



The Buckeye Ranch Opens Ohio's First and Only Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for Teens

GROVE CITY, Ohio (December 4, 2025) – [The Buckeye Ranch](#), in collaboration with Nationwide Children's Hospital, today celebrated the ribbon cutting of the [Hope Treatment Center](#), Ohio's first and only Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) for teens.

The new 57,000-square-foot building, along with the renovation and expansion of the campus' existing Dining Center and Education Center, represents a significant expansion in The Buckeye Ranch's ability to meet the growing mental health needs of youth across Ohio. The Hope Treatment Center will provide specialized, around-the-clock care for up to 48 children who need psychiatric support at a level that is a step down from an inpatient hospital setting before returning home to their families. This \$35M expansion project increases The Buckeye Ranch's capacity to serve nearly 100 youth on the [Residential Treatment Services](#) Grove City campus.

"More than five years ago, we recognized a critical gap in care for youth experiencing mental health crises," said Vickie Thompson-Sandy, President and CEO of The Buckeye Ranch. "Too many children were being sent out of state for treatment, separated from their families and communities during their most vulnerable moments. The Hope Treatment Center changes that. It ensures children can receive the care that they need here in Ohio, close to home, surrounded by the support and treatment that they need on their path toward lasting healing."

Developed in close collaboration with Nationwide Children's Hospital, the Hope Treatment Center reflects a shared commitment to expanding access to mental health treatment and building a continuum of care that supports children and families along every step of their journey.

"Hope grows when communities come together," said Kirt Walker, chairman of the Nationwide Foundation. "This partnership between The Buckeye Ranch and Nationwide Children's Hospital is proof of what is possible when we unite around a common purpose to give every child the chance to heal, to thrive, and to dream again."

The ribbon cutting program featured remarks from leaders across both Nationwide and Nationwide Children's Hospital alongside Vickie Thompson-Sandy to celebrate the partnership. Additionally, a young woman, Samiyah, who was supported by The Buckeye Ranch's PRTF program, shared a powerful story of healing, exemplifying the life-changing impact this expansion will continue to make possible.

"Today marks an incredible step forward for children's mental health care in central Ohio," said Tim Robinson, CEO of Nationwide Children's Hospital. "The Hope Treatment Center is the result of years of collaboration and shared commitment between Nationwide Children's and The Buckeye Ranch. Together, we're ensuring that children in crisis can achieve exceptional care close to home, right here in our community."

Following the ceremony, attendees toured the state-of-the-art facility and engaged with staff dedicated to providing compassionate, evidence-based care for children in need of healing and stability.

The building will begin supporting the care of youth on campus and young people in the community who need support in late December 2025.

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About The Buckeye Ranch

The Buckeye Ranch is a private, nonprofit provider that has been serving children and families in Ohio for over 64 years. Opening in 1961 as a treatment center for 10 young men, it has now transitioned into a leading provider of behavioral health, mental health, education, and child welfare services for children and families. Each day, thousands of youth are in The Buckeye Ranch's care, receiving services designed to help them become successful within their families, schools and communities. With six locations and nearly 700 dedicated team members, our four service lines - Child Welfare Services, Community and Education-Based Mental Health Services, Residential Treatment Services, and Integrated Care Services - operate 17 programs for youth and families across the state of Ohio. 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.

About Nationwide Children's Hospital

Named to the Top 10 Honor Roll on U.S. News & World Report's 2025-26 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 17,000 that provides state-of-the-art wellness, preventive and rehabilitative care and diagnostic treatment during more than 1.9 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.