



**Florida Sheriffs Association
Proclamation 2013-2**

Support for Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches and Residential Programs

WHEREAS, the Sheriffs of the State of Florida, through the Florida Sheriffs Association, established the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches in 1957 as a program to heal and care for young people in this state; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches is a nationally recognized, licensed and accredited nonprofit program providing services to over 135,000 children since inception; and

WHEREAS, residential programs provide a safe 24/7 supervised living environment where boys and girls grow up in a loving family home where they remain free from harm and are provided support and encouragement from loving staff who recognize each child entrusted to their care for their individual accomplishments while substituting in place of the youth's natural family; and

WHEREAS, residential programs provide vocational opportunities that promote growth and development offering a diversity of programming along with a milieu of therapeutic services that promote personal growth in the healthy development of self-confidence, self-esteem and self-appreciation aimed at facilitating future success and independence; and

WHEREAS, residential programs seek to maintain whenever possible, positive connections with families, promoting changes in the home, providing positive parenting techniques with the goal of successfully reuniting the child with their biological family or a relative caregiver; and

WHEREAS, residential programs provide opportunities to establish and maintain positive relationships with a multitude of adults which afford a child the probability of establishing long term and long lasting relationships with positive adult influences, while providing opportunities to develop a mastery of skills which will remain with the youth throughout their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, residential programs provide opportunities for spiritual growth and development in a setting where morality is consistently modeled by the adults who work and live with the youth within the residential community; and

WHEREAS, residential programs can provide on campus education that promotes educational consistency thus increasing academic and vocational success through the inclusion of school enrichments like sports, recreation, arts, tutoring, counseling, and access to college scholarships.

THEREFORE, the Sheriffs of Florida represented by the Florida Sheriffs Association do hereby declare their unyielding support for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches and the residential programs they provide. We strongly support these types of residential programs as an option for children and youth, both privately placed as well as those in care and custody of the State of Florida.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION:

Susan Benton

Sheriff Susan Benton
President

ATTEST:

Steve Casey

Steve Casey
Executive Director