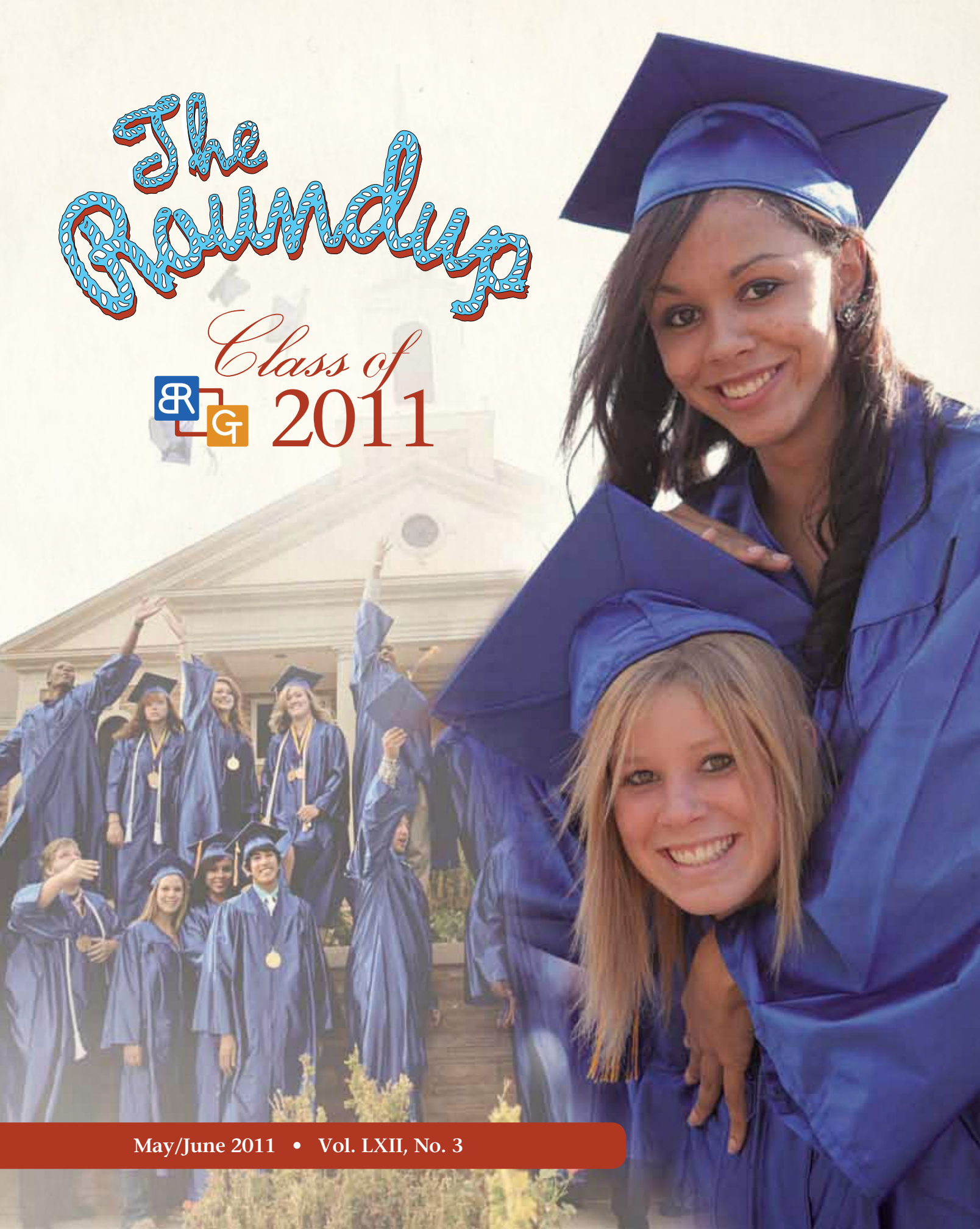


The Roundup

Class of
R G 2011





Becoming a Productive Citizen



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Note to Donors

"This whole thing would not be possible without you. It wouldn't be possible for kids like me to come out here and let our lights shine. Not a lot of us had that opportunity out in the real world. If I were given the opportunity, I would just say thank you. Thank you so much for giving your money to a kid that you don't even know to just make someone else better. I think God is seriously going to bless them." – Dejon Haye



I was taught something in college that has ended up being one of the most important lessons of my life. An English teacher had given the class an assignment and asked us to develop an essay on a particular topic and limit ourselves to 500 words or less. Well, I considered my topic so important that it far exceeded my desire to be constrained by a word limit. Needless to say, my teacher did not look favorably upon my 1,542 words.

These days, I am often asked what we at Cal Farley's ultimately want to accomplish with a young person. That question used to confound me because it seemed so hard to nail down in just a few words, but then I remembered how too many words can obscure the message. So, I just stick with age old American values and respond that we want to create a path for a child to become a "productive citizen."

Most people say, "Well, that sounds great to me." But, if anyone wishes to carry the conversation on further by asking what a productive citizen is, I go straight back to my menu of basic American values and start listing them: belief in God, completing one's education, work ethic, the capacity to make decisions, the capacity to cope with stress, honesty, and respect: those are the attributes of a productive citizen.

It is not easy to send our youth out into a world that shows little tolerance for fledgling citizens. In fact, life can be downright brutal to these young people who will be counted on to keep our communities strong and vibrant in the future. But, we don't spend a lot of time making excuses for them, as that just breeds victimization. At Cal Farley's, we work very hard, sometimes making mountains out of molehills, just to give them the basic tools they need and the opportunity to use their God-given talents to make a go of it. I bet my freshman English teacher would even give to that cause.

It is my belief that after reading about each of our seniors you will feel the overwhelming sense of pride that we all feel concerning their individual successes. Your investment into their future has made a real difference. So please, enjoy this newsletter and take special note of their words of thanks to you. What you do truly does make a difference.

Dan Adams
 President and CEO



Cal Farley's

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Second Annual Cattle Roundup Provides Adventurous Experience

The second annual Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Cattle Roundup was held in May. The boys and girls worked cattle for two days, ate all of their meals off two chuck wagons, and enjoyed a campfire campout and a Sunday morning sunrise service. The Roundup is a fine example of the adventure aspect of the Cal Farley's Model of Leadership and Service™. Adventure encircles all we do and encourages risk, innovation, laughter and fun so children can learn the important balance between work and play, and find excitement in life experiences regardless of whether one is working or playing.

YLO Receives Broader View

The Boys Ranch Youth Leadership Organization visited Hershey, Pennsylvania over Spring Break. They visited a similar child care organization and spent time with the youth leadership there to discuss ideas and gather information on how to improve both programs. Two points they brought back with them is to engage in more campus-wide service projects and establish regular meetings with the Boys Ranch senior administration. Pictured is the group with Representative Mac Thornberry in Washington, D.C. where they detoured for a day of tourist fun.



Officers for the 2011/2012 school year:

Chris – President

Trey – Vice President

Hannah – Secretary/Treasurer

The group already has service projects scheduled four days a week throughout the summer.



Note to Donors

"I don't want to call those who give, 'donors,' and I don't think Cal Farley would have wanted to call them donors either. I think he wanted to call them 'investors' because literally, their dollars are investing in the change of the next generation. They are investing in America's future." – Staff Sargent Dru Cirio, Boys Ranch alum



Boys Ranch Fire Department Keeps Busy with Wildfires

Between April 9 and June 1, The Boys Ranch Fire Department (BRFD) has been called out to 12 wildfires and has spent 42 hours on-scene. The largest wildfire they assisted in fighting this season was over 13,000 acres.

Pictured are BRFD volunteer firefighters (all of which are also Boys Ranch staff) Mike Pacino, Troy Williams, John David Vaughn, Dona Williams, Leon Hollis, James Layman and Rachel Stockstill. In addition, each year the boys and girls may become volunteer firefighters. This year, there are 23 youth who are training and recently participated in statewide competitions. Kolby and Joseph, two of our resident BRFD volunteers, will attend the Texas Municipal Fire Training School this summer.

Boys Ranch Class of 2011

Jonathon Cumpston



Jonathon grew up without a dad. Although he and his mother have a very close relationship, he needed more guidance than she could provide. "I was getting in a lot of trouble," he recalls. "My grandpa suggested Boys Ranch to my mom."

He said the transition was hard for him at first. "I realized this was for the long-term and not just summer camp. I was really sad, especially seeing my mom crying, but I was new and I didn't want to show anyone that I was weak so I waited until that night when I was in my room and then I cried like a baby."

Jonathon said that there is less opportunity for him to get into trouble now, "especially with the tools that Boys Ranch has taught me." He explains, "I've learned that it doesn't matter what other people say. I don't need anybody to tell me whether I am cool or not because I know who I am. I've also learned how to get up on my own and how to have more responsibility in taking care of myself."

Jonathon plans to attend college to become a sports trainer or study sports medicine. "Boys Ranch has changed my life. Before I came out here, I had started getting involved with drugs. I thought it would make me cool and help me to fit in. I never would have joined the school football team, or played basketball, but I have done all of those things at Boys Ranch. I go to church every Sunday, and I would have never done that while I was home. The opportunities I get, it is all greatly appreciated by me."

"I've known Jonathon Cumpston for six years. During his days at Mize Home, he was out of control. Today he is a changed person. It's been awesome to watch him grow and mature into the young man he is today!" – Joshua Clay, success coach

Westley Gazley



Wes is from Sierra Vista, Arizona. He arrived at Boys Ranch during his 8th grade year and says he adjusted well. "I like it here, but I am ready to go," he said. Wes plans to attend New Mexico State University, Alamogordo, and major in chemistry. He hopes to become a civilian contractor for the military.

Lori Hash



Lori arrived at Boys Ranch when she was 10 years old. She has remained active in several sports including tennis, basketball and cross country.

When she graduates, she plans to live in the Cal Farley's Alumni Support Independent Living Center (ASC) and attend college. She plans to become a nurse and work in neonatal intensive care.

"I'm going to miss the support I receive here. It's been nice to be a part of this family and having my friends around. Everyone here has been very helpful and giving."

"I have watched Lori blossom into a beautiful, outgoing young lady over the last five years. When I began, she would not even speak to me and may have even said she hated me. Over the years, she has broken out of her shell. You can always find her greeting others with a friendly smile and hello. I am so proud of her!" – Tiffany Carpenter, clinical intervention specialist

Simone Haughton



Simone is the campus song bird. She always has a smile and something nice to say. She came to live at Boys Ranch during the summer of 2009, and she came all the way from Brooklyn, New York.

"I didn't have the best times of my life here, but it was still an amazing experience. If it wasn't for Boys Ranch, I would not be graduating right now," she said.

Simone plans to return to Brooklyn and attend college while she pursues her singing career. She is going to major in nursing and she wants to become a gospel singer.

"Simone came to STARR with half a credit last fall. She has focused and worked hard to complete all her credits. It has not been easy but she puts on a smile and is focused on the future. She knows that she deserves a better life. She has a beautiful voice and I love to hear her sing. When I see her now she will sing to me, 'Guess who is about to graduate ... me!'" – Shelly Allen, principal, BRISD Alternative Services



Simone sings with 2010 American Idol contestant, Lacey Brown

Dejon Haye



Dejon is a charismatic young man who excels in most anything in which he decides to participate. But he wasn't always that way.

"I had behavior issues," the Waukegan, Illinois native admits. In fact, Dejon's life was not headed down a positive path at all. It continued to be a rocky path for several years even after he came to live at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch in 2006.

"I had to grow up too early and I was kind of immature toward the challenge, but as life went on, I finally learned I needed to start making bigger steps in my life that were better for me. I figured Boys Ranch was the only possibility of becoming a better person and actually growing up the way I needed." Thereafter, Dejon began to progress wonderfully.

Since his stay at Boys Ranch, he has realized that life really is what you choose to make of it, and this has certainly empowered him. "I am starting to see how the world works and what new challenges the world has waiting for me out there. I am excited to get to the point where I can be independent enough to help other people."

His independence soon will be tested when he arrives at Midwestern State University, where he has officially signed to play football next year. He will be allowed to try out for both wide receiver and defensive back positions, and he plans to major in computer science.

"It's a blessing from God. I've worked so hard for it. It sometimes got tiring and depressing, and I sometimes wanted to give up, but there were people out here that weren't giving up on me and they were still fighting for me. That's what I appreciate so much about Boys Ranch. They said, 'Hey, we're going to do whatever it takes to take care of you.'"

Dejon has enjoyed many successes while at Boys Ranch, the best of which is his transformation into becoming a leader. "When I get to MSU, I want to put myself in the same situation that I did at Boys Ranch and become successful. That's a big goal of mine right now."

"Dejon has grown into an awesome young man who has a heart of gold and the maturity to match." – Katherine Ford, caseworker

"Dejon is very driven and willing to do whatever it takes to make things happen. He has become focused on academics and his future." – Shelly Allen, principal, BRISD Alternative Services

Note to *Donors*

"In everything in my life, I can go back to something I learned from the Cal Farley's organization. In all of the darkest forests that I have wandered in my life, I can still find light in Cal Farley's words. 'It's not where you've been, but where you're going that counts.' You are literally investing in the people who are going to change the world." – Staff Sargent Dru Cirio, Boys Ranch alum

Ashley Herman



Ashley came to live at Cal Farley's at age six, with her sister, who at the time was just three. Ashley's father died several years before and her mother struggled to care for her, her sister, and their three other siblings. Although her sister, Jessica, lives in a different home at Boys Ranch, she visits Ashley daily to watch movies or eat dinner.

Leaving Boys Ranch after 11 years will be a little scary, according to Ashley. "Our whole class this year has been together since elementary or middle school. I'm scared to leave something I've known forever, but I'm ready to experience something new."

She wants to become a physical therapist and then work her way through school to become a pediatrician.



Alejandro Molina



Alex and four of his siblings came to live at Boys Ranch nearly a decade ago. The family was from Compton, California, about as rough as a hometown can get, and their single mother was worried for their safety.

He was in the fourth grade at the time of his arrival. "I struggled in the beginning, but then I realized that everything is a lot easier once you begin behaving," he explained.

Alex has flourished over the years. He served as the Roughriders' team mascot, played tennis, participated in cross country, is a Sunday School teacher, was in the Spanish Club, and he's remained on the A/B honor roll. Alex served as president of the Youth Leadership Organization and played an integral role in securing a grant for more than \$16,000 for a recycling trailer for Boys Ranch. He also has helped launch an extensive campus-wide recycling program.

"I wanted to make a difference in people's lives," he explained. "Boys Ranch is a small start, but it can grow."

Alex recently spoke with the senior administration and petitioned them to allow him to work off campus at a clothing store in nearby Amarillo so that he may save for college expenses. He is the first to be allowed to do so. He plans to move to Michigan and attend Davenport University where he will major in business marketing. This summer, he will live in the Cal Farley's ASC and intern in the Cal Farley's communications department. He said after graduation from college he wishes to work his way up into senior management of a large corporation. He also dreams of opening his own photography business someday.

Carla Hulen



Carla and her twin brother Carl came to live at Cal Farley's on their third birthday. Boys Ranch is the only home Carla has ever really known, but that doesn't change the fact that she faced a very long and trying healing process.

"At first I was mad at my mom. We are her kids and it shouldn't be this way, but honestly, when I came to Boys Ranch I knew it would be different. I wouldn't have to

worry anymore. I love my mom, she's still my mom, but Carl and I being in this situation was a whole lot better."

Carl was her stronghold, especially in the beginning. "When we first came to live here, I wouldn't talk to anybody," Carla recalls. "I was closed in my own little shell. I didn't want to play; I would barely eat when he wasn't around, so they moved him into my home for a short time. Then, I got into the horse program and I started opening up."

Carla began training a colt and, "from that day on, I changed," she said. "The colt's mom died in a storm when it was really little so I got to bottle feed it until it got old enough. Then, I started riding him. I was the only person he'd allow to ride him without him bucking me off or biting me or kicking at me when I tried to saddle him. I didn't know what it was, but that horse would not let anyone else near him. I kind of relate myself to him because we both lost our mom, well his actually died, but you know, we both lost that figure in our lives."

Every time Carla saddles her horse, she is reminded of her ability to achieve, as she has won the Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Rodeo All-Around Cowgirl saddle two times. Though she has experienced countless achievements over the years, she notes that the Christ-centered approach is what will remain her biggest take-away from her time at BR. "Before rodeo and rodeo practices, we pray. Everything here is centered on Christ. It makes me who I am today; with a servant heart, I guess. I really want to help people and I think that is where that came from."

After 15 years, she said she is ready to leave the home she has made for herself at Boys Ranch. "It's exciting, but I'm as terrified



as any senior normally is to leave the place I have relied on for so long. I think it's going to be bumpy, and I think I'm really going to have to work hard. I don't mean this to sound wrong, but I don't have the support that other kids do that come from a normal family setting where they have everyone there to support them. It's going to be hard getting on my feet, but with what I've learned, I can do it. I know that they have prepared me very well for what's coming."

Carla is confident that she still will have the support from Cal Farley's that she needs. She will receive college scholarships to pursue her dream of working in equine-assisted therapy. "My being involved in the horse program at BR changed my whole life, and how much that helped me, makes me want to carry that on for other kids."

Carl Hulen



"The day Carl left Boys Ranch to go to the Cal Farley's ASC; he told me that he was so proud of himself. He told me that he was the first person in his family to graduate from high school. He made a promise to Carla, his twin sister, that he would stay at BR and graduate. He graduated a few months before her and he kept that promise!"
— Jessica Bohannon, caseworker

Jade Long



Jade was raised by several family members before arriving at Boys Ranch at age 16. She never experienced any real consistency in her life, with the exception of too much freedom, so Jade had a hard time adjusting to the rules of Boys Ranch. "Getting over the lack of freedom was pretty tough," she recalls. But Jade has a heart of gold and she easily recognizes a need in others and she does what she can to help. She is a seasoned missionary, already having served as far away as Malawi, Africa. (To read more on Jade's mission work, please visit <http://calfarley.org/news/Documents/SeptOct2010.pdf>)

"Doing service work makes me realize that I made a lot of my own problems," she said. "Mr. Nation (her house parent) helps me so much. I can talk to him, and I know he is not going to judge me. He tells me, 'I still love you and I know God still loves you.' He's taught me how to have a healthy relationship. He also taught me that I shouldn't work so hard at making things more difficult in my life."

Jade plans to attend Texas A&M University in Galveston and major in maritime administration. She wishes to become a lawyer representing eco-friendly groups.

"I never really worked at anything, and in some ways I am still drinking out of a sippy cup, but now, I know that I should. This is the first stable place I've ever been."

LaQuan McGowan



LaQuan recalls being a young boy home alone one evening when gunfire exploded on his street. He looked outside and saw a neighborhood kid shot and bleeding. The boy kept screaming for someone to help him, but LaQuan didn't know what to do. "The next day I found out that he died," he recalled. "I felt terrible."

LaQuan came to Boys Ranch soon after. He had lived with his mother and grandmother

in Dallas. His transition was anything but easy, but that was nothing new, as his size had always made his everyday experiences more challenging.

Over these many years, LaQuan has grown from a boy to a young man; though his body had long since been the latter. "Fitting in" was no small task when each day his seat in a classroom was at a desk across the room from his peers because their seats were far too small to fit his large frame. For a while, LaQuan needed instruction on gentleness and how to handle being teased – whether real or simply perceived, as his guard was always up.

LaQuan has since experienced countless achievements, in fact there are way too many to list. His coaches explain that once he understood where and how to channel his abilities, he simply took off. He's a state gold medalist – twice over – in track and field, and has set new school records. He's an area MVP in basketball (averaging a double-double), and he's been recruited to play football for Baylor University.

LaQuan is a testament of absolute power. Though he towers at 6 feet and 8 inches tall and he wears a size 21 athletic shoe, "My purpose is in the church," LaQuan states with solid conviction. The Bible verses he has written on his shoes tell far more about LaQuan and his passion, and they are a good match to his tattered, note-laden Bible.

LaQuan works hard to remain humble through all his successes and he centers himself with just one focus: "In all I do, I always keep God No. 1," because LaQuan is equally driven to strive for his dream career – to become a youth minister.

"A lot of people cry at graduation. I usually don't cry in emotional situations, but I don't know about this one. Boys Ranch has been home for me."



Note to Donors

"Thank you for all you've done. I hope you understand how much that really does come from the heart." – LaQuan McGowan

Sayvon Munnerlyn



Sayvon came to Boys Ranch from Queens, New York. His mother, who is a police officer in Brooklyn, worried about the path on which he was headed. She had seen firsthand where bad choices lead so many of today's youth. Sayvon's transition to Boys Ranch was anything but easy, but through hard work and dedication by him and the staff who cared for him, he will graduate on time, with his class.

"What changed me are the people I put around me," he said. "In good company, good things will happen."

While at Boys Ranch, Sayvon grew in athleticism, competing in track, football, and basketball. He is a member of the AAU basketball team and he worked at the BR Country Store. Following graduation, Sayvon plans to attend Nassau County Community College and play football. He hopes to work his way into the University of Miami, which is his first choice, "with no second in the running."

He intends to bring back to Queens what he learned at Boys Ranch. "I hope I can use the leadership I've learned because when I hang out with the little kids, I see them doing the same things I do. I know a couple of kids that will benefit from that. I want to give back."

Note to Donors

"Keep giving because you have people like myself who are really trying to do something with our life." – Sayvon Munnerlyn

Justin Tingley



Justin came from California, where he lived with his mom and stepdad, when he was 15. He had trouble following the rules. "I behave much better now," he added. "I found out that it is easier to follow the rules, and when you do, you get a lot more privileges."

Since his arrival, he has found his niche in rodeo. He plans to further hone those skills by attending Oklahoma Panhandle State University and participating in rodeo.

There, he plans to major in agriculture because he says it comes easily to him.

Nicole Peters



Nicole came to Boys Ranch at age 10. She had two brothers there, but recalls that, "It was scary."

"But it got better. People were nice to me, which wasn't something I had had a lot of in my life, so that was new. I started to realize there are people out there that actually do care."

Nicole is a very active girl. She is involved in the Boys Ranch Youth Leadership

Organization, the National Honor Society (she held a 100 average in math!), Student Council, and One Act Play. Her quick learning abilities earned her a spot playing a lead role in the school play. "I was the backstage manager, but one of the girls with a main role could no longer participate, and I ended up taking over her part and learning all the lines in one day. It was the scariest thing, but it was so much fun. It was a great experience, and I am glad I did it."

Nicole plans to major in elementary education and will receive a Cal Farley's college scholarship to do so. She has her future dreams laid out, "I hope to eventually get married and have a family of my own and get to teach them the values and morals I've learned at Boys Ranch."

Note to *Donors*

"Thank you, because you gave me opportunities that I didn't have before." – Nicole Peters



Daniel Pottinger



Daniel was born in Jamaica. He arrived at Boys Ranch at age 14.

"I was put up for foster care by a family that couldn't take care of me, moved into a family that didn't want to take care of me, and then I was sent to Boys Ranch," he explained.

Daniel has a passion for music and writes "rhythmic poetry." He records his works with counselor, Chris Chandler, whom he teasingly calls, "my uncle and my producer."

Daniel plans to attend college and major in business accounting. He also said he plans to remain in Texas.

Kirsti Sullivan



Kirsti loves photography, art, and any animal she has ever come across. She usually can be found outside. She often was at one of the lakes at Boys Ranch with a net and a knack for finding tadpoles and other critters.

She came to live at Boys Ranch eight years ago. "I used to be wild, and not very happy," she explained, but notes that her time at Cal Farley's has made a real difference in her

demeanor. "It helps a lot of kids, believe it or not. They may not know it at the time, but it really does help. If you don't know what to do with your life, Cal Farley's will help you find your path."

Kirsti plans to attend college to study equine industry and business. She'd like to someday come back to Boys Ranch to work with horses and children, perhaps helping with the Rhythmic Riding program.

"Kirsti has always demonstrated a kind, sincere, caring, and blissful heart. Her imagination and creativity shine each day and inspire a zest for life." – Liza Valencia, caseworker

Clayt Wortham



The principal at Clayt's school told Clayt's parents that he would benefit from living at Boys Ranch, so his parents admitted him in July 2009. The transition was "mostly rough at first," according to Clayt, "but I eventually got used to it," he added.

He speaks highly of his house parents at the Jefferies Home, and said they have helped him work through a lot of the problems that he has had. He

also credits the teachers at Boys Ranch High School, noting that they are what have made the difference for him. "They have been really nice, and they don't give up. I think the small classes helped, too." He now does well in his academics and holds a steady B in most classes.

Clayt worked as a plumber in the maintenance department and has been helping with home remodels around the campus. In his spare time, he enjoys being active in the robotics program, where the group recently built two robots to take to the Science Olympiad. He plans to attend an aircraft mechanic program because he'd like to work on jets.

"I'm graduating from a really good school," Clayt notes. "I'm going to college. I've been raised by great people. I've received everything I ever needed in life, and it's been a really good life here. In two years, my whole life has changed!"

Riley Tillman



Riley is all cowboy. Boys Ranch ended up being the perfect fit for this boy who, in the sixth grade, was getting in fights and failing miserably in school. "I was getting into a lot of trouble up until my sophomore year," Riley admits. "Then, I started getting with the program. I got involved with cowboy poetry, and I went on trips to perform. I got involved with rodeo and roping, and I started

competing in high school rodeos. That helped me to stay out of trouble and helped me keep my grades up."

Riley progressed all the way up to Gold Level, which is an earned status given to those who display mature behavior. Riley's greatest contribution to Boys Ranch is the role he played in spearheading the Prayer Rides program. During the time that Riley was still struggling, Senior Chaplain Mike Wilhelm, had an idea to reach Riley.

"He came to my house one day and asked me what I thought about getting some of the guys, who don't particularly like going to what was then Wednesday night youth group, which was pretty much all us cowboys, and going out on Magenta (the Boys Ranch farm and ranch land across the highway from the campus) for prayer and stuff. We went the next week, and then the next, and each week the attendance has grown."

Chaplain Wilhelm notes that, "the one-size-fits-all classroom was a cruel joke for someone like Riley. He needed to be outside..." (Please take a moment to hear all of Chaplain Wilhelm's side of the story about Riley by visiting, www.youtube.com/user/calfarleys.)

Riley has big plans for himself following graduation. He plans to attend Riley Built® Trimming School in Lubbock, which is a hoof trimming trade school, and then use his trade to begin his own business working at area dairies. Then, to broaden his business offerings, he will study in Colby, Kansas at a pre-veterinarian program to learn to administer vaccinations.

Riley is going to miss Boys Ranch. "It is pretty much my home," he said. "Anytime I leave I can't wait to get back." He also will miss the Paces, his house parents that he has lived with the whole time he's been at Boys Ranch. "They have helped me with pretty much everything. They are my second parents."

Riley said he's grateful for all that Cal Farley's has done for him. "Honestly, if I would have stayed in Colorado, I would probably be in jail or some juvenile center by now because I was always getting in fights at school. I even tried to fight my science teacher. I was always angry, all the time, and I even got in trouble with the cops a couple of times...nothing real big, but nothing good, that's for sure."



Chris Wilkinson



Chris has been with Cal Farley's longer than any other resident in our 72-year history. Unusual circumstances left him in our care when he was just 18 months old. His mother, soon thereafter, was placed on the missing persons list, thus Chris grew up at Boys Ranch.

Chris set records in wrestling and played quarterback on the varsity football team. He has experienced countless opportunities and successes,

and looks forward to enjoying his future. He plans to attend college and major in sports medicine.

Chris received an unexpected gift this year when he and several other Ranchers traveled to Amarillo for their orthodontic appointments. While in the waiting room, another waiting patient recognized that they were from Boys Ranch and said, "My nephew lives out there." They asked who his nephew is and he replied, "Chris Wilkinson." Chris was shocked to hear his name, as the two had never before met. Since, Chris and his father's brother have built a relationship. Chris' uncle attended many of his sporting events throughout his senior year and stood tearfully proud at Chris' graduation.



Kaila Young



Kaila was a 14-year-old doing drugs, drinking and skipping school. "I only wanted to do what I wanted to do and wouldn't listen to anybody," she recalls. "When I first got here, it was scary and surreal. It was kind of like summer camp, but once I was here for a full year it hit me I was staying for a long time. I still have my ups and downs," she said.

Kaila straightened up and became active in campus organizations and in several sports. In fact, this school year she earned a spot to compete in the state wrestling competition; and best of all, she achieved the ultimate status as the Class of 2011 Valedictorian!

"Being given the opportunity to play sports, I would have never done that at home. Even though it was hard to come here to grow up, it's good because I am graduating and I would have never done that at home. So many people here have impacted my life. I've learned how to follow rules and become a better person."

Kaila plans to attend Eastern New Mexico University and major in special education. She wants to help others and be able to influence others in a positive way, she said. "I want to help change their lives and make it better."

G Girlstown, U.S.A. Class of 2011



G Vivian Hart



This vivacious girl went from living in a homeless shelter as a teenaged runaway, to earning her high school diploma one school year ahead of time.

"What I've come from I shouldn't really hide, because I think people could learn from my mistakes," she shares. The morning Vivian ran away from home, she packed her backpack full of her favorite clothes and her Pikachu stuffed animal and left to face the world – all alone at age 15.

The caseworker at the shelter called Julie Skarich at the Austin Cal Farley's Family Resource Center. Julie helped Vivian work through the crisis situation she was experiencing and worked even harder to get Vivian to Girlstown within three months time.

"I met Vivian and began working with her family in May of last year," recalled Julie. "She, at first, was against going to Girlstown, but warmed to the idea over time. Ultimately, she decided to go to placement and has done extremely well."

After Vivian arrived she was offered the opportunity to participate in the STARR Program, which is an accelerated credit recovery program. She applied herself and finished two years' of coursework in one year's time.

"I stayed determined," Vivian explained. "I'm an A student. I am really proud of myself. If I hadn't received the support from everyone at Girlstown, I don't know where I would be right now. I would probably be doing drugs; I would probably be with the same boyfriend. My eyes have opened so much. It has been so amazing to hear, 'Wow, Vivian you're graduating.' I never thought I would hear that."

Vivian will remain at Girlstown until she is 18. This summer, she has enrolled in a certified nurse's assistant program and will then attend college. She hopes to become a physician.

"I will miss this place. I am so glad that I am in a controlled environment. I've learned so many life skills here. I knew survival skills, but I've learned life skills. I have better coping skills, and all together I have grown up."

Note to Donors

"I'd probably cry talking to them. They helped to change my life. This took me out of a terrible place and gave me a future. It just means so much." – Vivian Hart

G Shannon Scott

Shannon went to live with her grandparents when she was in the sixth grade. Her mother lives in Mexico with her boyfriend and her father has been in prison. Her time at Girlstown has had its ups and downs, she said. "I've fallen on some hard times, but you get through them," she shared.

She has remained a good student and this year placed first in District UIL Spelling. She will graduate with honors.

Shannon will remain at Girlstown until she turns 18. She plans to become a nurse.



G Jodeci Virgo

Jodeci came from Denver, Colorado nearly four years ago. The strong-minded teenager had been rebelling in every way she could. "Had I not come to Girlstown, I would have ended up pregnant or dead or in jail. It was pretty bad."

Jodeci's mom worked with a Boys Ranch alumnus who suggested she call Cal Farley's for help. Jodeci said that Girlstown has helped her whole family have stronger relationships with each

other. "It is drastically better," she said.

Jodeci attended Whiteface High School and has been active in band, journalism, UIL, and she has been a cheerleader for several years. She plans to attend college and major in sociology and social work.

"With everything that Girlstown has done for me and helped me through, I want to be able to help people back. I have friends who I wish they could have lived here. It would have helped them a lot. It's sad to see them not have that opportunity to change."

Note to Donors

"If it wasn't for the donors, none of this would have ever happened. What they have done for us is amazing and we are extremely grateful. I got the opportunity to change." – Jodeci Virgo

Markavia Hubbard

"I've known my dad for 12 years," Markavia explained of her trying beginnings. She was placed in foster care at age three, at which time the officials were able to locate her father and inform him that he had a daughter. Soon thereafter, he received custody of her and she said goodbye to her three sisters.

She had a rough time adjusting when she first arrived at Girlstown three years ago. "This was somewhere I could go to better my life," she explained. "I have a whole new life now. They have treated me really good and I am so happy to be where I am today."

Markavia plans to become a nurse and serve in the Army as an officer.



Shelby Sudduth

Shelby was 15 when she came to live at Girlstown three years ago. "My hardest obstacle was when my dad passed away," she shared. "The Girlstown staff wouldn't let me give up. They always dropped everything for me. They motivated me, supported me, helped me to cope and they helped me to overcome. They taught me to see how much I can succeed in life. Now, I am more confident in myself. I am glad I had a chance to be here."

Shelby plans to become a surgical technologist and will attend college on a Cal Farley's scholarship.

Note to *Donors*

"They are very thoughtful. It's so amazing that they can donate money to help kids. Without it, I know I wouldn't be going anywhere." – Cheyanne Delgado

Tyler Levick



Tyler plans to return home to Houston and attend college to study criminal justice. She wants to become a juvenile probation officer because, "I want to help kids who experience a similar situation," she said.

She explained that her time at Girlstown has made a big impact on her life. "I was about to fail everything. I had pretty much given up. Girlstown has helped me to better deal with my problems. It's going to help me to help my sister, too."

Cheyanne Delgado



Cheyanne came to Girlstown after serving a few months at a juvenile detention center. Beforehand, she had failed seventh grade and was regularly in truancy court. "I basically quit going to school and started doing more drugs."

Cheyanne had four credits when she arrived one year and four months ago. In that small amount of time, the educational support she received helped her catch up and complete high school.

She said her house parents, the Warrens, have been an integral facet in her success. "I've never had strong role models before and them just being there and encouraging me has helped so much. They have shown me that I am worth a lot more than I thought I was. Here is the first place that nobody has given up on me. This was my last chance. I was very blessed to have Girlstown."

Cheyanne plans to become a substance abuse counselor.

Hayleigh Steadman

Hayleigh arrived at Girlstown in her 6th grade year. She and her seven siblings were taken away from their mother at a young age. Shortly thereafter her grandmother passed away.

"I was so depressed and lost and just sad. Girlstown has supported me and helped me get through it. It took me until my sophomore year, but I finally kicked it in gear and started doing well."

She has excelled in academics and is graduating with honors. This year, she received several recognitions including the Presidential Education Award, Accelerated English IV Award and the Whiteface Citizenship Award.



Brittany McEachern

Brittany was getting into a lot of trouble and hanging out with the wrong crowd. She was dating a 23-year-old man and her parents were worried sick.

Her transition to Girlstown was a little rocky but she has done well and has consistently progressed. She will now graduate on time and she plans to attend Wayland Baptist University after she leaves Girlstown.

"My time here has been meaningful," she said. "I am glad I came."

Note to *Donors*

"If it weren't for them there would be no Girlstown, and Girlstown is my home." – Brittany McEachern

Class of 2011



Hundreds gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of 28 young people who have risen to a challenge greater than most will experience in a lifetime. These young adults now will have a bright and full future, though it comes only after some very turbulent times in their young lives.

As Tom Roach, chairman of the Cal Farley's Board of Directors, pointed out, "Graduation is a milestone for our graduates. Many have overcome difficult circumstances to get to this point and many of them are far from home. Despite their circumstances, all of them made the decision to graduate. They chose to do the hard work it would take to graduate. They all persevered and excelled, and we are so very proud of them."

He continued, "For Cal Farley's, their graduation is bittersweet. It marks success for our mission." He then addressed the students, "God loves you. He placed you here for a purpose. Boys Ranch has given you many of the important tools that you will need in life, and we all look forward to hearing about your many successes. May God bless you all," he concluded.

Dan Adams, president and CEO of Cal Farley's, awarded college scholarships to most of the 2011 graduating class. He made note of the fact that in the fiscal year 2009-2010, Cal Farley's supported 115 alumni on college scholarships.

"We can't sit back and just expect the youth to do it without some sort of structure and committed adults around them," he shared with those in attendance. "It isn't about the capability or the capacity

of our youth that has been the stumbling block. They simply hadn't had the right opportunity or been held to a high enough standard."

Kaila Young is the Class of 2011 Valedictorian. During her speech she encouraged her classmates to embrace the change they have experienced in their young lives and to use it to shape what is to come.

"Many of us here come from different places, but we all ended up at the same cliff, the same fork in the road, the same doorway. Today, we each have the option to take the chance and jump off into the unknown of the adult world. This is the chance to open the door to the rest of our lives. It doesn't matter where we came from or the situations that brought us together. Today, we walk out to create a whole new world all our own."

Mid-term & Staff Graduates

Colton Bradham
Cassandra Cannon
Jennifer LeAnne Broome (GT)
Dalton McCullough
Geraldo Padilla
Haley Sims

Heather Strong
Trevor Curtiss
Amanda Myers

"This is a small graduating class this year, but it is one with very deep roots." – Mike Wilhelm, senior chaplain





L to R: Mark Strother, COO; Chris Wilkinson, Dan Adams, president and CEO; Carla Hulen, Genie Farley Harriman, Cal Farley's daughter; and Tom Roach, Chairman of the Board of Directors. Chris and Carla are our two longest-residing Ranchers (16 years and 15 years, respectively).



Alex Molina (center) with his mother and several members of his family.



Sayvon Munnerlyn with his family. His mother, Jovita (far right) who is a police officer in New York, is proud of the changes she has seen in her son.

Note to *Donors*

"I would like to thank all of them for everything they have done. They have given me the opportunity to explore and to achieve my dream of going to college."

– Chris Wilkinson



Building Success through Leadership and Accountability



Anthony Martinez finished his first full season coaching the Boys Ranch Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) basketball team, and he was done – with the whole concept. That was until the spring of 2010 when three boys approached him about running the AAU program once again.

“I declined. I told them I couldn’t go through another stressful year of coaching something that unsuccessful, but they assured me it would be different,” Martinez said. The boys spoke with Adrian Jackson, Director of Intervention Services and School Support, and explained how this new team would be different from those in the past. “They got it approved and the transformation began.”

To guard against the troubles in the past, each member was required to pay an equal part of the tournament fees (to eliminate entitlement), attend community service projects, stay out of trouble and perform well in school. “Any trouble that anyone got into, the whole team talked through. Any important decision that needed to

be made, everyone had an equal say. It was understood that no single person was above the group.”

Martinez said this attitude was adapted from a resident-led conversation after a loss to a team that was younger and less talented. “They sat outside in the hot, mosquito-filled grass at a high school and talked and argued about trust, leadership, selfishness, sportsmanship, and most of all, character. It was the defining moment in the AAU group’s development.” From then on, the focus was on togetherness and trust. “They became so conscientious of letting one of their teammates down that they did what they were supposed to do.”

When any problems arose, Martinez was there to help lead the discussions, but the boys soon learned how to process through their situations with little or no help. “It became such a high-functioning group,” Martinez boasts. It also has paid off on the court. The boys won two tournaments this season.

“I think it’s good for those kids who need a little start,” said AAU member, Dejon.

Dejon was one of those kids. He also was one of the original members. He struggled for quite some time after coming to Boys Ranch, but AAU is one of the things that has helped influence and re-shape his path. “I learned from other people and I adapted, and now I am trying to pass the same thing on to them. Mr. Martinez looks to me to be a leader and I take great pride in that.”

Jackson said that their empathy for others also “is incredible.” “There are kids that can’t play well, but they all get equal amount of playing time. They know their chance of winning wasn’t going to be very good, but it is important to them that everyone gets the chance to get out on the court and touch the ball.”

Sayvon, now in his third year, has benefited from that aspect. “I went from not getting much playing time to now my teammates look to me for success on this team. It’s helped me a lot to learn how to be a leader and it’s helped out on the court. I’ve also learned to never stress too much.”

“Sayvon was really struggling,” Jackson added. “Through this process of having to help others and do things he typically wouldn’t do, and give up, and share, I think he’s learned how to manage his emotion and manage his behavior. Things are drastically better with Sayvon. He is a kid who has shown tremendous growth in a fairly short time.”

Martinez concurred, adding, “This is no longer just a basketball team; it’s like a family. It is no longer a task for me personally; it’s a career-changing privilege.”

“I want my players to become more moral men that transition better when they leave Boys Ranch.”

–Anthony Martinez, Intervention Specialist and Boys Ranch AAU Coach



Kari Cabrera



When Life's Lessons are a Life-Changing Blessing

Kari was furious when she first met Mrs. Sandy Pape. It was 1991 and Kari had just arrived at Cal Farley's Girlstown, U.S.A. She walked into Walton Cottage and was shown her new room, but her bag was not to enter until her new house mother, Mrs. Pape, first inspected its contents.

"I was rude. I wouldn't answer questions," recalls Kari. "She was going through my stuff and took all of my music. I was furious! We definitely got off on the wrong foot.

"I let her know it in so many ways, too. I also had to attend on-campus school because I was a runaway risk and if I threatened to run away, I was on 'belt loop' with Mrs. Pape, which meant she never left my side ... and I was not kind then, either." And so this went on for six months.

Kari had lived in Houston with her parents and three siblings. She began her decline in behavior at age 13. "I ran away from home, and I got into trouble. My parents didn't know what to do with me."

In the middle of her ninth grade year, she was told she was going to live at Girlstown. Her aunt and her mother had to sleep in shifts as they were certain she'd run away

before her morning flight to Lubbock.

Throughout that first six months at Girlstown, Mrs. Pape held steadfast in her gentle-hearted guidance and discipline. She would not waiver in her dedication to Kari.

"I eventually realized this lady is not going to leave me alone until I get my p's and q's straight, so I did. I started to make friends and I noticed their freedoms. Eventually, I began to attain some of those freedoms. I was so excited to go to school in town. It was a little 1-A school, but I was so happy to be there."

"The structure and discipline was something I really needed. I don't fault my parents for that; they just weren't in the position to deliver the constant discipline I needed. I believe they made the best choice for me."

When Kari graduated in 1994, she went straight to college. She decided to move back to Houston and completed not only her bachelor degree in biology, but a master's as well. She received Cal Farley's scholarships throughout her studies for both degrees.

She secured work at a biopharmaceutical company, and then was asked by a former instructor to teach at San Jacinto

Community College. During her four-year tenure teaching microbiology and general biology she and her husband, Robert, welcomed two sons.

Last year, the family moved when Robert was offered a position at the Dell Pediatric Research Institute in Austin where he currently works as a medical researcher. Kari is enjoying being a stay-at-home mom, but says she "definitely will pursue a PhD in biology."

Now that Kari lives in Austin, she also has taken every opportunity to support boys and girls from Cal Farley's Boys Ranch when they visit Austin to compete in state competitions. She also was instrumental in last summer's Girlstown reunion that she and three of her peers spearheaded. Soon thereafter, Bobby Sarpalius, executive director of the Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Alumni Association, nominated her to serve on the Association's Board of Directors.

Kari says that she is so grateful for the experiences life has brought her. "I am 100 percent sure that had I not been sent to Girlstown and received the structure and discipline and attention and guidance that I needed, I would not be where I am today. They were instrumental in making me who I am, and I am so grateful."

Note to Donors

"The donors, who make it all possible, thank God for them because if they hadn't given, I wouldn't be here. I would not be the whole person that I am today. I really do appreciate them wholeheartedly. Their money, whether they have given \$1 or \$1 million; it is the best spent money on boys and girls you could ever give. I just get so emotional and my heart just swells when I think of it." – Kari Cabrera



67th Annual
BOYS RANCH
R RODEO
+adventureFEST
presented by Cal Farley's

Photo courtesy of Amarillo Globe-News

The Outside of a Horse is Good for the Inside of a Kid

270 participants + 150 head of livestock + nearly 10,000 fans over 2 days adds up to a fantastic event. It's the 67th Annual Boy's Ranch Rodeo. ♦ New this year is the **AdventureFest** – come out for the food, fun and great times as the boys and girls of Cal Farley's host a time-honored tradition.



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