



FISCAL YEAR 2015

Annual Report



the buckeye
ranch
we raise hope



This annual report includes information regarding our current services and recaps our financial information for the period beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015 (Fiscal Year 2015).



Dear Friend of The Buckeye Ranch:

I am proud to report that in Fiscal 2015 our three boards of directors and almost 500 staff did a wonderful job operating a very, very difficult business.

We celebrate having served 4,424 children and their families during FY 2015, which was a 12% increase over FY 2014. We provided more than \$39.5 million in services, which was a 5.4% increase over the previous year. Based upon best practices for children learning to control their behaviors, we added Adventure Therapy to our program offerings. We became certified in Neurosequential Models of Therapy (NMT), a therapeutic approach to healing brain development interrupted by trauma and we adopted a new strategic plan to forge our future. Financially, we successfully operated four fund raising events that helped us meet new friends, helped us raise \$685,000 and helped grow our Foundation's assets by \$1,750,000.

When I am asked about what I most like about the Ranch, I say that "I love our product". We Raise Hope and I get to see it happen every day as children return to their parents, schools and communities. I also say that "I admire our staff." From the groundskeeper who maintains our campus to the members of the Executive Team... everyone plays a role in our success and ultimately in the success of our clients. Ranch staffers are very special people!

Fiscal 2016 promises to bring us many more challenges as the way services are provided and paid for change. We are also blessed to have the continued support of The Buckeye Ranch Service Board whose membership dates back to the founding of our agency in 1961. Together the Operations Board, The Foundation Board and the Holding Company Board of Directors, along with our staff will meet these challenges head-on because we know that from the greatest challenges come the greatest rewards. And, we know that there may be no greater reward than seeing "hope" re-instilled in a child's life. This keeps us going!

We appreciate your support of The Buckeye Ranch as we begin our 55th year of service to children and their families. We raise hope, and because you care, you do too! Thank you!

Sincerely,

D. Nicholas Rees
President & CEO
The Buckeye Ranch.

Headline for Trauma Informed Care



Realizing the impact that early childhood adversity and trauma has had on the children youth and families we serve, The Buckeye Ranch has made a commitment to understanding and treating the resulting lifelong challenges. Through significant investment of time and financial resources, the agency achieved Site Certification in the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) from the Child Trauma Academy. NMT is a clinical approach to treatment that takes into consideration a child's developmental history, identifying the timing and severity of adverse experiences and their impact on neurodevelopment. Treatment will address the point of arrested brain development. For example, if the traumatic event dates back to age two, when play is the mode of learning, the therapeutic approach would focus on that developmental stage and not the chronological age of the child.

There are three phases to the Ranch's immersion into NMT: the Pre-training Preparation Phase (six months), Phase One, the training and certification individual clinicians (one year) and Phase Two, Train the Trainer. Phase Two will allow us the capacity to provide in-house certification of Ranch staff as well as significantly increase our capacity to provide state-of-the-art trauma assessments for the children and families we serve. Following the certification of our first group of 13 clinicians, we used a generous grant from the Central Benefits Health Care Foundation to enroll a second group of ten clinicians to begin the year-long training process and also enrolled a group of six to become certified trainers.

In addition to our efforts to become NMT Certified, the Ranch organized an agency-wide Trauma Informed Care (TIC) committee to plan trainings for all levels of staff to increase their recognition and skills in working with childhood adversity. Staff, including all new employees, learn about the role of early adversity on brain development through the use of videos from The Child Trauma Academy. Thus far, 82 ongoing workers participated in 22 hours of intensive training in the application of NMT principles. Our TIC committee worked tirelessly to develop and implement strategies to support our staff and protect against secondary traumatic effects, enhance our communication across the agency, improve our training and staff development relative to trauma informed concepts, and provide a broader array of innovative interventions that can better treat the clients we serve.

Internship Programs:

The Buckeye Ranch has long provided professional training to individuals committed to a career in serving children and families with behavioral and mental health challenges. We are becoming recognized as a leader for training professionals entering the field of community mental health and child welfare. For six years we have provided a Family Therapy internship using "live" supervision by two Ohio State University professors, our Director of Clinical Development and a community-based clinical supervisor coaching students behind a one-way mirror as they provide therapy to families in real time. As an outgrowth, this past year, we embarked on a unique partnership with the College of Social Work at The Ohio State University to offer a two-year graduate internship with an intensive focus on training in family therapy. Our new partnership with OSU allows us to provide a highly competitive program that includes stipends for students who are committed to rigorous training in preparation for a career working with the most challenged families.

In addition to our partnership with OSU, we provided internships for 33 students from eight universities during the 2014-15 Fiscal Year. Upon graduation, many of these students become employees of The Buckeye Ranch. In addition to strong professional competence, we have very high retention rates for those employees who complete graduate internships at The Buckeye Ranch.





Headline about Community Based Programs will go here

Randy's Story

It's not unusual for families to be "blended," that is, two families with children coming together through marriage. Twelve year old Randy was one of those children. For him, gaining this "ready-made" family, along with the birth of a new sibling, severely limited the time he had with his mother. So much so, he began to consider suicide as a way to cope with his feelings of abandonment. One fall morning, he arrived at his middle school with a knife, prepared to harm himself. However, upon entering school, he had second thoughts, and disclosed to his teacher that he had the weapon. After a brief hospitalization for stabilization, Randy was referred to The Buckeye Ranch Intensive Family Services Program.

Randy's life was filled with insecurities—a father who abandoned the family and a mother who had to focus her energies on raising his two younger sisters and him. As a result, Randy began to act out, seeking attention from his mother. When that failed, he retreated into his own world of video games which created increased isolation. When his mother remarried, with two more children joining the family, there was even less time for Randy. In addition to issues at home, his life was compounded by the revelation that he was being bullied at school. He was losing hope and did not know where to turn.

Randy's Ranch counselor knew that Randy did not want to die, but felt desperate. The counselor met with Randy, his mother and step-father at their home a few times each week. She tapped into Randy's intense desire to communicate although he often was silent. Even though Randy was reluctant to talk, she encouraged him to use pictures, and to write his thoughts in a notebook between sessions. She helped Randy's parents find ways to encourage him to communicate and to reduce their frustration by his silence. Soon, Randy was able to express his feelings and needs. His mother took a more active role with him. By the end of treatment, Randy was more verbal at home, more confident in school and became a non-violent defender for other kids who were being bullied.



The Community Based Programs of The Buckeye Ranch are designed to work intensively with families to achieve their treatment goals. We believe that a family living safely together in their own home and community is the ideal setting for children to grow up. Unfortunately, this goal is often difficult to achieve. There are challenges that prevent families from realizing this goal - mental illness, abuse, drugs, violence, and poverty.

Community-Based Programs Snapshot:

- Six distinct programs providing intensive office, home, and school-based counseling, including crisis intervention.
- Evidenced based approaches including Multisystemic Therapy (MST), Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and Nurturing Parenting.
- Culturally specific programming for Somali youth and families to access behavioral health services as well as community stabilization.
- Services to over 2,100 youth and families, delivering individual, family and group counseling, substance abuse counseling, pharmacological management services, and outreach case management.

 2,114 CHILDREN SERVED

*Offering treatment and support
for struggling children and families*



Our Professional Staff is Skilled, Licensed, Accredited and Certificated

Headline about Residential Program will go here

The Ranch’s Residential program operates under the assumption that any child entering our care has experienced some level of trauma, abuse, neglect, and/or chronic stress. We therefore strive to take a trauma-informed approach across the program. We believe the basis for effective treatment is a safe, predictable and relationship-rich environment. Our staff is trained to understand the effect of trauma on child development and behaviors and learn principles of trauma informed care that allow residents to feel safe and valued.

One challenge with our Residential Program is not being able to see the progress of a youth after they leave our care to return home. Our dedicated staff spends many hours with our clients, teaching them healthy ways to manage their emotions. It takes a lot of time, skill, patience, and understanding to see the slow transformation of these children. When the day of discharge arrives, we are filled with many emotions like a nervous parent letting their child go. We ask ourselves “Did we do enough for him or her?” We watch them ring the ceremonial bell with family, friends, peers and staff gathered to wish them well. That may be our last contact.

However, when we do hear back, we celebrate the hard work that was done to achieve success—theirs and ours. We may not be able to save every child, but we strive to make a difference in every life. This year alone, we served 273 children in either secured or staff secured residential treatment.

Amanda, addicted to heroin at birth, entered our Residential Program with a history of extreme physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. By age 12 she was actively using drugs intravenously and engaging in prostitution. At the time of her admission, Amanda was being used as a “tester” for various street drugs. There was also suspicion that she was involved in a cult. Since her discharge, she has visited staff and calls often to check in. Amanda reports being drug and alcohol free and is attending public high school. Both she and family report that life is good.

 273 CHILDREN SERVED



1	Certified Nurse Practitioner
35	Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant
3	Doctor of Philosophy
2	Juris Doctor
5	Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor III
3	Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor
11	Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor
1	Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor - Supervisor
19	Licensed Independent Social Worker
38	Licensed Independent Social Worker - Supervisor
75	Licensed Social Worker
2	Marriage and Family Therapist
135	Masters
1	Medical Doctor
13	Professional Clinical Counselor
12	Professional Clinical Counselor - Supervisor
12	Professional Counselor
1	Professional Clinical Counselor Resident
3	Registered Art Therapist
12	Registered Nurse
2	Registered Play Therapist
3	Social Work Trainee
1	Certified Pharmacy Technician

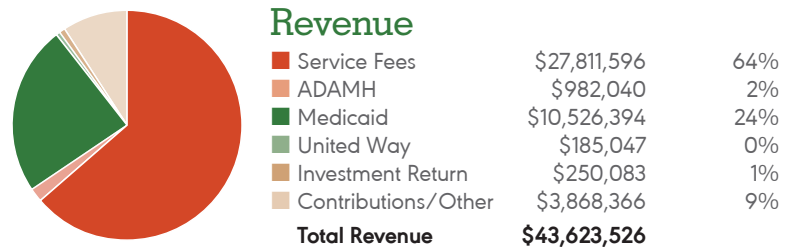
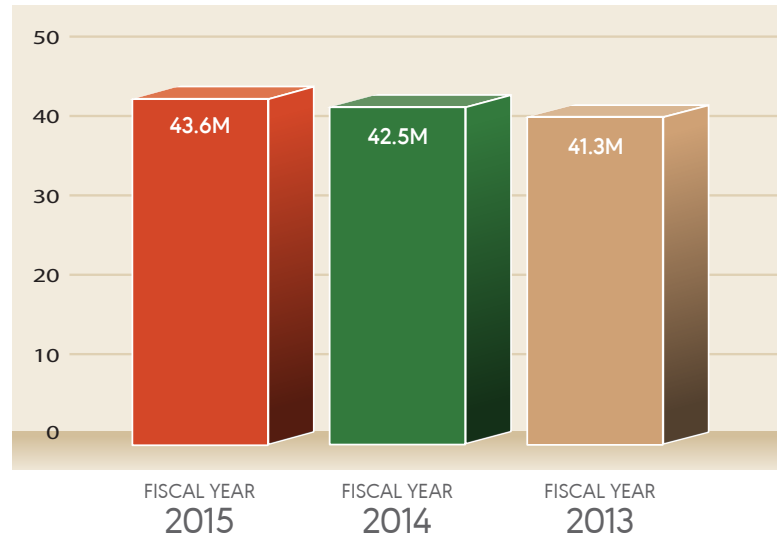
Facts and Figures

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: The Buckeye Ranch and The Buckeye Ranch Foundation are listed as 501(c)3 certified non-profit agencies with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

Program	Number Served
PFSN	1572 children
	826 families
Foster Care	590 children
	252 foster homes
	27 counties
Residential	273 children
▪ ICC:	142
▪ JSO:	16
▪ Open:	115
Academies	253 children
▪ Cross Creek:	196
▪ Rosemont:	57
Community Based	2114 children
▪ Southpoint:	45
▪ Education-based (Columbus Scioto):	164
▪ Somali:	56
▪ Outpatient:	594
▪ Home-based:	1255
Common Ground	158 children
	113 families
My Place	44 Young Adults
Family Resources	1081 children
Pharmacological Management	1041 children
TOTAL	4,424 children*
<p>This is a 16% increase of last year's published number of 3792, therefore, daily count = 2204 children/day</p>	

*Total when factoring out children served in more than one program.

3-Year Revenue History (in millions)



Executive Team

D. Nicholas Rees	.....	President & CEO
Tina Boesch	.....	Director of Permanent Family Solutions Network
Molly Heit	.....	Director of Residential Services
Carrie McGlaughlin	.....	Director of Information Technology
Kim Miller	.....	Director of Utilization Management
Roger Minner	.....	VP of Community-Based Programming
Sherri Orr	.....	Chief Financial Officer
Robert F. Peters III	.....	Director of Quality Improvement
Dr. Pam Scott	.....	Director of Clinical Development
Gary Stammler	.....	Exec. VP of Business & Operations
Maree Whitlow	.....	Director of Human Resources
Ann Woodford	.....	Director of Foster Care



2015-2016 Board of Directors

Headline about Fatherhood program will go here

Permanent Family Solutions Network, the child welfare/protection service under a managed care contract with Franklin County Children’s Services, is happy to report that after a year of researching, training, and planning have implemented an evidenced-based Nurturing Father program, called “The Father Within,” for fathers with open child welfare cases. This program works to break the intergenerational cycle of fatherlessness and the subsequent negative psychological impact it has on children’s well-being and behavior.

Comparing our experience with other agencies in Ohio and in the United States, we have found that unwed fathers, who may not have had a father figure themselves, face a long and difficult battle to gain even the most basic parental rights; especially if they are young, poor, unemployed and lack an education.

The Father Within is a 13-week, group-based program that develops attitudes and skills for male nurturance. It raises the awareness of the importance of a father’s involvement with their children and promotes positive parenting opportunities for father-child interaction. In July, our inaugural group of seven fathers began meeting once a week for two hours. The fathers entered the program as strangers, and upon graduation in October, left as “brothers.”

Participants received one-on-one mentoring and information on how to access community resources, such as child support enforcement agency, employment, clothing and housing resources. After graduation, fathers continue to be eligible to receive ongoing support and service referrals as needed. This is The Buckeye Ranch’s first step in raising awareness of how important it is to include fathers in their children’s lives including treatment.

 1,572 CHILDREN SERVED

Foster Care program

The Buckeye Ranch Foster Care program provides a therapeutic family setting with foster parents, who are trained, supervised and supported by Ranch staff, for children who temporarily are unable to remain safely in their home. Our goal is to provide a healing home environment and community setting that supports the child until reunification with their family is possible. When this is not possible, we are committed to finding permanency for children through adoption.

This year the Foster Care program expanded its services to care for children who were in the custody of eight new county children services agencies. In total 590 children throughout Central and Southwest Ohio were cared for in 252 foster homes located in 27 different counties. The Foster Care program received recognition for ensuring children had placement stability, academic success, and improvement in their functioning. Nearly 70% of the children served in our program successfully transitioned back with their families, into adoption, emancipated as young adults or into independent living.

 590 CHILDREN SERVED

Foundation Board

Charged with raising money to support The Buckeye Ranch, as well as fostering relationships with their peers in the community. Bylaws allow up to 60 seats.

- Beau Arnason
- Steve Bennett
- James Bersani
- Joshua Borean
- Joe Buonaiuto
- John Deck
- Brian Dytko
- Matt Fornshell
- Marshall Loeb
- Steve Miggo, Chair
- Paul Milligan
- Chris Previte
- Ann Rarey
- Michael Rosati
- Matt Russell
- Ken Schnacke
- James Scott
- Valerie Slaven
- Chris Sonneman
- MaryAnn Sylvestre
- Robert Verst
- Mike Zatezalo
- Cathy Zemanek

Operations Board

Makes programming decisions and sets policies for day-to-day operations. Bylaws allow up to 25 voting seats.

- Mike Asensio
- Nancy Coons
- Dr. Carla Curtis
- Kathy Felice
- Karen Hanks
- Emmett Kelly
- Rick Mariotti, Chair
- Greg Miller
- Douglas Muszynski
- Greg Ramsey
- Doug Robinette
- James Ryan
- Charles Wharton

Holding Company

Serves in an advisory capacity and has up to 15 voting seats.

- Joe Gallo
- Mark Hertel
- Dana Kuhn
- Barbara Lach
- Rick Mariotti
- Ric Martin, Chair
- Paul Matthews
- Steve Miggo
- Mark Pizzi
- Muriel Tice

Fostering healing so families can grow

For information regarding donations to the Buckeye Ranch, please contact the Department at 614-539-6637

5665 Hoover Road
Grove City, Ohio 43123
614-875-2371



Restoring hope and strength to children, to families and to communities.



An Unexpected Path to Adoption

Sue and Jay became foster parents with The Buckeye Ranch nearly 20 years ago when they were in their early thirties. Sue recalls making the decision to become a foster parent while attending a women's church event when she heard a foster child's experience. She knew she wanted to make a difference, "I just wanted children to feel love, to go to bed safe, and to have food or whatever else they may need." Jay was a little less eager and had some apprehension. His concern was for their two young children and not being prepared to care for more. With persistence, Sue was able to convince Jay of the difference they could make for children and the two became foster parents.

This year Jay and Sue prepare to finalize the adoption of their fourteen-year-old son. This will be their seventh adoption since starting in foster care with The Buckeye Ranch 20 years ago. Sue and Jay adopted their first son in 2003, a son and daughter in 2005, and a set of three brothers and sisters in 2007. They agree that they could not have imagined the blessings and challenges that came with their foster parenting experience. They especially did not imagine becoming adoptive parents to their seven children. Both are very proud of the family they have created.



Bringing families together