



Rick Case, David Hughes, Ron Bergeron and Gary Rotella

Ranch *Roam*

by Darren Perlmutter

The green smell of fresh grass fills the air and the sound of a pedal steel guitar is heard echoing off the wooden gates. Spurs jingle as the cow folk dismount their stallions... but there are no showdowns or roaming buffalo at this range, just big hearts with wide-brimmed hats in a swarming array of boots, chaps, jackets, and ties, all out with a mission to help a great cause.

Graciously hosted by acclaimed humanitarian, businessman, and rodeo enthusiast Ron Bergeron at his home-on-the-range, the Green Glades West Ranch, the annual Ranch Roam event is to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Broward County.

Seldom is heard a discouraging word from event chair Polly Wilkie, who stated "I am happy to chair Ranch Roam for two reasons, one, it is such a unique event and second, because it is for children." Boys and Girls Clubs of Broward County Director David Hughes also anticipates the occasion, saying, "Ranch Roam is one of the most unusual events. It gives our guests the opportunity to let their hair down and go western."

Located in a unique, and certainly appropriate setting, this year's Ranch Roam event promises plenty of excitement. The festivities include, but are not limited to, themed activities, a casino, silent and live auctions offering everything a cowboy (or wanna-be) can dream of, a seated meal mama would be proud of, good old-fashioned shoot outs, and a special star-studded performance by Nashville superstars The Bellamy Brothers. Florida natives Howard and David Bellamy are accredited with such #1 hits and American ground-shakers as "Let Your Love Flow", "Reggae Cowboy", "Sugar Daddy", and "Too Much is Not Enough".

The Boys and Girls clubs of Broward County's "The Positive Place for Kids", is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a safe, positive place for at-risk youth to go, operating on the philosophy that "what a child doesn't receive, he can seldom later give." The Boys and Girls Clubs of Broward County has 11 facilities spanning several cities, and enriches the lives of over 13,000 members, ranging from ages 7-18, with the goal of helping them realize their potential, and assisting them in becoming productive members of society.

The Ranch Roam event takes place on April 2nd, 2005, from 6 PM to 10 PM. Tickets range from \$200, and sponsorships from \$5000. For more information call the Boys and Girls Club of Broward County at 954-537-1010. **WL**