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**The Buckeye Ranch and Nationwide Children's Hospital Partner on New
Mental Health Facility for Youth**

Pediatric mental health experts collaborate to enhance community-based care for youth

Grove City, Ohio, January 10, 2023 — As the youth mental health crisis continues to grow in the region and across the nation, [The Buckeye Ranch](#) and [Nationwide Children's Hospital](#) are collaborating to address the need for higher acuity care for youth and families with a new 48-bed residential mental health treatment facility.

This collaboration will reimagine The Buckeye Ranch's current facilities, creating optimal residential treatment programs to bridge inpatient psychiatric treatment for youth with especially challenging needs. The state-of-the-art facility, expected to break ground in spring 2023, will mainly serve youth who are transitioning from hospital settings, but who need to continue their recovery process and maintain stability before returning to their homes. With more than 57,000 square feet, the building at The Buckeye Ranch will include a new education center, up-to-date space for intensive treatment, and a welcome center – all allowing for greater family engagement, involvement and visitation. Overall, the facility will provide families with additional access to residential treatment and more intensive help for youth with serious emotional and behavioral health concerns. The expansion will be funded through a combination of operations and community philanthropy. Fundraising efforts to support the project are underway.

“Mental illness is one of the most pressing health issues of our time, and it has been exacerbated with the isolation and the stressors associated with the pandemic,” said [Vickie Thompson-Sandy](#), CEO and President of The Buckeye Ranch. “One in five U.S. children experience a mental health condition in a given year, and locally, one Ohioan under 18 years dies by suicide every 33 hours. The Buckeye Ranch, working with Nationwide Children's Hospital, is fortunately in the position to expand our expertise and facilities to serve these youth and promote healing.”

The Buckeye Ranch's commitment to children and adolescent mental and behavioral health goes back more than six decades, and Nationwide Children's Hospital is recognized as one of the nation's largest and most respected providers of mental and behavioral health services for children and youth. Their long-standing relationship has provided services to meet youth and families' unique physical, mental and behavioral health needs, but the region still faces a gap in the continuum of care for youth with complex mental health conditions.

This facility will benefit by collaboration between the mental and behavioral health experts at both organizations and providers throughout the community on a variety of needs including training and hiring strategies to enhanced quality and safety.

“As providers, we strive to meet patients and families where they are with the resources they need to thrive. A single provider cannot meet the needs of an entire community alone. We proactively seek out partnerships throughout the community that will enhance vital services for children’s mental health, and we are excited about this collaboration with The Buckeye Ranch, as they maintain an outstanding reputation for residential care,” said [David Axelson, MD](#), Chief of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. “This new facility will benefit our patients, and children cared for providers throughout the community. This is a positive and proactive step forward in our community-based model for mental health care.”

“These changes will help us modernize mental health treatment, implementing a holistic, innovative, and coordinated approach to the continuum of care that was not achievable in our previous facilities,” said Sarah Book, Vice President of Residential Services at The Buckeye Ranch. “Our goal is to help youth and their families navigate a severe mental health crisis and put into place the resources needed to promote further healing beyond an inpatient stay and prepare youth for a safe return to their communities.”

The new building, which will be at 5665 Hoover Road in Grove City, Ohio 43123, is scheduled to open in 2025. To become a capital supporter at any level for the new facility and campus expansion, contact Buckeye Ranch Director of Development Jessica Brown at jabrown@buckeyeranch.org

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About The Buckeye Ranch

The Buckeye Ranch, an independent, nonprofit organization recognized under IRS regulations as a 501c3, opened in 1961 as a treatment center for 10 young men and has now transitioned into one of the country’s leading providers of emotional, behavioral and mental health services for children and families. Each day, more than 2,350 youth are in The Buckeye Ranch’s care, receiving services designed to help them become successful within their families, schools and communities. Today, The Buckeye Ranch operates from six different locations to better serve clients in Central and Southwestern Ohio. Its staff of 500 professionals is committed to helping each client achieve their goals. Since the beginning, The Buckeye Ranch’s mission has been to restore hope and provide healing for children and families. To learn more, visit www.thebuckeyeranch.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

About Nationwide Children’s Hospital

Named to the Top 10 Honor Roll on *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2023-23 list of “Best Children’s Hospitals,” Nationwide Children’s Hospital is one of America’s largest not-for-profit free-standing pediatric health care systems providing unique expertise in pediatric population health, behavioral health, genomics and health equity as the next frontiers in pediatric medicine, leading to best outcomes for the health of the whole child. Integrated clinical and research programs, as well as prioritizing quality and safety, are part of what allows Nationwide Children’s to advance its unique model of care. Nationwide Children’s has a staff of more than 13,000 that provides state-of-the-art wellness, preventive and rehabilitative care and diagnostic treatment during more than 1.6 million patient visits annually. As home to the Department of Pediatrics of The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Nationwide Children’s physicians train the next generation of pediatricians and pediatric specialists. The Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital is one of the Top 10 National Institutes of Health-funded free-standing pediatric research facilities. More information is available at NationwideChildrens.org.