



2016 Summer Edition

Cal Farley's Alumni Newsletter

"The boy who has done just as he pleases for 12 or 14 years isn't easy to saddle and bridle." –Cal Farley

The Pain of the Change

Strategic planning to some is a once a year event that culminates in a nicely bound set of objectives that sits on the shelf the rest of the year collecting dust. At Cal Farley's, strategic planning is ongoing and a necessary driver of innovation and progress.

I've been with Cal Farley's for 20 years now, almost 12 of which have been in my current role as President and CEO. In all of my years here, there is one thing that remains constant and that is *change*.

This is not unique to Cal Farley's. Most organizations experience constant pressure to change. The main reason for this is the demands of the *stakeholders* who expect certain things of us depending on their frame of reference: those we serve, those who fund us, and those who hold us accountable.

The most important stakeholder group is our clients, the children and families we serve. They call us in a crisis, and what they need from us is help in whatever form we can deliver it... this requires commitments on both sides.

Funders are stakeholders. If we accept their funding, we respond to their expectations. And, regulators are stakeholders. If we are to operate legally, we follow laws, rules, and standards.

Alumni are stakeholders in several ways; as those once served by Cal Farley's, donors, advisors and even governing board members!

Each one of our board of directors is a stakeholder. Their obligation as a group is to hold me accountable for the fulfillment of our mission while ensuring quality of care, legal and ethical management of our finances and employment practices, and our fundraising practices.

No decision we make in any area is arbitrary, and sometimes we shift gears because the way we've always done it may no longer be effective.

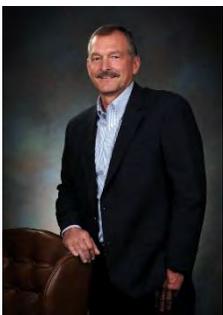
Several years back, we began evaluating our organization with an employee centered tool called the Survey for Organizational Excellence. Over the years, I have seen several consistencies. First of all, most employees seem to be in sync with our mission. Another is our strategic orientation –that is, we were always open to pondering different and better ways of doing things.

Ironically, we also score high on resistance to change.

This means that the idea of change feels good to us, but the reality of change is uncomfortable. That is normal because in the absence of a perfectly clear picture of the future, people tend to hang on for dear life to what they know. Progress and innovation can be scary.

One of the world's most famous innovators, Steve Jobs, had a theory about that. He said, "You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something."

What I trust about Cal Farley's is our tendency to do the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason, in spite of the *pain of the change*. And that, by the way, is completely in line with the famous Cal Farley quote, "It's where you're going that counts," our 75th anniversary year tag line.



We've done a pretty good job over the years managing through change: becoming co-ed at Boys Ranch; working closer with families, starting alumni support services, expanding our community centered services, and adopting a more strength-based model of care.

I can't tell you exactly what the future will look like, no one can. What I feel certain about; is that that more change will happen. What I also feel certain about is that we are going to continue taking care of as many children and families as we can, in the best way we know how, within the resources we have.

While our mission and our values will transcend time, our approaches will always be adjusted to fit the needs of our children and families and the expectations of our primary stakeholders.

Thanks for fighting the good fight! Dan

<http://calfarley.org>

Alumni Support Services

Kim Reeves

806-322-2531

kimreeves@calfarley.org

Newsletter

Cheree Gilliam

806-322-2645

chereegilliam@calfarley.org

Published Quarterly

All submissions and comments should be received NO LATER than September 15 to make it into the 2016 Fall edition of the Alumni Newsletter.

2016 Calendar

Rodeo Reunion – Sept 2-4

(See Alumni website for Gathering details)

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Condolences



John Gee McMillen

Boys Ranch 58-61
May 9, 2016
Clovis, NM



Earl Jordan

Boys Ranch 58-66
April 22, 2016
San Angelo, TX



C.C. "Bus" Dugger

BR Staff
April 8, 2016
Amarillo, TX



Verena Smith-Wilkins

Girlstown 65-67
April 13, 2016
DFW, TX

Sympathy, Prayers & Good Wishes

Jason Bustos
Jerry Haley
Arnold Bennett
Bea George
Joanie Hendricks

Congratulations go out to Brian Bailey (96) on recently obtaining his Master's degree.

If you see Tim Sheehan (90), congratulate him on recently celebrating 20 years of marriage.

Prayers for Jim Canada (66) on the recent loss of his daughter, Shannon.

Prayers for Rachel Bradley (04) on the recent passing of her mother.

LOOKING FOR BR YEARBOOKS

I am looking to find Boys Ranch yearbooks, years 1958, 1960, 1961 and 1962.

They will be returned, unharmed and at no cost to you. I only wish to make a copy of them for my files.

If you have one of these books, please contact me at chereegilliam@calfarley.org or direct at 806/322-2645.

Roll Call (Alumni we've heard from or talked to)

Michael Gregory (56), Eddie Enochs (63), Mike Rust (63), Arnold Bennett (66), Everett Davis (68), Hap Rainbolt (69), Chuck Gaskins (69), Carol Swartz-Sipe (GT/70), Norma Josey (GT/73), Woody Davis (76), John Taylor (76), Lee Ehrenstein (76), Shawn Johnson (77), Henry "Buster" King (78), Darall Clemons (83), Raymond Rangel (83), Tony Medina (91), Juana Gallegos (GT/93), Roy Cano (94), Jonathan Oswald (96), Amy Wheeler (97), Kattie Youngblood (97), Lashondra Sandoval-Martin (02), Kansas McCracken (02), Dallas McCracken (02), Katrina Murphy (05), Axel McCracken (06), Troy Mowatt (09), Hayleigh Steadman (GT/11), Kyle Mansell (12), Natalie Sebastianelli (15), Bette Akin, Gene Hayman, Dennis McClish

Alumni Support Services

By Kim Reeves

Skylar Younger

Skylar Younger was a resident at Boys Ranch for five years and graduated from Boys Ranch High School in 2015. She is currently living at Cal Farley's Alumni Support Center and attending Amarillo College. She began working at United Supermarkets shortly after graduation and has been employed there since.



For Skylar, the first year after high school was one of learning the ropes of adulthood, self-discovery and reliance on God. Skylar notes that one of the main things she learned after leaving Boys Ranch is that life is ever-changing. "I'm big on constants and I've had to learn some adaptability." Part of that adaptability involved moving from a stance of self-reliance to embracing a dependency on God. She realized she needed a spiritual foundation to weather the storms that are an inevitable part of life. "At first I tried to do things on my own. I separated myself from God. I finally realized that life's journey is impossible without faith. When I rebuilt my spiritual life, I realized I was never supposed to be alone."

Skylar is very involved in the youth group at First Baptist Church of Amarillo and is readying for a mission trip to Hungary later this summer. According to Skylar, the mission's goal is to reinforce the faith of new churches there. "Most of what we hope to accomplish is evangelistic work and just spreading the true word of God. We want people to know that through the darkness of this world there is an everlasting light."

Skylar's spiritual maturity, her engaging smile and her natural propensity to help others, make her a natural role model for those around her. She has served as a peer mentor for other residents at the Alumni Support Center and never seems to tire of putting the needs of others ahead of her own. When asked what advice she would give to young people just leaving Boys Ranch, Skylar stated, "No one can take success from you but yourself. Every day you choose to be a winner or a loser. So, which will it be?" Skylar's daily choice is obvious.

It's been a joy to watch her grow into the young who lights up a room with her smile and inspires us all with her faith. Skylar, we are so thankful to have you as part of our Cal Farley family.



Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Alumni Association

www.calfarleysalumni.com

Cal Farley's Boys Ranch
Alumni Association
PO Box 9435
Amarillo, TX 79105

facebook

Bobby Sarpalius, Exec Director
cfbraa@sarpserv.com
817-739-6590

The Reunion – Bell's Ringing, It's Time to Come Home

Some of you remember signing up for horseback riding on summer afternoons. We'd meet at the Tack Room, pick a horse, saddle up and ride out in Front Pasture until we heard the bell letting us know it was time to come in. Labor Day weekend means it's time for the Boys Ranch Rodeo, and that means the bell's ringing and its Homecoming for all of us who were Cal Farley's kids.

We've already received confirmations from alumni in Florida, Virginia, Nebraska, New Mexico and Australia, and we'd love to know you're going to join us as well! A couple of new features this year include live music at the banquet on Saturday evening and a bike ride to Red River and back. ((lodging in Red River will be the responsibility of the riders))

Here's a quick rundown of the weekend's events.

Friday is the 4-person scramble golf tournament at Comanche Trail golf course. Tee off is at 1:00 pm. Also the First Annual Ride of the Roughriders will leave Amarillo and return in time for the banquet on Saturday.

Saturday is a very full day with the Fishing Derby at the Lakes at Boys Ranch at 7:30 am, the Old Timers Breakfast at Furr's on Soncy in Amarillo at 9:00 am, the Rodeo at 2:00 pm and the Annual Reunion Banquet at 6:00 pm at the Amarillo Civic Center.

Sunday features Chapel at 11:00, Rodeo at 2:00 and the Alumni Picnic at 5:30 pm. All Sunday activities are at Boys Ranch.

We want to see you there, and we've arranged for a great rate at our host hotel, the Wyndham Garden, so your stay will be both comfortable and affordable. Call the hotel directly and tell them you want the Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Alumni rate of \$65 plus tax per night and tell them that you want a newly renovated room.

We need to know you're coming, so fill out the forms included with this newsletter and send them in or call us so we'll know who to look for and who we can count on to help out. You really do matter to us, and it will be great to reconnect with you at this awesome event. See you there!

Bob's Bear



Bobby Sarpalius (67)



How You Doin'?

We just finished another fiscal year and it would be a good time to see how we're doing. Not so badly! The past year has been a banner year for the Association in some ways...an okay year in others. First let's consider where we need to improve. Truth is, we can always improve everywhere, but some things need more attention. Our actual membership is down. We've had fewer gatherings and attendance has not been as great. You ask, "What can I do about that?" If you are not a member you could pay the annual dues of \$20. That's a good minimum. If you would like to have a gathering in your neck of the woods, contact me and we'll set one up. If you would like to work on a gathering of your class at the reunion, again, contact me and I'll get you the list of info we have on your classmates and help set it up. Involving more alumni will always be an area for improvement.

We've done some very good things this year. We contributed over \$21,000 towards building a Veterans Memorial at BR which was dedicated in November. Over 50 former residents are recognized on the Veterans Wall. If you served you are encouraged to have your tile placed on the wall. New tiles will be added prior to Veterans Day. The Association helped 11 families in crisis situations and provided scholarships for a dozen students. We provided awards for Boys Ranchers showing livestock and prizes for Christmas Scenes at the homes at BR.

We recognized the Rattan's as distinguished staff and Andy Justus as distinguished alumnus in 2015. This year we will be recognizing the Sharps and Jimmie Boatwright as distinguished staff and alumni. The Association has grown the foundation to half a million dollars, which includes over \$180K in scholarship endowments. One fact that should be noted is that 84% of the net revenue has gone directly to our mission efforts of providing crisis support, scholarships, helping alumni and supporting Cal Farley's. You have done some very good work this year. You are doing well. Could do better, but moving in the right direction.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER by David Rodgers (70)



Well it's time again to make plans for our annual reunion and rodeo. Our association has finalized the plans for all the activities we are going to have over the Labor Day weekend. (See David Rattan's article.)

We have several new items for our silent auction. Remember that the money we generate during this auction will be used for our crisis support fund. We were fortunate, this past year, to be able to help several families in their time of need. One thing I need to point out is, when someone needs help, that person needs to go on the web page and apply for assistance. We can get help to them quicker once they apply. This was set up several years ago but we still have folks that are not sure how to apply. We are working on our web page and the changes will appear in the near future. Bobby and several others are working with a software company to streamline our web page.

My wife and I attended the Florida gathering this past May and had a great time visiting with former ranchers and three current staff. The day started early with a fishing trip that Michael Rogers had arranged for some of us. I'd give you the name of the river but I still can't pronounce it myself. Danyel Parkhurst caught the biggest bass (the only bass). Later that evening we had a fabulous meal at Michael's house that included live music. Later we sat around a fire and told stories about growing up at the ranch. Mike Pacino, Cheree Gilliam, and Danyel Parkhurst, who are Boys Ranch staff, traveled to the gathering. It was great to be able to visit and listen to all of the current staff talk about the programs and activities kids are involved in at the Ranch.

I hope you are all having a safe and enjoyable summer. See you in September!

Regional Gatherings

If you would like to see or host a gathering in your area please contact Bob Sarpalius to set it up and get the word out. [817-739-6590 or cfbraa@sarpserv.com]

Silent Auction

HOW DO YOU DO IT?

How does the Association help families in crisis situations? Where do we get the funds to provide critical assistance? GLAD YOU ASKED! The primary funding for the Crisis Support Fund is the SILENT AUCTION! This event is held at the Annual Meeting in the Civic Center on Saturday, September 3rd.

Items for the auction are donated by alumni and businesses. Some items already secured for the upcoming silent auction are a fire pit, outdoor chairs & table and tools. We may have 100 items at the auction. Donors are vital to the success of the auction, but even more essential are those who purchase the items. This is where the money comes from to help people in crisis. We donate items; we purchase items; we help brothers and sisters and their families in crisis.

That's how we do it. And there is not much that we do as an Association that is more important than to be the supportive family to our family members in times of trouble. Keep up the Good Work!

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