

# TIMBERS

## MAGAZINE

**A LIFE  
CHANGED**

Robert Campbell

**GROWING  
OAKS**

Slaydin & Nevaeh



**ON THE  
COVER**  
Tynasha



BigOak.org

ISSUE ONE  
**2026**

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

GET TO KNOW  
Rhonda Hindman



CONGRATS TO OUR  
2026 GRADUATES

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

## BOARD MEMBERS

Big Oak Ranch is owned and operated by Big Oak Ranch, Inc. and its Board.

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### MARCH

Marcus K. 3/01/17  
Emma O. 3/04/13  
Alice Jane M. 3/11/12  
Brayden B. 3/14/13  
Brooks T. 3/16/13  
Asher S. 3/16/18  
Jayden B. 3/19/15  
Ava Z. 3/19/06  
Tylynn S. 3/21/19  
Slaydin C. 3/22/07  
Charlie S. 3/26/12  
Elliana B. 3/27/24  
Anniston C. 3/27/14  
Esther B. 3/28/20  
Jack R. 3/29/11  
Myles S. 3/31/25

### APRIL

John P. 4/01/08  
Gracie G. 4/01/14  
Jesi A. 4/01/04  
Brayden W. 4/01/10  
Julia W. 4/03/09  
Aiden M. 4/03/17  
Josmar S. 4/07/09  
Cheyanne H. 4/09/10  
Chayne R. 4/10/13  
Samuel N. 4/11/23  
Braxton G. 4/14/09  
Heather P. 4/16/08  
Chamma L. 4/16/09  
Austin S. 4/19/20  
Francisco F. 4/20/05  
Jeremiah P. 4/21/15  
Landon T. 4/22/19  
Ava P. 4/25/14  
Will B. 4/26/07  
Ebboni C. 4/30/13

### MAY

Sawyer C. 5/05/11  
Adeline C. 5/05/11  
Garrett G. 5/07/12  
MacKenzie M. 5/08/15  
Selah B. 5/09/22  
Danisha S. 5/10/08  
Jackson S. 5/12/03  
Skyler C. 5/13/05  
Logan W. 5/16/13  
Ben Luke J. 5/16/18  
Nathan G. 5/20/10  
Rhythum A. 5/20/16  
Sophie W. 5/22/13  
Archer W. 5/27/15  
OP M. 5/29/19  
KaMiyah W. 5/30/21



Since 1974, Big Oak Ranch has been called to meet the needs of over 2,000 children, ages 6 to 18, from all over the United States by giving them a solid, Christian home and a chance to realize and fulfill God's plan for their lives.

Big Oak Ranch is a non-profit, non-denominational organization that is privately funded and operates debt-free. Because of God's blessings and our faithful supporters, over the last 50+ years we have grown from living in a farmhouse serving five boys to currently serving over 200 children at Big Oak Boys' Ranch in Gadsden and Big Oak Girls' Ranch in Springville, as well as through our college ministry at ASCEND in Birmingham, through Big Oak Cattle and through Planting Oaks, our international outreach ministry and Child Placing Agency.

Yet, there are still millions of abused, abandoned and neglected children across our country who need intervention on their behalf – with nearly 6,000 of these children in the foster care system in the State of Alabama. Therefore, as we continue to scale toward 20 homes each at both the Boys' Ranch and Girls' Ranch over the next decade, we are extending our mission of relieving the suffering of children through Big Oak Ranch Communities for children in foster care in Alabama. Our 10-year vision is to strategically span the State of Alabama, building Communities within Communities, while striving to retain the culture that we have created over the last 50+ years of serving children. Together, our goal is to have the greatest impact and influence this country has ever seen for abandoned, abused and neglected children.

# A NOTE FROM BRODIE

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When you flip through these pages, you'll see faces that tell a story... children growing, maturing, stepping forward. Some are nearing graduation. Some are just getting started. All of them are in a state of becoming.

That doesn't happen by accident. Their futures are growing strong on purpose.

We are focused on the children we are uniquely built to serve. We are clear and confident in the model God has entrusted to us. Raising children and building family is what we do. And we do it with conviction.

We are not only chasing a *better* life for our children; we are building toward an *abundant* one. One rooted in Hope, truth, structure, and responsibility.

We see the fruit of that work.

- Each week, a young girl rushes home from church and school chapel with something new to share. What was once unfamiliar is now personal.
- A child who once carried deep anger born from longing for love and security is now channeling that fierce intensity into purpose... thriving as an honor student and competing at the state championship level as a three-sport athlete.
- There was a time when one child rarely looked up... eyes fixed downward, overwhelmed by fear and uncertainty. Today, that same child looks you in the eyes, smiles easily, works diligently to earn and save money, and talks about plans for the future.
- Seniors, once unsure, are now preparing to graduate—stronger, steadier, and more equipped than when they arrived.

These moments matter. They prove that real growth takes time, intention, and people willing to carry weight until others are strong enough to carry it themselves.

Our responsibility is clear. We will lead well, stay faithful, and bring every child we can to the foot of the Cross. What they choose from there is between them and God but if they struggle, it won't be because we failed to show up.

And that truth doesn't stop here.

Every parent, caregiver, and leader is shaping a future... one conversation, one correction, one consistent moment at a time. Children don't need perfect leaders; they need intentional ones. They need adults who are willing to stay planted, even when growth feels slow.

Like the children we serve, we all still have room to grow. That's not a weakness; it's a responsibility. When we lead ourselves well, we give the next generation permission to do the same.

Thank you for standing with us and investing in the work of raising strong leaders and building abundant lives.

Keep Planting,



Brodie Croyle  
CEO

*Brodie, Kelli, Luke &  
Sawyer Croyle*



# BIG OAK BOYS' RANCH

— GROWING OAK —



12 YEARS OLD

**SLAYDIN, 18**

**KIND HEART • FOCUS DRIVEN • ATHLETIC**

- Slaydin is in the 12th grade at Westbrook Christian School
- He owns his own car
- Attends church with his family
- Worked on Ranch for a few years but now has his first off-Ranch job
- He enjoys working out at his local gym
- He loves Alabama football
- His hobbies include playing football, fishing, playing pickleball, and hunting

“

Being a housedad is an amazing honor. I get the privilege of serving my family by trying my best to show them what consistent, Christ-like love looks like. A love that forgives, a love that protects and a love that stays." — *Trevor Ellison*, what being a housedad means to me

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*Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

**GALATIANS 6:10**

#### ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE BOYS' RANCH

- Hand towels
- Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9 volt)
- Standard pillows
- Twin size sheets
- Wash cloths
- Laundry pods
- Bath Towels
- Dishwasher pods
- Dish rags
- Laundry baskets
- Ceramic frying pans

PLEASE SEND DONATED ITEMS TO:

BIG OAK BOYS' RANCH | 250 Jake Mintz Road | Gadsden, AL 35905

# BIG OAK GIRLS' RANCH

— GROWING OAK —



15 YEARS OLD

**NEVAEH, 18**

**KIND • LOVING • SMART**

- Has lived at Big Oak Girl's Ranch for 4 years
- Loves to read and enjoys writing
- Junior at Westbrook Christian School where she is an honor student
- Plans to pursue a degree in elementary education after high school
- Is a kind and loving older sister and displays empathy for others
- Has been a piano student for 2 years
- Attends church with her family
- Serves on the Dream Team with Haven Kids
- Works on Ranch with the Equip Program

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It is a privilege to stand in the gap, shore up foundations, and share the gift of Christ all while teaching girls how to process/reconcile their pasts and navigate their futures.

— Suzanne Miller, what being a housemom means to me

”



*Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.*

**ISAIAH 12:2**

#### ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE GIRLS' RANCH

- Fridge bins
- Toiletry and travel shower bags
- Feminine products
- Gallon freezer bags
- Sidewalk chalk
- Bug spray
- Dishwasher pods
- Laundry pods
- Kitchen trash bags
- Cleaning products
- Portable outdoor games

PLEASE SEND DONATED ITEMS TO:

BIG OAK GIRLS' RANCH | 6000 Shelley Dr | Springville, AL 35146

# CONGRATULATIONS



## **NIC**

First, I would like to thank God for everything He has done for me. He has blessed me beyond anything I could have imagined. I would also like to thank my houseparents, Mom and Pop Rachel. They have been so kind, patient, and understanding with me. They have sacrificed so much for me whenever I have needed help. I am beyond grateful for my resource, the Jacksons. I have learned so many great things from them while they managed to be patient enough to teach me. The Ranch has given me an abundance of opportunities that most people my age don't get, one of my favorites being awarded Head Wrangler. I would also like to thank Westbrook

Christian for all of the learning opportunities. I love to learn and Westbrook somehow managed to make learning even more fun for me. It is also where I met so many amazing friends. Lastly, I would like to thank my friends for always being there for me when I need it most and for all of the fun times we've spent together.



## **JONATHAN**

First off, I would like to thank my Lord and Savior for being with me every step of the way on my journey. Big Oak Ranch took me in when I was very young and that turned me into the person I am today. I am so grateful for this place for giving me a chance. I have lived here for 11 years and during that time I became a Christian, leader, and have great opportunities for the future. I would like to thank my resource parents, the Blevins, for being with me all 11 years that I have been here. I have learned a lot from them. I would also like to thank all my houseparents for teaching me how to be a great friend and family member.



## **WILL**

First, I want to thank God for bringing me to Big Oak. I want to thank all of the houseparents I had for loving me and caring for me. I want to thank Mr. Tim who pushed me to have an amazing work ethic. I want to thank Mr. John for pursuing his dream to start Big Oak Ranch. Most of all, I want to thank the Ranch for all of the experiences and all the people I got to meet. I know my time here has better prepared me for my future.

# CLASS OF 2026

## Seniors



### MEAGAN

I would like to thank God for continually placing people in my life to guide me, support me and help shape who I have become. I thank Big Oak Ranch for giving me the opportunity to be a part of a loving family. I am especially grateful to my former houseparents, Jacie and Lance Hughes, for the love, encouragement, and support they showed me during my time with them. I learned what it means to be part of a real family and they provided me with a model that I aspire to grow into. I would also like to thank my current houseparents, Mrs. Angelle and Mr. Nick Missios, for welcoming me into their family and for teaching me important life skills that I will carry with me into adulthood.

I would like to thank the staff at Big Oak for their continued support throughout my time at Big Oak. And lastly, I would like to thank my resource family the Mahys for opening their home to me and for the fun memories we made along the way. It has been a long journey but I'm thankful for how God has blessed me through it all.



### VICTOR

First, I want to thank God and give all the glory to Him for making this possible. I also want to thank Big Oak Ranch for giving me the opportunity to become the person I am today. I am grateful to Miss Melissa for being such an important influence in my life. I would also like to thank all of my past houseparents, who have played significant roles in my journey, as well as my current houseparents, who continue to support and encourage me every day. They push me to do my best, help me stay focused on my studies, and motivate me to reach my full potential. I truly appreciate their belief in me and their constant encouragement. Thank you to everyone who has supported me along the way.



### ANDREW

I would like to give all glory to Jesus Christ as He has been the only reason I have made it this far with a smile on my face. He has consistently provided for me and loved me - even when I didn't know I needed it. I would also like to extend this immense gratitude to my loving parents who have always been there with laughter and with love. I'd like to thank all of my many siblings who I have grown to know and love on such a deep level. I am grateful to my amazing grandparents for always loving me, even across an ocean. I would lastly like to thank every friend that I have ever had the pleasure of enjoying. Each and every single person on this long list has carried me so much farther than I could have gone on my own.

For this is the life that Jesus came to give, and give it abundantly (John 10:10).

**A PLACE THAT'S FAMILY.**

# CLASS OF 2026 *Seniors*



## **CHAD**

I have been at the Big Oak Ranch for thirteen years. I arrived at five years old and landed in the Spradling Home with Lester and Leslie Hales. The Hales helped me grow to control myself and build my character. Through all my years on Ranch, each home I have been with has helped to build on the foundation the Hales had laid. The Hales helped nurture my childlike faith and led me to be baptized. After this, everyone I met helped me grow my faith and encouraged me to keep growing. Eric and Reneé Morrison took this a step further and helped me turn my childlike faith into the faith of a man. They modeled this long before we started Men In Training. Michael and Amy

Gilbert took on the challenge of taking care of a senior that had lived with his past houseparents for six years. Thank you, Big Oak Ranch. I have been able to escape a life of pain and was given a future. You gave me many pathways to accomplish my goals and pursue my dreams.



## **SLAYDIN**

First, I want to give all the glory and thanks to God for giving me the strength and guidance to make it this far. I couldn't have done this without Him. I also want to thank the people who were always there for me—my sister, my aunt, my uncle, my housepop, and my housemom—for believing in me and encouraging me when things got hard. I'm very thankful for Big Oak Ranch for giving me a safe and supportive place where I learned to grow, stay focused, and believe in myself. Because of God and everyone who supported me, I'm proud to say I made it to graduation, and I'll always be grateful.



## **HEATHER**

Every day, I thank God for how He has blessed me and all of the wonderful people He has brought into my life. First, I would like to thank my first houseparents, Jacie and Lance Hughes, for showing me how a child should be loved and the happiness that comes with being a part of a family. I would like to also thank my present houseparents, Mike and Suzanne Miller, for guiding and always encouraging me with future plans. They showed me great love and what it's like to be a family after God's own heart! I would like to thank my resource family, the Thors, for allowing me into their lives and all of the wonderful memories we made and will continue to make! I would like to

thank the staff at the Big Oak Girls' Ranch and Westbrook for always listening to my shenanigans and trivial concerns with a smile and encouraging advice. The Lord has blessed me in ways I do not deserve and continues to show me His unflinching love in every circumstance.

**A PLACE THAT'S HOME.**



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### **NIC**

I am extremely thankful to God and the Ranch for all of the opportunities I have been blessed with through my teenage years. If it wasn't for the constant grace and patience given to me, I would not be in the position that I am in today. I am also thankful to everyone else who stuck with me through my time here and called me a friend. Thank you to the Hudsons, the Williams, and the Smiths for teaching me all of the things I needed to know to be the person I have become. While I didn't understand the disciplines I was receiving at the time, I can now look back and be grateful, because they have shaped me into a Godly young man. Thank you to all of the

staff at Westbrook for being with me through my academics and helping me when I didn't understand things. Finally, a HUGE thanks to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for dying on the cross for mine and everyone else's sins, because without Him, I am nothing.



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### **LOGAN**

First, I would like to thank God for guiding me and showing me the way. I am incredibly grateful to my parents for their unconditional love and constant support. I would also like to thank Big Oak Ranch and the selfless donors who made this opportunity possible and gave me the chance to pursue a college education. Finally, I would like to thank all of the teachers and staff at Westbrook for their dedication and for everything they have taught me along the way.



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### **SOPHIA**

I would like to thank Big Oak Ranch for letting me grow up in a safe place and for being there for me through my ups and downs. They really taught me what living really is and what growth is meant to be like. I would also like to thank my former houseparents Mr. and Mrs. Thomas for teaching me to be more open and teaching me to love. I would also like to thank my current houseparents Mr. and Mrs. Miller for getting me to the finish line of graduation. I would also like to thank everyone else included in my two year journey at Big Oak Ranch. Thank you all for being here for me and for giving me the chance to restart. I love you all.



# A LIFE CHANGED

## ROBERT'S STORY

I was 13 when my brother and I were placed at Big Oak Ranch. My Daddy died when I was young and my mom did the best she could. We had a loving home. My Mom had severe medical issues and we were poor – nothing to spare poor.



*Early photo of Robert*

Mom was often sick and in the hospital. Some of those times, my brothers and I would stay by ourselves. Neighbors would make sure we were OK. Mom's health continued to deteriorate, and we needed to be elsewhere. Our sister Donnice found Big Oak Ranch and took me out there. Asking what I thought, I told Donnice I did not want to live there. She brought me anyway. I felt completely stuck and resentment for my sister set in.

Donnice did not allow my feelings to influence her presence in my life. She visited, checked on me, and walked this new path, knowing this was the right direction. Big Oak was where I needed to be. I am thankful that Donnice and I are as close as ever to this day.

On the playground at my new school, brothers also living at the Ranch were playing with a hacky sack and asked if I wanted to play. I couldn't do it well, but it didn't matter. Those Ranch brothers didn't make fun of me - they made me feel like a person. Life was different at the Ranch. I didn't have to fight anymore. I had friends and Ranch brothers.

Every day we were outside – riding bikes, playing at the baseball field, or fishing and I got to play football at Westbrook.

We were all equal at the Ranch. My house brothers and I were treated the same. My houseparents called me son and took time to get to know what was important to me.

My favorite days at the Ranch were workdays. I was one of the boys that helped lay the sod on the softball field. John worked with us that day, side by side with my Ranch brothers and housedads.

At the Ranch I was shown that relationships take work. I saw that with John and Mrs. Tee. When they were together, they worked hard. I saw Mrs. Tee work at Westbrook in the classroom. Then, after school, she would tutor us. Before coming to live at the Ranch I didn't make effort, but the teachers at Westbrook took time to encourage and work with students.

John worked with us all over the Ranch. He would ride by, and say "I cannot stay long, I have to be up at the office," - then two hours later he would finally go to the office. You could tell John was tired, but he kept going. He was on Ranch, at the office, or on the road speaking - doing what it took to keep the Ranch open. As a kid I could see it in their faces - John and Mrs. Tee were tired, but it didn't matter. They kept going, then went the extra mile. They were dedicated.

The first time I ever saw the beach was during our Big Oak beach trip.

*Robert with fellow Ranch brothers*



*Robert and his family*



Nervous about the ocean, I did not get in on the first day. On day two, everybody was getting in the water. It eased my mind and I joined in the fun. The whole Ranch would eat together and have activities where we stayed. Now I travel with my family - we love trips together.

During high school, I visited my brother and met a girl from Glencoe. I knew I wanted to go out with her, but she did not want to. I just kept asking her out, not taking no for an answer. Finally, Delana agreed.

Being around Delana made me get serious about life and having a family. I grew up, did right, and she stuck with me - agreeing to get married. Early days of marriage were easy. She took care of everything and kept me in line. Becoming a dad was not easy, but having Lana walk with me made the path smoother. We have two great sons. Lana and I were not planning for a third, but then our baby girl came along. I am blessed! I love that I know my family will be there for each other.

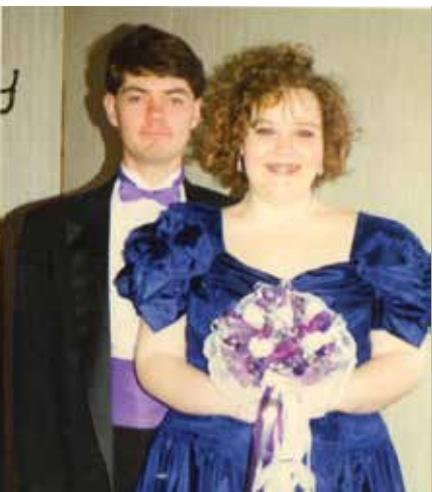
Loyalty is important to me. I have been married and at my job for over 30 years. I still have relationships with many of my brothers from the Ranch.

As a family, my wife and I enjoy visiting the Ranch. We have volunteered with other former resident families in helping prepare for events, have gotten to know many from generations outside my own, and look forward to seeing everyone at Big Oak reunions. That is always a fun day. My wife and I are thankful that the Ranch has made such a great effort to keep us connected.

Watching one of my Ranch brothers come to know Christ recently has been the best full circle moment. God placed us at the Ranch together. We went through a lot together and, at times, chose different paths. Through Christ placing key people in our lives, we have a foundation in Him.

I grew up in church. From the youngest of age and throughout living at the Ranch, we were always in church. I am thankful for that. Jesus is not only my Savior, but He is also a Friend. It's important that I stay connected to His path. We are blessed with a church community that strives for relationships and missions built in Christ. This directly feeds back into my early days of serving while I lived at the Ranch.

*Robert and Delana  
at prom in 1993*



*Robert with his  
sister, Donnice*



When you think about over 50 years of our Big Oak family - it's an amazing thing. This mission that Christ brought to vision through John and Mrs. Tee, and now so many others hear His calling to Big Oak, seeing the vision of family through Hope. I am grateful for the Hope that lives at the Ranch and also in my home.

# GET TO KNOW

## RHONDA HINDMAN

Big Oak Experience Director

I have been part of the Big Oak Ranch family since 1999, and I often jokingly say that I grew up at the Ranch—but the truth is, that statement isn't much of a joke at all. Big Oak has been a constant through so many seasons of my life and has shaped and molded me into the person I am today.

When I first started at the Ranch, I served as the Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator, helping tell the story of Big Oak and its mission. Over the years, both the Ranch and my role have grown, and today I serve as the Big Oak Experience Director. In that role, I get to oversee events—both internal and external—and help shape the overall experience of Big Oak Ranch.

A big part of my work is thinking intentionally about how Big Oak feels to the people who walk through our doors—from children and staff members to donors and guests. From the way our spaces look and feel, to the sounds, atmosphere, and warm greetings people receive, our goal is that everyone who visits one of our locations or attends one of our events feels welcomed, valued, and cared for. I love helping create experiences that quietly communicate the heart of Big Oak before a word is ever spoken.

*Rhonda's children, Bronson and Sarah*



*Rhonda and her family*

Many things have changed since I started at the Ranch in 1999, and my personal life is no exception. I met my husband, James, in 2001 and we were married in 2002. We have two children—Bronson, who works at a local portable storage company, and Sarah, who is a senior at Mississippi State University. Raising our children and watching them grow into such wonderful young adults has been one of the greatest joys of our lives.

One of the greatest privileges of my time at Big Oak has been watching the children who come to us in need of safety and stability grow into confident, faith-filled adults and loving parents to their own children. To witness that kind of transformation is a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness and the lasting impact it has had on so many lives. It's an honor I will never take for granted.

# GET TO KNOW



*Rhonda and her husband, James*

I'm also deeply grateful for the supporters who have walked alongside Big Oak for so many years. Many of you are not just familiar faces, but friends I've had the honor of knowing and growing with over time. Your faithfulness has made this whole thing possible, and it's a privilege to serve a ministry supported by people who care so deeply about the mission and the lives it has impacted.

## THANK YOU BIG OAK AUXILIARY FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION





6000 SHELLEY DRIVE | SPRINGVILLE, AL 35146

### HELP US BE GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S MONEY.

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*I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name,  
O Most High.*

**PSALM 9:2**

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All contributions received for specific projects/needs shall be applied to those areas. Occasionally, we receive more contributions for a given specification than can be used for it. If that occurs, we add these funds to operating support that allows for the care of our children and the programs benefiting their overall development now and in the future.