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The Buckeye Ranch Earns Top Workplaces Award for Third Consecutive Year

Based on employee feedback, award confirms organization’s commitment to workplace culture, putting team members first

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 9, 2026 — For the third year in a row, [The Buckeye Ranch](#), an Ohio nonprofit dedicated to raising hope and providing healing for children and families through mental health and child welfare services, was selected for the [2026 USA Today Top Workplaces](#) award. This award honors organizations from across the country with 150 or more employees that have created exceptional, people-first cultures.

This year, more than 42,000 organizations were invited to participate, and winners were chosen based on employee feedback captured through a survey conducted by [Energage](#), the HR research and technology company behind the Top Workplaces award.

“Our team members are the heart of what we do at The Buckeye Ranch, raising hope and supporting healing for the more than 24,000 children, youth and families through our services and prevention programs,” said Vickie Thompson-Sandy, President and CEO, The Buckeye Ranch. “It is because of our 650+ team members that our mission comes to life, allowing us to meet the ever-changing needs of the community. Our strategic focus on ensuring our team members have the support and resources they need has given our team an increased sense of belonging.”

As part of its strategic plan, The Buckeye Ranch concentrated on creating an organizational culture that emphasizes team member engagement, and professional and performance development. The organization has built a workplace that provides respect, dignity, and compassion for every team member.

In December 2025, The Buckeye Ranch opened the Hope Treatment Center, which houses Ohio’s first Psychiatric Residential Facility for teens, to meet the growing mental health needs of Ohio youth. The Hope Treatment Center, located on the Grove City campus, provides specialized around-the-clock care for up to 94 children who need mental health treatment, including psychiatric support to step down from an inpatient hospital setting. Additionally, the organization expanded its Cincinnati office to broaden the current offerings of Foster Care to meet the growing needs of youth and families with complex mental health needs. Today, The Buckeye Ranch

services in Southwest Ohio include Kinship Caregiver Supports, Behavioral Health Respite, Multi-Systemic Therapy, Integrated Co-occurring Treatment, and Intensive Family Support Program. “Receiving the Top Workplaces Award for the third year in a row is a testament to our team members’ commitment to our mission of raising hope and healing for children, youth, and families,” said June DeLeo, Vice President of People and Culture, The Buckeye Ranch. “Because of the impactful mental health work we do in the community, we feel it is vital that our organization invests in our team members and ensures they have the support they need. Our mission has always been to care for the wellbeing of our community and that extends to our people.”

The survey results are calculated based on employee responses to statements about Workplace Experience Themes, which are proven indicators of high performance. The full list of 2026 honorees can be viewed [here](#).

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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 ten 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.

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