

# CAL FARLEY'S BOYS RANCH

## Solution Overview

### Industry

Youth Services

### Company Profile

Cal Farley's Boys Ranch provides services to at-risk youths.

### Scenario

Manually processing payroll for multiple locations with a high employee count was a time-consuming, tedious task.

### Benefits

By implementing Microsoft Business Solutions, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch has cut payroll processing time in half.

Payroll is now easily processed and transmitted online, eliminating redundant data entry and increasing efficiency.

### Software Used

Microsoft Business Solutions—Great Plains

- Financials

- Inventory and Order Processing

- Human Resource Management

- Customization Tools

Microsoft SQL Server

### Demographic Information

Number of Employees: 600

Number of Users: 25

### Migrated from DOS-based system

***Implementing Microsoft Business Solutions has revolutionized the payroll process at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, allowing them to cut processing time in half.***

Cal Farley was a Texas businessman with a big heart and deep concern for the homeless and unloved kids roaming the streets of Amarillo. He and other local businessmen started the Maverick Club in 1934 to provide those kids with a year-round athletics club. The club provided not only a sports program, but also food, clothes and medical attention.

It wasn't the youth the program touched that stayed on Farley's mind, but the ones that weren't reached. With the idea of giving those boys a chance at a successful life, Farley created Cal Farley's Boys Ranch in 1939. His goals were simple; provide the boys the love, discipline and security normally provided by parents to ensure they would choose the right path in life.

Today, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch is a self-sufficient residential home complete with post office, department store and grocery store. The Ranch serves boys and girls aged pre-school through high school. Group homes with house parents provide a nurturing, structured environment. The Boys Ranch Independent School District serves the community for grades kindergarten through 12.

The Cal Farley organization serves more than 1,000 children and families in four locations throughout Texas. Operated solely on donations, the Cal Farley organization provides programs and services for at-risk boys and girls throughout the United States. Programs include Cal Farley's Family Program and Cal Farley's Girlstown, which provide residential care for boys and girls focusing on short-term care while working toward the goal of reunification.

## The Move to Windows

After many years on a MS DOS<sup>®</sup>-based system, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch decided it was time to move to a Windows<sup>®</sup>-based environment and chose Microsoft<sup>®</sup> Business Solutions—Great Plains<sup>®</sup>. Due to corrupt data and system crashes, the organization also upgraded to the powerful Microsoft SQL Server<sup>™</sup> database.

Though initially apprehensive about the new software, staff soon found themselves becoming more and more accustomed to the new business solution, realizing functionality the old system lacked. "What we really benefit from is the increased capabilities," says Rick Hoskins, accounting manager. "We can do so much more now with the new software than we ever could have done before."

## Payroll Pain Points

As an organization with more than 600 employees and four sites in addition to their administration services and the endowment foundation, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch is a complex organization with complex payroll processes.

*"It's expanding, and I think there are unlimited resources. It's not going to sit still; it's going to expand. [Microsoft Business Solutions] could be very helpful for any organization."*

Rick Hoskins  
Accounting Manager  
Cal Farley's Boys Ranch

Their previous system for payroll proved frustrating as it was outdated and inefficient. Because payroll for all locations was processed centrally, employee hours were compiled on data [time] cards and location timesheets were sent to the main office from each location.

The payroll clerk had to manually input every employee's hours and payroll information for each pay period, even for salaried employees. This manual entry was tedious and left room for clerical errors. Plus, the data cards had to be rechecked against the time sheets for accuracy, a time-consuming task for so many employees. When the manual employee information had been verified and entered, each check then had to be printed, reviewed and hand signed.

Still another pain point was that the system was unable to store payroll history. All records were kept as hard copy, which meant any request for past payroll information, such as information required for worker's compensation, unemployment or disability payments required a search through files.

### **Payroll Success**

Since the implementation of Microsoft Business Solutions, the payroll process has been revolutionized. What previously took the payroll clerk 40 hours now takes just 20, allowing her to redirect her focus to budget control.

Instead of manually re-keying employee information, the solution holds the employee history, eliminating redundant data entry. This is especially helpful in processing payroll for salaried employees whose information doesn't change from one pay period to the next.

Another benefit is the ability to transmit payroll via the Internet to facilitate direct deposit. This has resulted in significant time savings over the previous process of printing and hand signing all checks, and it's a welcome benefit for employees.

State reporting is now effortless and can also be done via the Internet with minimal effort, as multiple years of payroll history are readily available. This has saved many hours that would have been spent searching for and compiling information.

Impressed not only with the payroll capabilities, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch has noticed increased functionality in many areas of their business, including superior inventory control and enhanced financial reporting. Hoskins is confident that Microsoft Business Solutions, backed by award-winning product service and support, will continue to offer enhanced functionality with each product upgrade.

"It's expanding, and I think there are unlimited resources. It's not going to sit still; it's going to expand. [Microsoft Business Solutions] could be very helpful for any organization," Hoskins says.

For more information about Microsoft Business Solutions, visit [www.microsoft.com/BusinessSolutions](http://www.microsoft.com/BusinessSolutions)

© 2002 Microsoft Corp. All rights reserved. Microsoft and Great Plains are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation or Great Plains Software, Inc., in the United States and/or other countries. Great Plains Software, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation. The names of actual companies and products mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners.

This document is for informational purposes only. MICROSOFT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS MAKES NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IN THIS QUANTUM.