

Keeping a Good Thing Going

When the Pemberville Boys Ranch for troubled teens closed, the board of trustees for the ranch was far from ready to hang up their hats.

“We saw the impact programs could have on boys at the ranch and we wanted to continue to fund nonprofits that offered similar opportunities to youth,” said Bill Rowles, the last president of their board.

On the suggestion of one of the home’s board members, Greg Lodge, the board of trustees turned to Toledo Community Foundation for assistance.

“We wanted to put the proceeds from liquidating the Boys Ranch to good use,” said Bill, who was board president of the Ranch at the time and for whom the Bill Rowles Youth Foundation Fund is named.

“We knew there were many opportunities and needs in the area to help support troubled youth and those who have little access to funds to participate in activities.”

With the guidance of Toledo Community Foundation, the Bill Rowles Youth Foundation Fund, a field of interest fund, was created in 2009 with \$218,000. Since its inception, the fund has awarded 53 grants totaling more than \$105,000. The fund now has a value of \$320,426.

The fund’s mission is to support youth programs, youth groups and youth serving organizations in northwest Ohio, particularly in Wood County.

“Wood County was very supportive of the work we did in Pemberville,” said Bill. “We wanted to concentrate our philanthropy there, particularly for children who often do not get to experience the physical and social activities like camps and sports that many other children participate in.

“Toledo Community Foundation has been very helpful and responsive since the Fund’s beginnings,” he said. “They solicit the proposals and provide them to our board for review.”


While he is humbled that the Foundation fund was named after him, Bill credits everyone on

Serenity Farms has benefited from the Bill Rowles Youth Foundation Fund, with grants to support equine-based occupational therapy services.



the board who helps make recommendations on the proposals.

“The staff at the Pemberville Boys Ranch were also very much involved in helping find the financial resources to continue this work,” said Bill. “The fund is very much a collaborative effort.”

“We are pleased that we’ve been able to provide funding, particularly seed monies, to help so many youth experience activities that are important to their well-being,” he concludes. 

If you are interested in creating a fund, or would like more information on the charitable giving options available through the Foundation, contact Mike George or Bridget Brell Holt in our Philanthropic Services Department at **419.241.5049**.