



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Buckeye Ranch's Fifth Annual A Positive Note Event Raises Over \$341K to Provide Hope and Healing for Ohio Children, Youth and Families

COLUMBUS, OH (MAY 8, 2026) – [The Buckeye Ranch](#), an Ohio nonprofit dedicated to providing healing for children and families through mental health, behavioral health, and child welfare services, held its fifth annual [A Positive Note](#), presented by Nationwide, on May 7 at KEMBA Live! The organization's donors were once again generous in their commitment to children, helping to raise \$341,485. Through donors' generous investments, The Buckeye Ranch will be able to serve more youth through the growth of programs to address the mental and behavior health needs of the community as well as expand child welfare services.

This year's celebration highlighted the evolution of The Buckeye Ranch in its 65th year. Featuring live music and inspiring stories from those whose lives have been impacted by The Buckeye Ranch, the night kicked off with remarks from Vickie Thompson-Sandy, President and CEO, The Buckeye Ranch, followed by a moving speech from Fred, the second youth to arrive at The Buckeye Ranch in 1962. Fred shared how The Buckeye Ranch impacted his life after growing up in a traumatic home environment.

"Our storytellers at A Positive Night demonstrated the importance of Ohio youth and families having access to mental and behavioral health services and the importance of our community partners being part of the solution" said Thompson-Sandy. "It is truly an honor to be a partner in their journeys. Their stories also showed how much The Buckeye Ranch has changed since opening its doors in 1961 and how the services we offer have grown to meet the needs of children, youth and families. This past year, we have been able to open a much-needed treatment space so kids who need additional help after being discharged from in-patient psychiatric care don't have to leave the state."

In addition to 2026 presenting sponsor, Nationwide, A Positive Note sponsors included:

- Matching Sponsor: Zipline Logistics
- Media Sponsor: Rosati Windows
- Platinum Sponsor: Elford
- Gold Sponsors: Kokosing, United Healthcare, Cameron Mitchell Restaurants, ITA Audio Visual Solutions, Spectrum Reach
- Silver Sponsors: HUB International, Origo Branding, Safelite, First Merchants Bank, Crane Group, LeaderPromos, David and Barbie Kristal, Bailey Cavalieri, Jill Shea, McCall Sharp Genet Architecture, Marilyn Terry, KEMBA Financial Credit Union, OhioRISE/Aetna, Michael and Paige Crane

“Nationwide strives to improve the quality of life in our communities,” said Bradley J. Beman, CFA, Head of Fixed Income, Nationwide, and Trustee, The Buckeye Ranch. “Partnering with The Buckeye Ranch and supporting its efforts means we can help bring essential mental and behavioral health services to even more youth and families in Ohio. I greatly admire those who shared their stories at A Positive Note, highlighting how they have healed and how The Buckeye Ranch can help those going through similar journeys.”

Every contribution to The Buckeye Ranch means investing in a brighter future for children, youth, and families in need. Fundraising for A Positive Note will remain open through May 31, 2026. To make a donation, please visit https://onecau.se/_cu2pr1.

The Buckeye Ranch provides a continuum of evidence-based services designed to support children, youth and families at every stage of need. Full details of The Buckeye Ranch’s services can be found at www.buckeyeranch.org/ourservices/.

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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 65 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.