

July/August 2011

www.bigoak.org

TIMBERS



Big Oak Ranch

A Christian home for children needing a chance

"So they will be called oaks of righteousness the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified." Isaiah 61:3

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"So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified" Isaiah 61:3

P.O. Box 507 • Springville, AL 35146
 Phone (205) 467-6226 • Fax (205) 467-6206
 July/August 2011



Big Oak Ranch

Big Oak Ranch is a Christian home for children needing a chance. The Ranch takes in children between the ages of six and eighteen who are orphaned, abused, neglected, or homeless. Comfortable two-story brick houses are home for up to eight children and a quality Christian couple. Our houseparents provide the consistent love, discipline and direction our children so desperately need and deserve.

Big Oak Ranch, Inc. is a non-profit, non-denominational organization that is privately funded. The ministry consists of:

- A) Big Oak Boys' Ranch in Gadsden, AL
- B) Big Oak Girls' Ranch in Springville, AL
- C) Westbrook Christian School in Gadsden, AL

The Timbers mailing list is confidential and is not shared with any other organization. Questions, comments or corrections should be addressed to the attention of Rhonda Hindman.

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Big Oak Ranch is owned and operated by Big Oak Ranch, Inc. and its board. We would like you to know our working Board of Directors:

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The Big 12 Club

Did you know it takes approximately \$1,000/month to provide the basic care that one of our children needs – including food, clothing, shelter, education and insurance? We provide for our children the same things that you do for your children with one exception – we have to hire houseparents to take your place. Your membership in the Big 12 Club covers the cost of raising one of our children for one year. Would you like to be a member of the Big 12 Club? Each member pledges \$12,000 over a one year period (usually paid in increments of \$1,000/month). If you would like more information on the Big 12 Club, or have any questions, please call (205) 467-6226.

Happy Birthday

August		September		October	
Zackary	08/05/97	Grace	09/02/98	Max	10/02/97
Deainera	08/10/95	Rebecca	09/02/99	Nina	10/03/97
Cade	08/16/04	Isaiah	09/03/02	Ally	10/04/94
Kelsie	08/19/95	KaJuan	09/08/92	Rebekah	10/17/01
Caleb C.	08/22/00	Josey	09/08/95	Lance	10/22/93
Katie	08/23/98	Amanda	09/09/96		
Amber	08/24/99	Damion	09/12/02		
		Cameron	09/19/95		
		Michael	09/29/94		
		Priscilla	09/30/10		

Happy Birthday!!!

ON THE COVER

Harold is 10 years old and lives in the Hannah Home with his houseparents Zach and Leanne Jenkins



6th Annual Legends of Auburn Golf Classic

Come join us and former Auburn football greats on Friday, October 14 at the Auburn University Golf Club for a fun day of golf -- and ensure our children's educational future all at the same time! Cost: \$5,000 for a corporate sponsorship (includes lunch, dinner and golf for 4 players). For further information, or to register for the tournament, please contact Rhonda Hindman at (205) 467-6226.

8th Annual Legends of Bama Golf Classic

All you Alabama fans out there -- mark your calendars for Thursday, October 20th, for our Legends of Bama Golf Classic at Indian Hills Golf Club in Tuscaloosa. Cost: \$5,000 for a corporate sponsorship (includes lunch, dinner and golf for 4 players). For further information, please contact Rhonda Hindman at (205) 467-6226 ext. 1208.

Letter from John

School is starting back up for our children just like it is for yours. Our houseparents are ecstatic because the 8 hours the children are at school gives them a small break. Think about how hard it is seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day during the summer to take care of eight children at home all day. Our houseparents have the same issues with our children that you have with your children.

This fall, would you join all of us in setting aside at least one night a week for your whole family to sit down and have a meal together without television, texting, telephones, or computers. Your entire focus of your family will be on each other. This looks simple on a piece of paper, yet it is so hard to do when we fall under the tyranny of being “too busy”. Yes, the older your children get the harder this is to accomplish, but rest assured there will be a day you will give anything you own to have a chance to sit down with your children and your mate at the dinner table and just talk. It is a lost art this thing called conversation, but it can be retrieved. It is up to you.

Join us in making family time a priority each and every day!

John Croyle

John Croyle
Executive Director



John & Tee Croyle



Boys' Ranch

GROWING OAK



19 years old

Matt



15 years old

- Is 19 years old
- Has been a resident of Big Oak Ranch for 4 years
- Lives in the McCollough Home with houseparents John and Robin O'Leary
- Is a senior year at Westbrook Christian School and will graduate in May
- Is an active member of his church youth group
- Played on Westbrook's B team and Varsity basketball team
- Has worked two jobs this summer to earn extra money
- Plans to attend Gadsden State Community College upon graduation and pursue a degree as a nurse or an X-ray technician
- Is great with younger children and is a great big brother
- Has a huge servants heart

Where there is forgiveness, there is God Himself.

Aaron and Harold palling around at a baseball game.



Zack, TJ and Ty make a strong pyramid!



Houston is proud of his Auburn celebrity autographed football.



Raymond enjoying his Blue Bell ice cream after our annual 5K race.



Chase, Gilbert and Max take a moment to flash their winning smiles!

Boys' Ranch Needed Items:

- Upright Vacuum Cleaners
- Handheld Hair Dryers
- Heavy Duty Cookware
- Pillows
- Irons
- Wok(s) or Large skillet(s) with lids
- School Supplies
- Kitchen towel sets

*Please send donated items to:
Big Oak Boys' Ranch Inc.
250 Jake Mintz Road, Gadsden, AL 35905*

**For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
*Matthew 6:14***

Girls' Ranch

GROWING OAK



11 years old

Paige



9 years old

- Is 11 years old
- Has been a resident of Big Oak Ranch for 2 years
- Lives in the Thompson Home with houseparents Jae and Amy Thomas
- Will be in the 6th grade at Westbrook Christian School
- Is a member of Kingdom Kids Choir at Westbrook Christian School
- Won the "Best Sportsmanship" award in her class
- Accepted the Lord since coming to live at Big Oak Ranch
- Is active in the Kids Choir and drama programs at Spring Valley Baptist Church
- Has taken tap, jazz, and clogging lessons for two years
- Is loving and helpful to her sisters and house parents

Be true to your work, your word, and your friends.



*Dad Osborne is raising some lovely young ladies.
L to R: Karen, Lorenza and Rosa*



Hallie H., Paige, Kelsie, Rebecca and Hallie B. enjoying watermelon at the pool!



Carlie, Star and Summer are all smiles!



Amber and Annabella look so cute together!



Gail and Emmalee are taking a little spin.

Girls' Ranch Needed Items:

- Small cookware set
- Bath Towels
- Hand Towels & Wash Cloths
- Twin Size Girls Comforters
- Chopping Knife
- Wind Chimes
- School Supplies
- Vacuum Cleaner

A friend loves at all times..... Proverbs 17:17

*Please send donated items to:
Big Oak Ranch Inc.
P.O. Box 507, Springville, AL 35146*



Thank you SO much to Heath Patton and all of the energy making **Wake the World 2011** SO much of a wonderful day on the water – everything from dinner in the group to lessons on riding the waves to learning a new skill. They also fed everyone a wonderful lunch.
Thanks Wake the World – we are

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ORLO



f the volunteers who spent so much time and
h fun for all of our kids. They all enjoyed a
emos by some of the "master" wakeboarders
emselves and feeling what it's like to learn a
lunch and dinner, and were SO hospitable!
looking forward to next year!!



River

Our 7th through 12th graders had a great time at Mrs. Tee's house for "River Day". Thanks SO much to Sam Bookout and his family for their boats and helping us make this day special. As you can see from the pictures, the students were skiing, riding on the floats, and just having a great time.



Day

and a chance to go to Mr. John and
"Over Day" again this year!
t and Richard Grimes for bringing
it a wonderful day for the kids.
ures, they had a BLAST water
loats, eating pizza and
GREAT time!!



Memorials and Honorariums

The following people have made contributions to Big Oak Ranch in Memory or in Honor of family members, friends, and loved ones. The contributions were received between 06/02/2011 — 07/18/2011. If your name does not appear, please look for it in our next Timbers. We regret the unintentional omission or misspelling of names on these lists.

In Honor of:

Mr. & Mrs. Hace & Anita Alldredge
Carol & Kent Glover

Mr. Hace L. Alldredge
Mrs. Anita Alldredge

Mr. Ty Batchelor
Mr. & Mrs. Willis Woolbright

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Mr. & Mrs. Lee Wright



Our Development Philosophy



Big Oak Ranch

God says:

- *"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for me?" Jeremiah 32:27*
- *"...Is the Lord's power limited? Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not." Numbers 11:23*
- *"... and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows." Malachi 3:10*

This we believe. We must be good stewards of God's blessings by:

- ensuring that your contributions are used to enrich the lives of our children--spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically;
- maximizing every gift to its fullest; and
- conducting every area of business in an honorable way.

This plan will ensure that your support is used where you and God intended - *to relieve the suffering of children.*

-- Board of Directors of Big Oak Ranch



Big Oak Ranch

Isaiah 61:3

EST. 1974

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you would like to be
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have had a
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You must first be a believer if you want to be an achiever.

