

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Oesterlen Services for Youth Announces Partnership with The Buckeye Ranch and Strategic Restructuring

Springfield, Ohio, September 16th, 2024 – [Oesterlen Services for Youth](#), a leading provider of foster care and residential programs, is pleased to announce that it will associate with [The Buckeye Ranch](#), one of Ohio's largest and most comprehensive child and family mental health and social service organizations, in a strategic alignment and restructuring. The strategic alignment and restructuring will enable both organizations to combine their resources, expertise, and commitment to supporting children and families in need across the state, ensuring the continuity of high-quality care with a focus on individualized treatment and support.

The Buckeye Ranch will integrate Oesterlen's foster care program into its current programming and will provide continued residential services to those youth who meet their admission criteria into their existing residential program to allow for continuity of care for those youth. Oesterlen Services for Youth will restructure and transform its operations into the Oesterlen Foundation, focusing on providing grants to programs and initiatives that benefit children and families, ensuring that Oesterlen's mission of care and support continues in a new and impactful way.

"We are excited about the opportunities the integration with The Buckeye Ranch presents," said Maurice D. Ware, CEO of Oesterlen Services for Youth. "The Buckeye Ranch shares our values and dedication to the well-being of children and families, and strategic restructuring will allow us to extend our reach and impact even further. At the same time, the formation of the Oesterlen Foundation will ensure that we continue to invest in the future of those we serve."

Vickie Thompson-Sandy, President & CEO of The Buckeye Ranch, echoed this sentiment, saying, "We are honored to welcome Oesterlen's programs into our organization so that youth and families who are receiving services from Oesterlen do not experience disruption. Together, we will be able to offer even more comprehensive services and support to those in need, building on the strong foundation that Oesterlen has established over the years to raise hope and provide healing to families."

The transition, currently underway, is expected to be seamless, with minimal disruption to children and families currently served by Oesterlen. Both organizations are committed to maintaining continuity of care and ensuring that the needs of those they serve remain the top priority.

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About Oesterlen Services for Youth

The Lutheran Church founded the Oesterlen Children's Home in Springfield, Ohio, in 1903 with a legacy from the Oesterlen family in Findlay, Ohio. It later shifted its focus to foster care and youth mental health treatment across Ohio. Oesterlen Services For Youth provided a range of programs, including outpatient counseling, treatment foster care, residential treatment, and community support services. The Oesterlen Foundation will continue its legacy by supporting youth initiatives. To learn more, visit www.Oesterlen.org.

About The Buckeye Ranch

The Buckeye Ranch is a private, non-profit provider that has been serving children and families in Ohio for over 60 years. Opening in 1961 as a treatment center for 10 young men, it has now transitioned into a leading provider of emotional, behavioral and mental health services for children and families in Ohio. 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. With 6 locations and over 560 dedicated staff, our four service lines - Child Welfare Services, Community and Education-Based Mental Health Services, Residential Treatment Services, and Integrated Care Services- operate 18 programs for youth and families across the state. 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.BuckeyeRanch.org.