

**"We do not need a great faith, but faith in a great God." -Hudson Taylor**

*This newsletter features stories from past Joy Ranch issues as well as present day stories. Most importantly, the Joy Ranch mission has not changed since it's beginning in the 1950's: To provide a welcoming, safe, caring, and Christ-centered environment to meet the spiritual, physical, emotional, and social needs of children and their families in crisis.*

## Joy Ranch Founded on Faith (Aug. 1957)

Joy Ranch has been founded on faith...faith in God first of all and faith in Christian people, churches, and organizations that we believe will share the vision of helping homeless, deserving children travel in the Christian way of life. It is neither underwritten nor endowed.

People who love God and little helpless children can invest for time and eternity by helping make Joy Ranch possible. Will YOU help?



PLEASE SUPPORT US WITH YOUR PRAYERS

Since that small but thrilling beginning, Joy Ranch, now with 5 cottages on 62 acres, has helped provide a caring home for over 5,000 children, and is still funded by contributions as small as \$1 from individuals, to much larger donations from supporting churches, individuals, estates, and organizations.

## "Our Kids" by Bethany Collins

Our kids are . . . kids. Some have been taken from their home for good reason, some come voluntarily. Some are brought by family because it is what is best for them. Some are brought because they were brought and the stories why are too many – and too incredible, to tell. Also, they aren't ours to share.

What we have most often are children who are paying the consequences for someone else's choices.

Children with nowhere else to go. Children whose parents are unable to care for them due to crisis, incarceration or incapacitation.

So, we care for our kids like you care for your kids because our kids are your kids.

Ordinary kids who fight with each other, borrow from each other, 'trade' with one another, lose stuff, use each other's stuff without asking, tattle, share secrets and want to be loved – we have kids.

Kids dealing with grown-up sized issues that sometimes require thinking 'outside of the box.'

**Finish reading the story on our NEW Houseparent Blog at [joyranch.org/houseparent-blog/](http://joyranch.org/houseparent-blog/)**

**The blog features great stories about our kids, houseparents, and other Joy Ranch happenings that you make possible.**



**"So, we care for our kids like you care for your kids, because our kids are your kids."**



**A few snippets from our Facebook page... Be sure to follow us at [facebook.com/joyranchfamily/](https://facebook.com/joyranchfamily/)**



**June 5 - Key to a great summer: find a really awesome swimming hole!**



**May 25 - We are so proud of these beautiful gurlies for performing in the Laurel Elementary School Talent Show today!**

Lily (left) did a coordinated dance routine with a friend that she helped design herself! ...



**May 14 - Yesterday our awesome House Parents took the kiddos to the SEA LIFE Aquarium & had an absolute blast! Jellyfish, hands-on learning, a 360° ocean tunnel, & Steak & Shake for lunch...what more could you ask for on a fun day out?!**

# What are the kids up to this summer?



Horseback Riding



Gardening on Campus



Eating!



Playing in the water

Traveling to Myrtle Beach, attending a variety of camps, hiking, and visiting some churches, too!



*Ruby Handy Industrial Arts Building*

## Coming Along!

A few updates on what is happening on campus, thanks to YOUR support!

- The Ruby Handy Industrial Arts Building should be completed over the next few months, which will give the youth more vocational training opportunities.
- The independent living program is expanding and should be licensed soon for youth over 18 years of age to continue their stay at Joy Ranch.
- Two of the cottages have been remodeled and work is to begin on a third soon!

## How YOU Can Help

We understand there are many very talented people on our mailing list that do not have the resources to donate monetarily, but have the time and skills you can donate to bettering the kids and their environment.

These donors of their time and skills have tutored the kids and have helped all the kids succeed in school; have helped answer the phones; have taken care of the supply room that houses so many of the resident's physical needs; manage the clothing closet where the kids can choose the clothes they want to wear; teach about how to set up and grow a garden; some who come and mow each week, paint, do flooring, plumbing, roofing and electrical projects to give the kids safer living environments.

With the completion of our industrial arts building we will need volunteers who can teach the kids auto mechanics, wood working, plumbing, electrical and any other trades.

Apply to Volunteer on our website at [joyranch.org/volunteer/](http://joyranch.org/volunteer/)

If volunteering isn't your gift, there are other ways you can help listed on our website as well.

## Golf "Fore" Kids



We want to give a HUGE thank you to everyone who came out & supported Joy Ranch at the annual Benefit Golf Tournament on May 19! We had a great turnout, good food from The Mason Jar, and a wonderful time with friends, all for a great cause.

A special thank you to The Men of Galax First Assembly of God for hosting this event. We are so thankful for your ongoing support and friendship!

All of the proceeds from the event will go directly to helping us continue to serve our surrounding communities through loving, empowering, and providing for at-risk children and teenagers.

Thank you to all of our Joy Ranch team who worked tirelessly on this event, & a special shoutout to one of our house dads, Mr. Gene Collins, for heading up the team!

And thank you to the Blue Ridge Country Club for allowing us to play on your beautiful golf course.