



City of Naples

BILL BARNETT
MAYOR

For Immediate Release – Thursday, May 10, 2007

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*****Media Advisory*****

**City of Naples Mayor Bill Barnett to Host Presentation of
\$750,000 Private Charitable Gift to Liberty Youth Ranch**

Tomorrow, Friday, May 11, 2007, 10:00am, Naples City Hall,
735 Eighth Street South, Naples, Florida 34102

*****Press Release*****

**LIBERTY YOUTH RANCH BENEFICIARY OF
\$750,000 PRIVATE DONATION FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN**

Naples, Fla. (May 11, 2007) – Mayor Bill Barnett, City of Naples, FL and Liberty Youth Ranch Board of Advisor announced today that Liberty Youth Ranch was the recipient of a \$750,000 private donation given by longtime Port Royal Philanthropists Mr. & Mrs. George Kraus, representing the generosity of the Naples community.

“Some three years ago, my wife, Patty, and I had the opportunity to meet with the founder of the Liberty Youth Ranch, Alan Dimmitt. We learned about his visionary plan, based entirely on private donations, to serve our community’s most destitute citizens – children who have been abused, neglected and orphaned,” George Kraus, of Naples, FL said. “To visit the 156 acre Ranch today and see the remarkable progress in such a short period of time is evidence of tremendous tenacity and a lot of hard work. We are pleased to make this donation to build the first children’s cottage in honor of our daughter, Christy Parrott, and we look forward to when the Liberty Youth Ranch starts providing deserving children a loving family and a permanent place to call home.”

The gift will go towards new construction for the Liberty Youth Ranch, a nonprofit, 156-acre residential community under construction, which will provide 50 to 100 abused, neglected, homeless and orphaned children in southwest Florida – “*boys and girls who through no fault of their own are in need of a loving family and the opportunity to simply be children*” – a long-term residential home.

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“We are delighted by the generosity of Mr. & Mrs. Kraus and their decision to make this charitable gift that will provide the necessary funds for the first children’s cottage to be built on the Liberty Youth Ranch,” Alan Dimmitt, Liberty Youth Ranch founder and chairman said. “It is a tremendous blessing to have private citizens stepping forward and giving generously to ensure that this important mission moves forward. This gift comes just as the site work for the first cottage has been completed and is ready for construction, which makes this gift even more special.”

Candidates for residence at Liberty Youth Ranch are children between the ages of four and 17 who face truly insurmountable challenges. The Liberty Youth Ranch will be a comfortable, stable, supportive environment where children can prosper.

“Liberty Youth Ranch will make dreams come true for orphaned, abused and neglected children by providing them a permanent home, love, education and the tools to succeed as adults,” Bill Barnett, Mayor, City of Naples, FL said. “I encourage everyone to visit the Ranch and support those children in need of a loving home.”

The Liberty Youth Ranch Children’s 5,000 to 6,000 square foot cottages will overlook a 64 acre lake, located within a 156-acre master-planned community including a working cattle ranch, a chapel, gymnasium, tennis courts, swimming pool and a therapeutic equestrian and horticultural center. Each cottage will be home to a house mother and father and 8 to 10 children, who will all live there year-round.

About Liberty Youth Ranch

Liberty Youth Ranch is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to provide a permanent and loving environment for children who, through no fault of their own, are in need of a home, a family, and the opportunity to simply be children. The Liberty Youth Ranch relies solely on the generosity of individuals, businesses, churches, civic groups, and foundations. For more information about Liberty Youth Ranch, including its founder, board of directors, advisory board and opportunities to contribute, visit www.LibertyYouthRanch.org or call (239) 597-7070.

To request digital images: email admin@LibertyYouthRanch.org

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