

News Release

Presbyterian Children's Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Children's Ranch, Inc. Gives Shower-like Blessings to Stubbins Family and Youth Center

Stubbins donation one of dozens of donations made by Children's Ranch over 16 years

(Moberly, MO) April 2, 2007 — Presbyterian Children's Services today announced a large donation from Children's Ranch, Inc., a local philanthropic organization based in Sturgeon, Missouri. The donation went to Stubbins Memorial Youth and Family Center and covered a myriad selection of household items including new sheets and comforters for beds, dish towels, silverware, glassware and a brand new laundry washer. Items like these are of great importance when it comes to caring for the children. To have new sheets and comforters makes the children feel special and cared for. The amount of laundry that is done at Stubbins is tremendous. The washer plays a vital role in daily operations.

Even more remarkable than these donations, though, is the story behind them. Children's Ranch, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization started in 1989 by Mrs. Norma Bradley. Mrs. Bradley established a Board of Directors and began raising money to establish a home for foster children in the area. Through fund-raising and grants, she collected over \$36,000 and at one point was almost prepared to build and launch her ministry. Her drive to help the kids stemmed, in part, from her past.

"I was a foster child," said Mrs. Bradley, now the Executive Director of Children's Ranch, Inc. "When my husband and I were married, we naturally wanted children. We adopted a couple, then had one of our own. During that time, we also acted as foster parents for over 75 children, adopting five of them. We wanted to start a home. But when we realized that we didn't have all the money we needed and that the way the kids were being cared for was changing (many more being cared for within foster families), we took the money and placed it in CDs. Now we pass out grants and scholarships to foster children and those who serve them."

Mrs. Bradley and her good friend and Secretary of the Board, Mrs. Eleanor Russell, frequently visit sites in need and review scholarship applications. Over the last 18 years, they have quietly awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships and donations, all funded from interest on the proceeds of the original donors. Children's Ranch has helped to put many foster children through college as well as providing school supplies to hundreds of children throughout Boone, Audrain and Randolph counties. Throughout this time, neither Mrs. Bradley nor Mrs. Russell, nor any Board member has received a salary. All work done for the not-for-profit has been done on a volunteer basis.

Both Stubbins Youth and Family Service Center and Children's Ranch, Inc. serve children in the community and region. To find out how you can help the children, too, contact Jill Wright at Stubbins at 660-263-7044, or Norma Bradley at 573-687-3961.

About Presbyterian Children's Services

Presbyterian Children's Services cares for abused children and counsels their families through therapeutic programs of diagnostic evaluation, emergency shelter, foster care, group home and residential care services (including family-focused residential services), independent living services, educational support services, residential treatment services (including intensive residential services for adolescents) and community outreach programs.