

The Roundup



Cal Farley's
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"It's always too early to quit."

September/October 2008



Justine and Amber enjoy the Girlstown Block Party.

Girlstown Block Party Serves Up Food, Fun, Family Time

Girlstown hosted a fun-filled Block Party on one of the final Friday nights of the summer, followed by a family workshop on Saturday.

"The Block party is an opportunity for teachers, girls, parents and staff to mingle and have fun," said Robert Marshall, Girlstown's campus administrator. "It's also an opportunity for us to get to know the parents a little better and for the parents to show their girls that they are invested in the program."

The Block Party, held outdoors near the gazebo, was a huge success. Although the weatherman predicted rain, the evening event was cool and moisture-free. Each cottage hosted a booth offering a menu of their favorite food and drink. If long lines were any indication, the most popular food location appeared to be the dessert booth hosted by the staff of Black Cottage.

Amber, 16, liked the food booths. She also enjoyed having her family on campus. "I walked around and introduced my family to Girlstown staff," she said.

(Continued on page 4)

Youth Enjoy Summer Camps Focused on Youth Spirituality

Boys Ranch and Girlstown residents enjoyed opportunities to engage in spiritual activities throughout the summer. Many Boys Ranch students participated in Vacation Bible School, and about 60 others attended a popular church camp in Missouri.

"The church camp in Missouri was a Bible-based camp," said Ray Martinez, Boys Ranch music chaplain. "The youth experienced God in a whole new light."

Forty-one Girlstown youth also traveled out of state (New Mexico) for church camp. According to Dayana, 16, "The theme of our camp was 'Supernatural: Believing the unbelievable, doing the impossi-

ble.'"The weeklong camp offered youth-friendly praise music, service project opportunities, fun activities and a spectacular speaker who shared open and honest messages about God's relevance to youth.

A few of the girls had never been to camp. "It was way more fun than I thought," said Caroline. "We had a good speaker who related real life to stuff in the Bible." Caroline's favorite talk was about how sin can be overwhelming.

The campers participated in a service project helping poor families trapped in terrible circumstances. The youth picked up trash, cleaned the homes of elderly residents, and removed debris out of a nearby river.

The campers also contributed to a love offering for families in need and raised about \$1500.

"Our kids show who they really are in such amazing ways," Girlstown Music Chaplain Sandy Pape said. "They shine like stars when we are serving the world around us. They understand that, yes, they live in a children's home, and their lives are difficult, but maybe not as difficult as some people."

According to Chaplain Pape, Caroline had lots of questions about God before camp. "I didn't believe Jesus is God, but now I do," admitted Caroline. Although her decision was based on many things, she recounted



Hannah, Sarah, and Jodeci smile after a sloppy mud pit activity.

(Continued on page 3)

“Farleyesque”

President’s Message
By Dan Adams



This has been an extraordinary year!

We have had several significant opportunities to highlight the fruits of your support of Cal Farley’s in the pursuit of our mission, which is to provide professional programs and services, in a Christ-centered environment, to strengthen families, and support the overall development of children.

Recently we celebrated the 64th Boys Ranch Rodeo, our annual signature event. Watching those 90 youth of all ages who performed for thousands of cheering spectators once again validated the importance and uniqueness of what we do, taking those children as young as five years old, giving them opportunities to grow and excel, and graduating them from high school. In fact, the winner of the rodeo’s All-Around Cowgirl award, who has lived with us for 13 years, will graduate next year!

Rodeo weekend was also the annual Alumni Reunion and we always enjoy listening to alumni reminisce about times past. The Cal Farley’s Boys Ranch Alumni Association is comprised of a group of men and women who have, over the course of time, proudly exemplified the productivity of those who have come out of our programs. Tom Maynard, the outgoing President, and Michael Rogers, the incoming President of the Association, are men of high integrity and I look forward to working closely with them in the future to further the Mission of Cal Farley’s through our joint efforts.

This year, in collaboration with the Alumni Association, we are honoring four distinguished alumni who are not only shining examples of the productive citizens we tout so proudly, but also profound examples of the depth and the breadth of services and the long term commitments we have made over the years.

Roy Turner and Alvis Grant are distinguished gentlemen who are two of the original nine boys brought to Boys Ranch by Cal Farley in 1939, and Roy actually became the Executive Director of the organization in the 1980’s. Bill Sarpalius and Gary Hardy lived at Boys Ranch in the 1960’s, and have been very successful in their respective professional careers, Bill having been a Texas State Senator and United States Congressman.

Many of the alumni watched with great interest this year when we took in the boys from the Yearning for Zion Ranch in Eldorado, Texas. There were interesting reflections on how different this was, but also confirmation about how closely it fit with our philosophy of taking in children since Cal Farley was doing it himself.

In discussions regarding why and how we absorbed 73 boys along with the 300 or so we already had in care, the answer became pretty evident. We have done it for years. It was consistent with the Mission and Value system we have held fast to since 1939 – we have the infrastructure, the dedicated staff, the security, the credibility, and the support of people like you. Clearly, these assets have transcended time.

Tom Maynard, graduate of the Class of ‘81, told me, “That was Farleyesque.”

Lamont Waldrip, the Superintendent who worked at Boys Ranch for 42 years overseeing the care of thousands of boys, said, “Cal Farley would have done that.”

Going back to the question I asked in the last edition of the Roundup, “If Cal Farley’s ceased to exist tomorrow, would it leave a hole that would be difficult to fill?” I think that speaks for itself. I know you appreciate as much as I do the uniqueness Cal Farley’s offers through the depth of care in campuses, the breadth of services we provide beyond the campuses, and the long term commitments we so proudly cherish.

Adventure Program: Fun with a Purpose

Eric loves the outdoors. When he was given the opportunity to work in the Boys Ranch Adventure Program, it seemed like a perfect fit. Eric’s first experience with the program occurred last summer when he traveled with a group of adventure program staff members and other youth to the White Mountain Wilderness for a backpacking and camping experience.

“That was my first backpacking experience,” Eric said. “It was kind of difficult, but it was fun and exciting, too. I learned how to use a compass and a map, and how to survive in the wilderness.”

Today, Eric, 16, is a high school junior. He has lived at Boys Ranch 10 ½ years and he is one of two Boys Ranch residents working in the Adventure Program. He has received ropes course and life guard training in order to assist certified and licensed adult staff members working in the program.

According to Jason Hynson, director of the Adventure Program, the Boys Ranch Adventure Program focuses on developing experiential learning opportunities for participants. “The Adventure Program is ‘Fun with a Purpose,’” Mr. Hynson said. Staff members present problems and challenges to individuals or groups through organized campouts, backpacking trips, rafting, canoeing and kayaking activities, or by using a challenge course.

The Boys Ranch challenge course is a configuration of low and high elements constructed primarily of wood, large poles and cables. The course allows the facilitators to present each group with perceived risk in challenging situations in order to help them better understand the dynamics of individual and group behavior. The participants are encouraged to problem-solve and make decisions.

Following an organized activity, the staff members help the group process what happened during the activities and transfer what they learn into their daily lives. “If a kid is flunk-

ing class, maybe he can use the tools he learns here to apply to his study habits and actions in the classroom,” Mr. Hynson said.

The Boys Ranch Adventure Program was recently named Program of the Year by the Texas Experiential Resource Association.

According to Mr. Hynson, Cal Farley used experiential learning to teach life lessons to kids 50 years ago. “If a kid got thrown off of a horse, he’d have to get back on,” Mr. Hyn-



Eric rappels down a cliff during an adventure outing.

son said. “If a kid lost a wrestling match, Mr. Farley would encourage him to get back on the mat and win the next one.”

And now Eric is helping his peers learn through adventure.

“I like working with kids my age,” Eric said. “I try to have fun with them while keeping them out of trouble on the ropes course.”

Eric plans to continue using the new adventure-based skills that he has learned. After graduation in 2010, he’s even considering attending the United States Coast Guard Academy.

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Interest in Native American Culture Opens Up World of Opportunity

Daniel lived in Albuquerque. From a young age he was enamored with the Native American culture. When he was seven years old, his parents gave him a Native American flute for Christmas. He learned to play by watching a brief video lesson and by listening to hours of music albums.

Daniel has been playing the flute for almost eleven years. "I have a lot of fun playing it," he said. "In Native American culture, the flute was a form of communication. It was also an instrument to express feelings. I play it when I'm mad. I can't play it hard, so I have to blow softly. My heartbeat goes down, my breathing gets slower, and I get calmer."

Daniel has lived at Boys Ranch almost four years. He admits that his first day at Boys Ranch was weird. "I didn't think my parents would actually leave me here," he said. "I thought it was just a dream. The first two weeks I didn't say anything. Everybody thought I only knew a few words. One day the Dallas Cowboys were playing and we were sitting around the table and I said, 'How bout them Cowboys?' Everybody just looked at me in amazement."

"One of the main reasons I've stayed here is that I know that if I go home, I'd probably get in trouble - most likely wind up in jail. When I was still at home I didn't get into alcohol or drugs - yet - but most likely I would have. I also can get better help at school here at Boys Ranch."

Daniel is involved in many activities, including band, choir, the chapel praise team, and as a bull-fighter in the Rodeo. His vocational training



Daniel plays his native American Flute.

Indian lore, and entertainment. The Kwahadis have presented their colorful pageant of song, dance and stories of the American Indian to audiences across the world.

A few years ago, Daniel's house parents took him to watch a Kwahadi winter show in Amarillo. "They knew that I liked Indian stuff," he said. Daniel learned that the group was auditioning youth who could play a Native American flute. When Daniel said that he could play, they were dubious, but after his audition, he was invited to join the group.



"I play flute at the beginning of the show and during intermission," Daniel said. He also dances in the show.

Dancing and playing his flute with the Kwahadis is rewarding in many ways. The regalia, or costume that he wears, was made by his own hands, with assistance from his parents and house parents. Daniel has performed with the Kwahadis in New Mexico, Arizona, California, Oregon, as well as at Disneyland, Universal Studios and Yellowstone Park in Wyoming. This past summer he traveled with them during their 2008 Northeast Show Tour where they performed in nine states, from Tennessee to Vermont.

"It's fun to show people you can do something positive in your life instead of just sitting on the couch watching television," he said.

Daniel remembers one of the best compliments he has received. "An old Boy Scout master shook my hand and then grasped it with his other hand." The man said: "People like you make me feel good about how this nation's going to be run later on. I like knowing that we have kids like you who are actually doing something with your life, doing something meaningful and taking freedom to its full advantage."

Summer Camp

(Continued from page 1)

how the drummer in the praise band got her attention.

"I was watching him drum, and as we'd sing praise songs, he was so happy about drumming," Caroline said. "Afterwards, I told my friend that he makes me want to try being a Christian because he's such a happy (Christian) drummer. I decided to be a Christian. Immediately after I said that, I found a dollar bill on the ground. I thought it was a divine sign. I kept the dollar and glued it into a scrap book. I wrote on it, 'My Jesus dollar.'"

"Caroline made the decision that if being a Christian has the potential to make you that happy, then that was something she was interested in," Chaplain Pape said.

Girlstown Chaplain Mike McClung saw an immediate change in Caroline. "I'll always remember the joy I saw in Caroline, when she had given up the fight and surrendered some things to God," he said. "That night, the topic was 'Love Wins Out.' That was a great night"

"Caroline's story is so encouraging to me," Chaplain Pape said. "Sometimes we get hung up on thinking we have to do such huge things, like move heaven and earth, when all we have to do is just be who God meant us to be."

allows him to work at the horse barn.

"I love my job," he said. "It's rewarding because I'm training a three-year-old colt. His name is Kaw-Liga." Daniel's goal is to train Kaw-Liga to be a roping horse.

One of Daniel's favorite pastimes is being a member of the Kwahadi Indian Dancers. The Kwahadi program is a combination of scouting,

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08RGR

64th Annual Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Rodeo



Ninety eager and determined riders and ropers competed in the 64th Annual Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Rodeo. In the stands were thousands of family members, friends, staff and alumni who cheered for the participants as they competed for prize buckles and saddles.

The cowboys and cowgirls representing Boys Ranch and Girlstown, U.S.A. showed off their skills in various events, including mutton busting, and stick-horse barrel racing, calf and bull riding, steer stopping, and pole bending and barrel racing. In addition to protecting the riders, the Boys Ranch bullfighters, also known as rodeo clowns, provided comic relief throughout the two-day event with their humorous and creative skits.

The Labor Day weekend event ended on a high note Sunday afternoon. After the points were tallied, the winners of each event were announced and prize belt buckles presented. The awards ceremony concluded with the presentation of handmade saddles to the top three competitors. The saddle winners were Kaden, 14, junior all-around cowboy; Carla, 16, senior all-around cowgirl; and Blake 15, senior all-around cowboy.

This year's event was Kaden's second year to compete in the rodeo. He said hard work and practice were keys to his success. "I never expected to rodeo before coming to Boys Ranch," Kaden said. "Rodeo is fun and exciting, and something new to do."

Carla is a rodeo veteran. This was Carla's third year to compete, and her second year to win the all-around cowgirl title.

"I was really surprised to win," Carla said. "I worked very hard and I had a new horse this year. I give all the glory to God. It took encouragement from my peers and believing in me to earn the award."

The newcomer on the scene was Blake, this year's senior all-around cowboy. The high school sophomore has lived at Boys Ranch for only 10 months.

"This was my first-ever rodeo," he said. "I'd never been on a horse before I got here."

Blake competed in the senior steer stopping and junior bull riding events. "It took a lot of heart and a lot of practice to win," he said. "And it means a lot to me for my family to be in the stands."



Block Party

(Continued from page 1)

Jade, 13, enjoyed the costumes that many of the girls wore. "But my favorite part of the Block Party was seeing friends from school come out," she said.

James German, principal of Whiteface High School, enjoys coming to the Block Party each year. "I love every gathering they have out here," he said. "We feel that this campus, the girls, the house parents, everyone out here is a ministry for us. I feel like God has put us here for these girls to facilitate their learning, help them through a tough time in their life and make things better for them."

On Saturday morning, Cal Farley's staff presented a workshop for the parents. Terry Cooper, Cal Farley's program facilitator, met with the parents and led a discussion based on three questions concerning their daughters' future. The questions were: What does success look like for your child? What are the obstacles of achieving that success? In the coming year, what are you willing or interested in doing different from last year?

According to Mr. Cooper, "The primary

themes resulting from the discussion fell into two categories. First, the parents want their daughter to be a good person, to make good decisions in life, and to be moral, accountable and self-motivated. Secondly, they want them to be good family members, good mothers and good citizens."

Mr. Cooper held a similar session with the girls. According to Jade, the workshop was interesting and eye-opening. "Mr. Cooper asked questions, like what we want to do in the future," Jade said. Some of the answers she remembers writing include "living in a successful family and enjoying a successful career." She discovered that she shares many similar goals with her peers. "I learned that there were several people that wanted to do some of the same things that I did," she said. "And many of the girls have some of the same goals for the future."

Edmond Hicks, director of casework services, thanked the Girlstown staff for helping make the two-day event a success. "The Family Workshop is actually a beginning to some of the work we will do with the girls and their families over the course of this year," Mr. Hicks said.



Katherine and Skylar enjoy a few games of Checkers.



April, a Girlstown caseworker, enjoys watermelon with Markaivia.