allowed us to update our paddocks several years ago and to improve our farm facilities in order to be more productive.

They have for many years made special recognitions available for boys that attained the school term honor roll. Their interest in education has been steady all these years.

Bill and Bonnie have also challenged others to insure the future of the ranch by helping plan for its maintenance and emergencies that might happen along the way.

Ken Johnson, Executive Director, states that “the Huntley’s are bell ringers when it comes to caring for others in need. Their concern for the next generation and its needs are apparent in all their conversations and giving. We salute them and thank them for letting us be part of their lives. We applaud their sensitivity and love for the boys who have come our way and will come in future years.”
The 61st Annual Meeting and BBQ

April 17, 2011

The 61st Annual Meeting and BBQ was held on April 17, 2011. The 61st Annual Meeting/BBQ began at 12:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer. Local bluegrass band, Wire and Wood, provided the entertainment, along with the wonderful BBQ luncheon prepared and served by ranch staff, boys, and volunteers. 3 door prizes were drawn and given away. The 50th Anniversary Savage Shotgun and the 60th Anniversary Henry Lever Action Rifle were auctioned off and then donated back to the ranch. A drawing for a 100cc dirt bike was also held.

Special recognition was given to Bruce Howe and his wife Ann. Bruce Howe was Homer Rodeheaver's Personal Assistant until Mr. Rodeheaver's death in 1955.

Mr. and Mrs. Howe spend their summers in Indiana and their winters in Florida. A special heartfelt thank you was given to Carlton and Ruby Spence for their help and generosity.
The 7th Annual Palatka Bluegrass Festival was held at Rodeheaver Boys Ranch this past February. Donald (Duck) Harper, who was the person who originally came up with the idea of hosting a Bluegrass Festival on the ranch, was also the first person to be honored as the Grand Marshal for the event.

Norman Adams and Tony Anderson along with their wives Judy and Susan, continue to lead the industry in promoting Bluegrass Music. Adams and Anderson have been a real blessing to the ranch and many of the bluegrass fans they have brought to the ranch have become some of our most faithful supporters.

Congratulations to Lilian Riggs whose name was drawn Saturday night at the festival to win the Martin HD 28V guitar. This is the fourth year Martin has donated a guitar to help raise money for the ranch.
Ranch Board of Directors, Staff and Boys Dedicate Langdon-Newby Activity Center

The new activity center that you read about in the October 2010 issue of the Ranch Wrangler is now open for business. After the formal dedication ceremony earlier this year the doors were officially opened and the fun began.

The building has proven to be an even greater asset than we anticipated. We now have a large space for Boy Scout and 4-H meetings and all the associated training and instruction. The building provides ample storage for our canoes, boy scout equipment trailer, and ranch water craft.

There’s also plenty of room for recreational pursuits, including table tennis, air hockey, billiards, or just a comfortable place to relax and read a book or watch a movie.

The activity center has quickly become a major part of our daily routine. That is to say it has become exactly what Pearl Langdon and Jen Newby would have liked.

We salute the vision and reality that was made possible by ranch staff, along with the Langdon-Newby family, the Miller family, and the Rodeheaver Foundation.
Mickey Westbury Entertains

Boys Visit in Her Home

Mrs. Mickey Westbury took part of an afternoon this spring to visit with the boys and staff in her home. She graciously gave each boy a box of chocolates and chatted briefly.

Mrs. Westbury, still an elegant hostess at 91 years of age, is the widow of the late Harry Westbury, the local rancher, who helped Homer Rodeheaver begin the ranch back in 1950.
Over the years there have been dozens of fishing tournaments at the ranch. With our setting on the beautiful and historic St. Johns river, it is just a natural fit. However, all of those tournaments were for the fishermen and not the boys.

Enter Jerry Shawver. Jerry is a professor at Florida State College Jacksonville and a member of the First Coast Christian Bass Club.

On a visit to the ranch in 2005 to speak to the boys about fishing, he heard that they never really had an opportunity to fish on the river in a real bass boat.

After speaking with other men in his club, the idea of a bass tournament for the boys was born. Through months of planning and coaxing sponsors each year, Jerry has organized an event with thirty five to forty volunteer fisherman and their boats who actually take our boys fishing in an official tournament setting. The tournament includes a weigh-in and prizes awarded in several categories. Each boy is provided with t-shirts, sun glasses, snacks, an opportunity to ride in a high-speed bass boat and of course the chance to catch fish.

The tournament gets better every year and has become one of the highlights of the year for the boys.
The SHADO riders held their Annual Field Day of Equestrian Instruction, demonstration and trail rides in March of this year.