



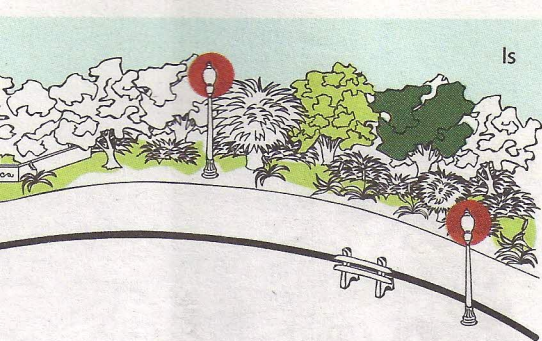
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CAROL BRYAN
Village of Lynnhaven

Skip and Carol Bryan, at their home in the Village of Lynnhaven, show the Christmas cards that are fundraisers for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

*Photos by
George Horsford
Daily Sun*





Villagers Support Youth Ranches With Activities

Skip and Carol Bryan, of the Village of Lynnhaven, first visited the boys ranch at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches in Live Oak in 2015. After that visit, the Bryans decided to organize a group of people to support the youth ranches. Two years later, the group is 120-strong with about 80 households.

Skip and Carol Bryan are making the world a better place, one friend at a time.

The Village of Lynnhaven couple run a group called Friends of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, which aims to support the organization through a variety of monthly activities.

"We're encouragers of the kids and the staff at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches... We accomplish this without having any regular meetings, but we do send emails detailing a specific project for each month, and then the friends graciously respond as they're able," Skip said.

This month, the group is working on its Christmas card project.

The idea is fairly simple: group members will take boxes of Christmas cards and pass them out to friends and neighbors for free. Each box comes with eight cards, a postage-paid envelope and a donation form.

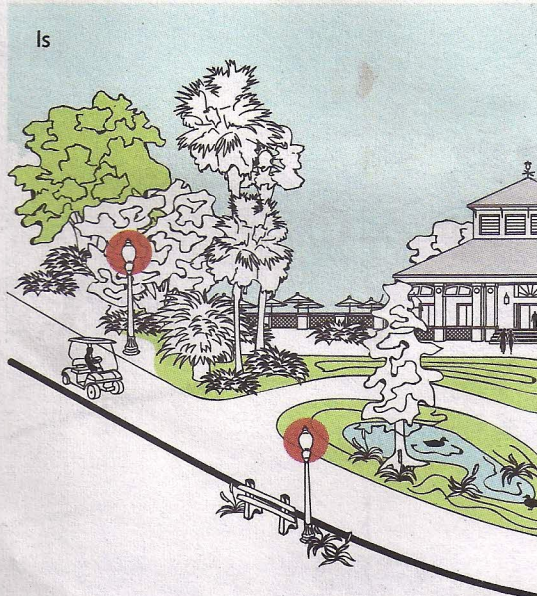
Their friends and neighbors can send the cards to their loved ones and also make a tax-deductible donation in the name of their recipients, thereby supporting the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

"The card they then send tells the recipient that the sender made a donation in their name," Skip said. "It's a great way to honor those in your Christmas card list with a special card and a donation."

Although it's too early to tell how the project will do, Skip and Carol said they've seen good engagement so far.

"We have no idea what the response is going to be, but we're optimistic," Skip said.

"We're already encouraged, though, because (Oct. 1), we put all this together and we had



These Christmas cards are fundraisers for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

some neighbors and friends helping us," Carol said. "We had enough supplies for 115 of these boxes. Thirty-three are already gone. One lady took it to her softball practice and she got rid of it like that."

Skip and Carol's interest in the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches began in 2015. After visiting the Live Oak campus, Skip and Carol were intrigued and motivated to help.

"Once we saw all this, we said, 'Whoa. There's lots of good charities and you can help people who are down and out, but this is something that's life-changing because these people are the next generation,'" Skip said.

"It's interesting to see how the kids flourish in that situation. Just to see the change in these children has been amazing to see," Carol added. "We don't get to know them personally, but we hear some of their stories."

Although the group doesn't hold monthly meetings, anyone is welcome to join its mailing list to find out about upcoming projects and how they can help.

"Anyone who's interested in helping us distribute the boxes of cards in their neighborhood can email me at rskipbryan@aol.com or if they want to receive the group monthly project updates," Skip said. "We'd be more than happy to call you a friend."

— Valentina Boré, *Daily Sun*