



CONTINUING OUR LEGACY
COLORADO BOYS RANCH FOUNDATION

LATEST NEWS

SUMMER 2015

From CBRYouthConnect

Connecting Youth With Family, School, Values, Animals and Nature.



Pawsitive Connection Graduation!

What a joyous occasion it was for youth from Community Reach Center, volunteers from Canine Companions for Independence and, of course, the wonderful dogs.

Pawsitive Connection is a CBR YouthConnect program involving animals in teaching lessons about life and personal responsibility. During the ten week course, youth partnered with Volunteer Puppy Raisers for Canine Companions and their dogs to learn about humane care and training. The

program emphasizes the importance of values like respect, responsibility, empathy and gratitude.

Congratulations to the tremendous youth – to the great volunteers from Canine Companions – and to our staff! A special THANKS to Corona Presbyterian Church for allowing us to use their activity building.

For more, see page 5.

www.CBRYouthConnect.org • 303.691.6095

The CBR YouthConnect Newsletter is publication of the Colorado Boys Ranch Foundation.



Note from the President

The greatest task for any non-profit, charitable organization is to evolve with the times, provide quality services and achieve results. I am so proud that we are standing the test! After discontinuing our rural campus-based program, we have built a premier home and community-based organization serving boys, girls and families across the state.

Enjoy the **STORIES** and learn about the **IMPACT** we are making with our powerful and unique programs. As always, **THANK YOU** so very much for your precious support and commitment to our 56 year Mission.


Chuck Thompson
President

Board Comments

Our dedicated, volunteer Board of Directors is proud of the progress we are making. We are happy to introduce **Cathy Harrison** and **Mike Sanders** as new members of the Board. We appreciate their energy and enthusiasm for the Mission. Welcome aboard, Cathy and Mike!

We also want to personally thank all our donors and supporters so very much. We look forward to meeting and talking with you when possible. A special thanks to the companies and individuals who recently made our **Bust'n Clays for Kids Event** so successful!



Bob Bruce
Board Chairman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

Helping children, youth and parents to overcome trauma and "keep their family together".

Inspiring and equipping youth and parents to set positive principles to guide their lives.

Improving the high school graduation rate for youth at-risk of dropping out.

Teaching lessons about life and personal responsibility via animals and nature.



OUR MISSION:

To achieve Excellence providing troubled youth with the means to become hopeful and productive citizens.





Programs With An Impact!

Our **Home and Family** programs (*Preventative Aftercare and Supervised Visitation*) are top rated. We have served over 600 boys and girls plus their families in 17 Colorado counties. Families in crisis are referred to us by county child welfare departments, courts and youth corrections.

We are called when abuse, neglect, family conflict, trauma and losses are occurring with a youth and family. We help youth and families safely stay together by offering structure, support and counseling within the family, school and community. Through our *Preventative Aftercare* program, Family Service Providers are available 24 hours in the event of a crisis. They meet regularly in homes with youth, parents and the entire family. We help them understand and improve their life situation. Even though it is a difficult task, we are very successful!

We are also asked to provide a safe environment for children to spend time and interact with the parent(s) through *Supervised Visitation*. Often, the parent(s) feel overwhelmed or do not have the understanding or skills to effectively parent their child. Our Family Service Provider observes, teaches and safely preserves the parent-child relationship.

Here are a few of the many success stories and personal accomplishments occurring each and every day in our Home and Family programs:

The Loss and Return of a Mother Helps Two Girls Feel Secure and Thrive

Amy and Cassy (11 and 6) and grandma were scared, their lives in turmoil since mom's arrest and removal from the home. We provided in-home support and structure, therapy and school coordination to the children, grandma and mom who has successfully returned home and is going to college. The family is again stable. The girls are having sleep overs with their friends!

A Family in Chaos is Transformed Into Stability

Josh (4) and Penny (2) and their parents were referred to our *Preventative Aftercare* program by county child welfare due to child endangerment, dependency and neglect. Here's the story – mom requested emergency services after finding Penny unresponsive and bluish colored in her crib. A febrile seizure had occurred. The emergency medical staff found the home to be “horrendous with urine and feces stains” plus a “broken play pen, cigarette smoke, stains and dirty dishes”. The county then requested our help. We immediately addressed the unsanitary condition of the home, began teaching basic parenting skills and coordinated various support services. Six months later the parents are both working and the home is clean. Josh and Penny are in good daycare settings.



IMPACT: Ethical and Character Development

With the generous support from the Daniels Fund, our innovative **Ethics and Character Development** programs (STORY and Specialized Mentoring) are being recognized for their effectiveness. We have served over 230 boys and girls across the Denver Metro area through partnerships with five specialized schools and treatment centers at 10 locations.

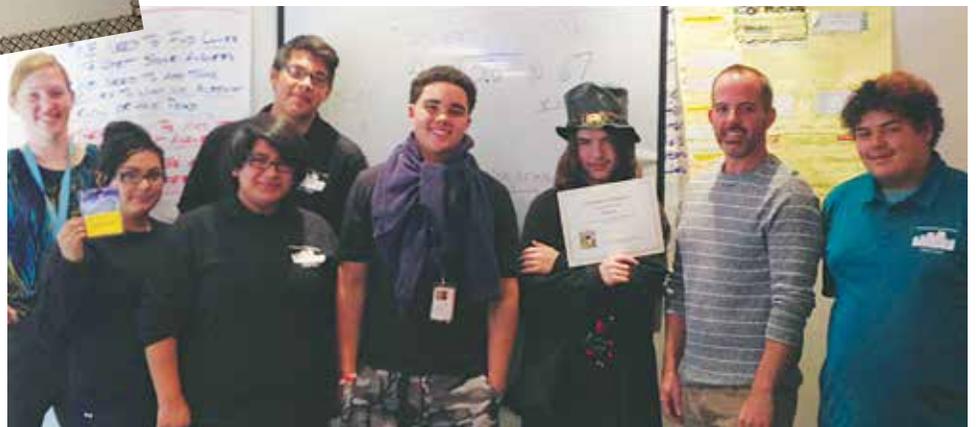
STORY is a course that provides youth with the opportunity to reflect on their personal story and the stories of those around them. Youth learn to discover and express their story through creative projects using iPad technologies for music, art, journaling, story boarding and movies. Their personal story leads to dreams and aspirations for the future. They picture themselves in the future, examine what they have going for and against them and then establish a set of personal principles to get them there.



“The students of GOAL Academy have greatly benefited from this program in their curriculum over last semester and this semester.”

- NATHAN BYFORD, Denver Regional Director

“The program provides an opportunity for students to see themselves as they truly wish and hope to be seen – sometimes for the



first time. Especially to students like mine who have been told by others repeatedly that they are the ‘bad kids’, the ‘behavior problems’, the ‘failures’ – the opportunity to explore and tell their OWN story is invaluable.”

- KELSEY HOPSON-SHILLER, Compassion Road Academy





IMPACT: Animal Assisted Programs

CBR YouthConnect has provided animal-assisted programs to more than 900 youth in community settings and the Denver Metro area. In partnership with Volunteer Puppy Raisers for Canine Companions for Independence, a course called “Pawsitive Connection” is provided to youth from treatment centers, homeless shelters and alternative schools.

In ten weeks, youth interact with dogs, practice responsibility and respect and learn to show empathy and concern for others. They also become more aware of their own lives, develop confidence and a sense of gratitude. At the end of the course, youth demonstrate their skills, share their learnings and receive a certificate.

Here are some photos from recent courses with some great youth from Community Reach Center and Compassion Road Academy. Congratulations to them!

To learn more about the good work being done by Canine Companions for Independence see their website: www.cci.org



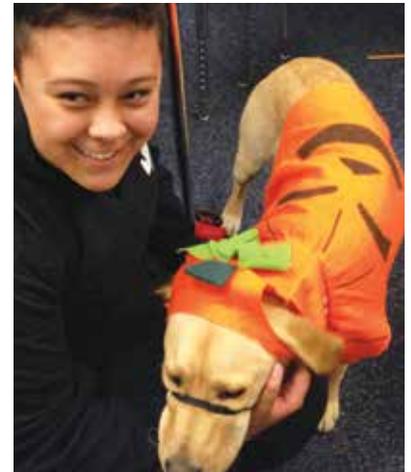
Youth learn from Vanessa Graziano.

“Students aid in training the dogs by providing a safe and fun environment to work with children. Many of these dogs may go on to be an assistance dog for children so it’s a win-win all the way around.”

- VANESSA GRAZIANO



Youth at Compassion Road Academy and volunteers from Canine Companions for Independence.



Some dress-up fun!



“I love this program”

- AMY, age 15

IMPACT: Nature Related

Using our 1800 acre mountain property, Thunderbird Ranch, we are connecting youth, parents and families via outdoor and nature-based activities. Activities include adventure trails, hiking, fishing and mountain crafts in a beautiful wooded area complete with rustic campsite and small lakes.

Groups from Colorado Youth Outdoors and the La Junta Boy Scout Troop 223 recently enjoyed outdoor education at Thunderbird Ranch.

“It was a great experience camping in an environment different from the plains we live in. The mountains were beautiful and our host made us feel welcome and made sure we had an enjoyable time. We can’t be more thankful.”

- CARLOS RANGEL, Senior Patrol Leader Boy Scout Troop 223



Setting up camp.



Finishing a five mile hike!

“What a wonderful place to take a group of kids! Everyone put down their electronics as there was no cellphone service or wifi and there were just other kids. They went hiking, fishing, played outdoor games and enjoyed the s’mores during the camp fire. We could not have had a better time.”

- DEE QUICK, Troop Parent



“On behalf of Colorado Youth Outdoors, I would like to thank you for once again allowing us to host our end of the year family day at the Thunderbird Ranch. Our 35 youth and families enjoyed a day of fishing, archery, outdoor games and a barbecue. We had an incredible day! Most of the families had never experienced a day like they had at Thunderbird Ranch. It would be difficult to find a more pristine setting to help families connect with each other and the outdoors.”

- JIM KEATING, Colorado Youth Outdoors,
Colorado Springs Division

6th Annual "Bust'n Clays for Kids"



THANK YOU to all our sponsors, donors and participants in this year's Sporting Clay Challenge at Quail Run Sports. It was a great day of fun and comradarie. Several youth and their parents also participated. The proceeds directly supported our programs. A special thanks to our Event Committee.



Happy 95th Birthday to Maxine Hoffman!

A CBR donor since 1964, Maxine and her late husband, Myron, were volunteer organizers of our annual fundraising golf tournament in Denver.



Ways you can help

Monetary Donations: Cash, check, credit cards and online contributions are greatly appreciated by mail or on-line.

Wills and Bequests: Consider naming CBR as a beneficiary.

All Forms of Giving: Matching gifts, gifts of stock, living trusts, life insurance beneficiary, tributes and memorials.

In-Kind Giving: Gift cards and tickets to community activities, music instruments, arts and crafts supplies.

Sponsorships: Ask about ways to help fund specific programs and courses like "Pawsitive Connection" and STORY program.



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The Hero Within

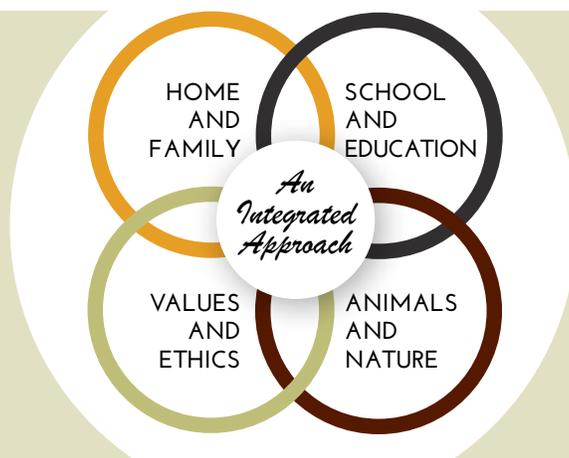
The hallmark legacy of **Colorado Boys Ranch Foundation** is commitment, results and resilience in its Mission of serving troubled youth. For over 56 years, CBR has evolved and adapted to successfully meet the changes and demands of our society.

Our modern name, **CBR YouthConnect**, clearly reflects how we help Colorado boys, girls, parents and families, right in their homes, schools and local communities. The legacy story is available in our book, *The Hero Within* (Fulcrum Press, 2007), authored by Board members Cindy Landsberg and Judith Pettibone.



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To achieve excellence providing troubled youth with the means to become hopeful and productive citizens.



OUR AWARDS:

Samaritan Institute-Colorado Ethics in Business Award for Non-Profits

Two time recipient of the El Pomar Outstanding Youth Organization Award

Numerous features on NBC Nightly news, Animal Planet and Discovery Channel

